

LESSON 10

**GOD'S CREATIVE WORK**

Scripture Texts: Isaiah 37:16; Jeremiah 10:13; Acts 17:24; Hebrews 11:3

The origin of things is a problem that has engaged the thought of philosophers and scientists for ages. Ancient fables picture the heavens and the earth as coming from the bodies of the gods. Scientists have studied the formation of the earth and have developed theories as to its development. But no science goes back to the very beginning to explain the origin of things.

The Bible alone presents an intelligible and believable explanation of the origin of the earth. One need not feel at all uncomfortable to admit that he accepts the biblical revelation as the true and only account of the origin of things. This record declares that all began through the work of the Creator, the true God.

MEMORY VERSE: *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*

Genesis 1:1

The Creation of the Universe

The God of Israel is identified as Creator. The Bible declares the beginning of things to have come through creation. This is the only answer that can be found in God's Word. Creation was not wrought by some impersonal force that men might condescend to call God but by a personal Being. By the nature of the case this is necessary, for only a being possessing will could bring about the work of creation. Genesis records that "God said." This was simply the expression of the will of God. It required no effort for Him to bring the world into being.

Creation is not the reshaping or reforming of existing materials but the bringing of something into existence that did not exist before. Matter had a beginning and therefore could not be eternal, as science would have us believe. We read this in Hebrews 11:3. This goes back to the actual beginning of things. To make something that only God can do.

There is a difference between making and creating. God made many things out of existing material, after He had created it. Men can make things by using material God has provided. The Bible makes this distinction, though often the two terms are used loosely as synonyms.

We may observe in Genesis, Chapter 1, three distinct acts of creation. There is first the creation of material substance, then of animal life, and lastly of man. In each instance something new came into existence.

The Time of Creation

On the basis of scientific investigation the conclusion has been reached that the earth is a little more than 6,000 years old, hence was in existence before 4004 B.C., the supposed date of Creation. The Bible assigns no date to Creation except "the beginning." There is no date that can be defended on biblical authority. Any date arrived at through genealogies could give only the time of the appearance of man on the earth. Unless one contends for literal days in the Creation week, this reckoning would not determine the age of the earth.

Scientists are quite unanimous in saying they were not literal twenty four-hour days. At the beginning of the first day, the earth was a shapeless mass and the sun had not appeared. There was as yet no revolution of the earth. The succession of day and night as we now know it had not yet begun. Light is called Day and darkness is called Night before the appearance of the sun. Day and Night were long successive periods of time.

A study of the account indicates that the work of one day included a period of development that covers long periods of time. But God's Word provides the solution to the question of Creation in Hebrews 11:3. Study as they may, scientists can never provide us with the answers to this one, no matter how much data they come up with.

JUST A THOUGHT

**Does it matter whether I am a son of God or the
child of an amoeba?**