

Is Creation Credible?

Chapter 4

Audio Lesson: Old Testament Survey lesson four



Objective: To understand how the biblical story of creation and science relate to each other.



In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

—Genesis 1:1

There are two extreme views on the subject of creation. One extreme is the belief that the creation account in Genesis is not scientifically reliable, so the Bible cannot be accepted as true or be inspired by God. The other extreme is the belief that science is unreliable if it does not fit our interpretation of the Genesis story. But the real question is whether the Bible and science are compatible. The Bible is not a textbook of science; it is a textbook on salvation. It spends less than two chapters out of its 1,189 chapters telling us about how the world began.

We need to understand that God does not fit into a scientific study. He cannot be measured or proven. Science does not deal with issues of faith. Science cannot prove God does or does not exist.

There are many things the Bible and science agree on. For example, scientists believe the whole earth was under water at one time, and this is what Genesis says. Scientists believe animal life began in the water, and the Bible says it did.

The Hebrew word “bara” means “to create out of nothing.” This word is used only three times in the Genesis creation story. All the other times “create” or “make” is used, it comes from other Hebrew words that indicate taking something that exists and altering its form. The word “bara” is used to describe the creation in the very beginning (verse 1) when God created all matter and energy; when God created animal life (verse 21); and when God created human life (verse 27). These three times that God created something out of nothing are also the three missing links in science. Evolutionists cannot explain how it all began; they cannot explain how plant life became animal life; and they cannot explain how animal life became human life. Genesis explains all three with “bara” – “God created.”



Choose one best answer unless instructed otherwise.

1. True or **false**? God owes us an explanation for how He created everything.
2. **True** or false? Science is the study of data or phenomena that can be observed and objectively measured or proven.
3. Is it possible to approach God through a scientific method? **No**
4. In the list below, circle each item that is a main focus of science. Put a check mark beside each item that is a main focus of the Bible.
 - a. data
 - ✓b. faith
 - ✓c. revelation
 - d. observable evidence
 - ✓e. theology
 - f. experiments
 - ✓g. experience
 - ✓h. supernatural
 - i. natural
5. How does God tell us to approach Him? **in faith** (see Hebrews 11:1)
6. According to Genesis chapters 1 and 2 which came first in creation? (match them by drawing a line and put them in order)

| | | |
|----------------|---|------------|
| a. human life | → | i. First |
| b. animal life | → | ii. Second |
| c. plant life | → | iii. Third |
7. **True** or False? The purpose of the Bible is not to give us scientific answers, but to tell mankind of God's redemptive plan.



What are some parallels between scientific and biblical explanations of creation?

Why do you think God did not explain everything about creation in detail in Genesis?

Why do you think modern man tries to explain the beginning of our earth and human life without a Creator?



Praise God for His wonderful creation, mercy, and grace. Ask Him to strengthen your faith and show you what His plan is for you during this study and for your life. Then ask Him for the courage to obey.



Going Deeper

1. Why has God only given us two chapters on the subject of creation, yet there are 1,189 chapters in the Bible? _____

2. What is the significance of the three places where evolution has missing links, and the creation account uses the word “bara” in these three places?

3. While considering how everything began and the “big bang” belief of science, is it easier to believe in a big God or to believe in a big bang? Explain. _____

4. What are several ways the Genesis account of creation agrees with science? _____

5. What is the primary conflict between science and the Genesis account of creation? _____

6. Explain why the subject of God and spiritual things does not fit under the discipline of science. (Consider John 4:24) _____

7. Why has God told us about creation? (Consider Psalm 51:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17) _____
