Unlocking the Mysteries of Creation

The Explorers' Guide to the Awesome Works of God

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Discovering What's True about Origins

Welcome to the great adventure of discovering what's true about origins. We all enjoy the beauty and power of the natural world, but seldom do most of us ever think about where we got our basis of understanding and interpreting it.

We call that basis our "world view."

Unfortunately, most of the information we hear about nature and history is from entirely secular, even atheistic sources. God and the Bible are totally left out of the picture, and often treated as legend or worse.

In his attempt to understand reality, the secular man embraces a worldview that is completely naturalistic. It leaves many major mysteries that create a lot of confusion. But is there more insight we're not hearing from ordinary sources of information?

A man named Job lived 4,000 years ago and said:

"Ask the beasts and they will teach you...
Ask the birds of heaven, let them tell you...
Speak to the earth and let it teach you...
Let the fish of the seas declare to you..." Job 12:7-8

What's the result of this scientific investigation? Job asks:

"Who, among all these, does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In His hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind." Job 12:9

THINK! For a man of 4,000 years ago, without a Bible or modern theology, what tremendous insight he had to the character and power of the sovereign Creator of the universe.

But what do our pagan experts who boast in their unsacred philosophy say these days? One science magazine cover story spotlighted "The 20 Greatest Unanswered Questions of Science!" Questions were raised like: "How does a single cell become a human? What happened to the dinosaurs? And where did life begin?"

Of course, with the limitation of being a secular source, the answers to these intriguing questions remained veiled in mystery and confusion. Looking at the academic landscape around us these days, isn't it ironic that some of the most brilliant people have such a hard time discovering the Creator and Ultimate Source of all the answers? Of course the search only begins with the study of nature. Think of all the exciting mysteries awaiting our exploration in the domain of man's own past! What astounding surprises await our investigation in an attempt to discover what really happened and how such amazing accomplishments were achieved?

In these very special chapters, we'll discover surprising evidence from all over the world. First we'll examine biblical creation. Does science back it up? Genesis tells us God created "waters above the firmament" and a "very good" earth. You know what? Modern science has confirmed the simple Bible fact that our planet had a very different environment in the past that resulted in phenomenal productivity from pole to pole!
When we inquire of our earth, what do we learn about its beginning? Did you know that many thousands of mammoth skeletons are buried in the frozen Arctic? Well, what really happened to cause that?

Then there are those mysterious dinosaurs! We can’t leave them out. Surprising clues give us insight on human contact with dinosaurs in historic times! What can we learn about the mystery of dinosaur extinction? Could global catastrophe have been responsible? What do the fossils tell us? We’ll get into that later.

Finally, there is the fascinating world of ancient civilizations. Many built marvelous pyramid structures, but why? How did they do it? Just how advanced were those ancients? Why were they so capable? Can the Bible give us insight on ancient wonders like those of Babylon?

We’ll explore some of the realities of the global Flood. How have violent upheavals rearranged the look of our planet in the past? And what would a globe-rocking catastrophe do to our world if it happened today? We’ve seen some devastating earthquakes, hurricanes, and volcanoes in recent years, but multiply that a thousand times and think of the potential changes! With that in mind, isn’t it interesting that scientists are the ones nowadays who are predicting terrifying future cosmic collisions? In times past, you would be labeled a religious doomsayer for making such predictions.

You may have noticed articles like the one that appeared in Time magazine. The headline read “Whew! That Was Close.” A huge half-mile-wide asteroid nearly knocked the world into an apocalyptic horror. They said it could happen anytime... without warning! And with the fright of that prospect, what can we do? Time wrote: “The most sensible thing to do about earth-grazing asteroids is try not to think about them.” How comforting!

You’re probably aware that the Bible specifically predicted just such physical realities long before modern scientists ever discovered the possibilities. In light of that, should anyone really be surprised to learn that the Bible is more up-to-date (as well as accurate and relevant) than the latest network news?

As we explore lots of exciting things together, we’ll find that the Bible is always the key to unlocking the mysteries of creation.
How Important Is the Biblical Concept of Creation?

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth... Then God saw everything that He had made and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day."

Genesis 1:1, 31

Are we to accept that these statements are open to unending speculation? Or does God intend that we are to understand that these words mean exactly what they say?

THINK! What is the most obvious question you could ask someone that could lead them to think about God? Is it not the question:

Where did I come from?

Even the most primitive tribal people ask that kind of question. Is that why the apostle Paul deals with this issue of origins in the introduction to the book of Romans in your Bible? He says there are

"men who hold the truth in unrighteousness" Romans 1:18 (KJV) (literally "suppress the truth" as in the NASB).

Paul says God’s wrath is upon such people! Why?

Because there are facts which can be “known about God” (v.19).

Paul insists God has shown these realities to all men! How did God do that? Well, look at verse 20, one of the most important and revealing verses in your Bible:

“From (or since) the creation of the world... the invisible things (God’s attributes) even His eternal power and Godhead (or His divine nature), are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made... so that they are without excuse.”

What has been clearly seen?

God’s very nature! And HOW is THAT revealed?

Through the things that are made!

THINK! The created physical world around us points us to God! That’s why all men are without excuse for ignoring God (as it says at the end of verse 20).
But what happens when men ignore God? They still have that same probing question: “Where did I come from?” So Paul tells us what to expect to find in verse 21: “they glorified Him not as God, but became... vain in their imaginations” (The NASV says “futile in their speculations”).

**THINK!** Have you ever noticed the utter futility of the reasoning of men who ignore God?

On the other hand, when you know your God is big enough to **create**, do you think that your **faith** in Him is affected?

The prophet Jeremiah said:

“Ah Lord God! Be bold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee.” Jeremiah 32:17

How did the infant church pray in confidence to God?

“Lord, You are God who made heaven and Earth, and the sea, and all that is in them...” Acts 4:24

Did they leave anything out? They finished by asking God to give His bondservants boldness and confidence to speak while God did signs and wonders in the name of Jesus.

“O Lord how manifold are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all! The Earth is full of Your possessions.” Psalm 104:24

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**Creation & Our Faith**

The wonderful world of nature is the creation all around us. It was designed and spoken into existence by God’s very Word. He is the author of “science.”

“In Him are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (including philosophy and science).

Colossians 2:3

The creation, so frequently used to describe God’s power in both Old and New Testaments, shows us that understanding the principles of God’s miraculous creation epoch is essential to our faith.

“Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear” Hebrews 11:3

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**Creation & Christ**

Christ himself repeatedly acknowledged the truth of ALL of the Old Testament.

“If you believe not his (Moses’) writings, how shall you believe my words?”

John 5:47

Moses penned the creation account and Jesus makes direct reference to it in Matt. 19:4 when speaking about marriage and the creation by God of male and female at the beginning.

“If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rise from the dead.” Luke 16:31

“O foolish ones and slow of heart to believe in ALL that the prophets have spoken.” Luke 24:25

Who was Israel’s first prophet? (Moses)

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**Why Is Creation So Important?**

Satan desires to undermine God’s expressed account of creation. By denying creation it is easier to deny God’s plan of salvation and then the truth of all God’s Word.

If God is subtly removed from people’s minds as their Creator, then it is simple for them to disregard Him as their Redeemer.

Unlocking the Mysteries Of Creation
Talking points for the introductory webinar for Unlocking the Mysteries of Creation, part 1 – pages 4 - 12

The first few pages of this book have some graphically suggestive words and pictures to stimulate good discussion. Remember the #1 thing that engages the mind and causes intrigue – Questions that arouse Curiosity. When you ask them probing questions that are within their reach they naturally try to find the answer. It’s sort of like a treasure hunt. You can even tell them that... “Hey son, we’re going on a treasure hunt. Tell me what treasures you find here, okay?”

• Note – “What does God’s Word – The Bible – say about our Creator and His creation?”
  o Page 4 – Foreword – What does it mean when we read...?
    ▪ King Solomon’s invitation, “Remember your Creator while you are young?”
    ▪ Job’s Question: “Where were you when I made the foundation of the earth?”
      • What’s a “foundation”?  
      • What does He mean by “when?” Was there a time?  
      • Does this question sound a little sarcastic?  
      • Look up the verse in Job 38:4 and ask your student to tell you who is speaking this verse. It’s God isn’t it?
  o After reading the text under the heading, “The Rest Of the Story,” ask a question like:
    ▪ What does it mean to be ‘skeptical’?  
    ▪ Is it good to ask people “where did you get that opinion?”
- Do you think it’s a good idea to keep an open mind when observing how people talk about how they think something happened that they haven’t seen for themselves?
- How do you like the idea of being patient with others who don’t understand yet what you’ve discovered? Should others be patient when you feel sort of ignorant about something?

  o Page 5 – The author is preparing us to get ready to deal with controversies about many things... If your student has read the text you could ask:
    - What do you think is meant when the author writes that everybody has “presuppositions”?
    - If the Creator has put in every human the ability to “respond to truth” what is the first step in that process? (being open in mind and heart)
  o Page 8 – Let’s ‘unpack’ what Nehemiah said to God in his prayer (Nehemiah 9:6). Have your student discuss each phrase in the verse.
  o Page 9 – Did you notice what was said in Exodus 20:11, and who said it and how he said it? Let’s go to the passage and explore it a bit for ourselves. Set the stage and discuss the implications. Review the actions listed on each of the days of creation.

Section 1 – Discovering What’s True about Origins

- Let’s think about this word on page 11 – “worldview” – what does it mean?
- What does it mean to be a “secular” person? What is “naturalistic”?
- Do you think it’s special that Job saw the importance of doing a nature study to understand something about God? What should we get out of studying animals like he suggests?
- Did you notice the picture of the skeleton on page 11? What’s the surprising point about mammoths made just above that picture?
• Did you see the statement about the controversy over the ‘age of the earth’ under the “THINK” on page 11? What does “naturalism” always question? What about “creationism”?

Section 2 – How Important is the Biblical Concept of Creation?

Now we’re taking our young Explorer/Adventurer over to page 12 and 13 to ask him/her “How important DO YOU THINK is the Biblical Concept of Creation?” Notice all 5 of the sub-headlines can be formed into a question. And don’t miss the opportunities to spin off personal observations from those three “THINK” statements on this spread.

• First let’s re-read the scripture verse under the main headline.
  o What are the key words here?
  o What does the whole statement seem to be saying?
• Why do you think that even “primitive tribal people” want to know where they came from?
  o Do you suppose that natural curiosity is a God-given ability? Do animals wonder that?
• Young children need to be assured by you, their teacher, that there really are evil people out there in the world who “suppress the truth” in their wickedness. Older children can be asked if they can think of examples of evil people who lie about things that are important to people.
• What do you think might be some of the “facts that can be known about God”?
• Reread Romans 1:20 out loud and ask the questions written after the verse: “What has been clearly seen?” and “How is that revealed?” Wait for them to give thoughtful answers and help them restate what is obvious to you.
• Read the “THINK” statement at the bottom of the page and let your student restate the meanings (or his understanding) of the phrases: “created physical world,” “points to God,” “all men,” “without excuse” and “ignoring God.”
• Before leaving page 12, if your student is familiar with the books of the Bible, you can let them look up the references in the left sidebar and mark them in their personal Bible.
• On the top of page 13 take the opportunity to ask your student to try to explain what it means by “vain in their imaginations.”
• Do you know what the phrase “utter futility” might mean?
• Have you seen some silly examples of crazy ideas dreamed up by those who choose to ignore the miraculous reality of God creating living things? Suggest magazine articles about how the universe began with nothing and then there was a mysterious explosion or museum exhibits about ‘monkey men’ and dinosaurs sprouting feathers to become early birds.
• What is the awesome conclusion figured out by the prophet Jeremiah when he acknowledged that God “created the heaven and the earth” by His “great power?” – Nothing is too hard for Him.
• After you read Acts 4:24, ask your student to think about it and see if there is anything that could have been left out. Then ask: “What might the disciples have been thinking as they prayed?”
• What do you think you are supposed to be seeing as you hear Psalm 104:24?
• Under the sub-heading “Creation and Our Faith” ask, “If we understand that ‘knowledge’ includes all of science, what do you think are just a few ‘treasures’ that are ‘hidden’ in Christ Jesus?”
• If the theme of creation is frequently used in the Bible to draw attention to God’s awesome power, how would you like to do a scripture ‘treasure hunt?’ Let’s start listing those verses.

• Let’s read Hebrews 11:3 and the surrounding verses and talk about the meanings of the words and phrases found there. This could be an exciting discovery itself.

• Under the heading “Christ and Creation” you could ask your student to tell what he thinks Jesus believed and taught to His disciples 2,000 years ago? Have him read the quote from John 5:47.

• Look up Matthew 19:4 and ask your student: “Why do you think Jesus insisted that marriage was God’s invention from the very beginning of man’s existence on earth?”

• After reading Luke 16:31, ask your student: “What does ‘persuaded’ mean and why do you think Jesus would say that raising a dead person would not be persuasive evidence to believe Jesus is God unless they believe in the scriptures of the Bible written by Moses and the other prophets?”

• Ask: “If Jesus said people were foolish not to believe ALL that the prophets have spoken do you think he really meant all?”

• Draw attention to the headline question: “Why is Creation So Important?” Ask: “What is the main message of Jesus that the Devil works hard to get people to doubt?” Then ask: “Do you think Jesus really meant that belief in the Genesis record of creation is essential to understanding and believing that Jesus is the only One capable of providing salvation for His created human children?”