

## **Week 9: Creation**

*Grudem<sub>ST</sub> 15; Grudem<sub>BD</sub> 7; Ryrie 29-30*

- A. God Created the Universe out of Nothing (Lat. *ex nihilo*)
  1. Biblical Evidence (Gen. 1:1 – Heb. *bara*; John 1:3; Heb. 11:3; Rev. 4:11)
  2. Creation of the Spiritual Universe (Neh. 9:6; Col. 1:16; Rev. 10:6)
  3. Direct Creation of Adam and Eve (Gen. 2:7, 21-23; 1Cor. 11:8-9)
  4. Work of the Son (John 1:3; Col. 1:16; Heb. 1:2) & Spirit (Gen. 1:2; Job 33:4; Ps. 104:30)
- B. Creation is Distinct from God Yet Always Dependent on God (Eph. 4:6; Col. 1:17)
  1. As opposed to *materialism* – universe is all there is; there is no God
  2. As opposed to *pantheism* – everything, the whole universe, is God
  3. As opposed to *dualism* – universe and God have eternally existed side by side
  4. As opposed to *deism* – God is not now directly involved in the creation
- C. God Created the Universe to Show His Glory (Ps. 19:1-2; Is. 43:7; Rev. 4:11)
- D. The Universe God Created Was [and Is] “Very Good” (Gen. 1:31; 1Tim. 4:4)
- E. When all the facts are rightly understood (biblical and scientific), there will be no final conflict

### **Theories on Origins:** (Grudem, Whorton and Roberts)

- A. Secular Theories: any that does not see an infinite-personal God as responsible for creating the universe
  1. Steady State Theory – Universe is infinitely old, having no beginning or end; very unpopular
  2. “Big Bang” Theory – Universe had a beginning, but the “creation” event had no known cause
  3. Darwinian Evolution – All life progresses to more advanced stages through natural selection
- B. Recent Creation Theories: claim the Bible suggests creation is about 6,000-10,000 years old
  1. The Creation Days of Gen. 1 are considered the same we experience today; 24 hours in duration
  2. Genealogies in Gen. 5 & 10 contain no gaps; the ages can be added to get the date of creation
  3. Flood Geology – claims virtually all geologic features, layers & fossils result of Noah’s Flood
  4. Appearance of Age – God created things fully mature and functioning, thus *appearing* very old
- C. Ancient Creation Theories: claim the Bible allows for billions of years of creation history
  1. Theistic Evolution – God created, then stood back while life evolved
  2. Gap – potentially long gap between Gen 1:1 and 1:2; fall of Satan and geologic ages during gap
  3. Literary Framework – Days 1-3 pair with Days 4-6; former showing how God formed, latter showing how God filled His creation (to complete Gen. 1:2 – “formless and void”)
  4. Day Age – Creation “Days” long periods of time; God progressively created over billions of years
  5. Analogical Day – Creation “Days” are God’s Workdays of unspecified length; word “day” used for purpose of work-week and Sabbath rest analogy (Ex. 20:11)

**“The age of the earth is a red herring that the devil uses to get Christians to argue with each other”  
(Anderson, personal communication)**

### **Key Biblical Considerations:** Consider context and perspective

- A. Literary Comments (Collins)
  1. Genesis 1 is exalted prose narrative (*NOT* poetry), *elohim* (God) only character
  2. Hebrew verb tenses tell us Gen. 1:1-2 occurs prior to Creation Day 1; contains background info
  3. Hebrew verb tenses tell us the events of Gen. 1:3-2:3 are broadly sequential
  4. The refrain, “And there was evening and there was morning,” absent from Day 7
- B. Key Terminology (Collins, TWOT)
  1. *Yom* (day) – semantic range allows for the 12 hours of sunlight, full 24 hours, or indefinite period
  2. *Bara* (create) – used uniquely for God “creating” something brand new that was not previously
  3. *Asa* (to make), *hayah* (to be) & *yatsar* (to form) also used but can mean to make something or reveal something from existing materials; are not interchangeable with *bara*
  4. *Erets* (earth, or land) & *shamayim* (heavens, or sky)

### **Questions & Application:**

1. With regard to ‘Creation’, what is essential, and what is non-essential doctrine?
2. How is it possible for Christians, such as Ryrie & Grudem, to disagree over the age of the earth?
3. To what extent can we draw from extra-biblical sources when forming our positions on any doctrine?
4. What are the implications of your position on Creation on other doctrines? On science?