

## Di223 We Believe

### *Lesson Di223-8 Creation*

Why do you suppose a man and a woman, soon after they are married, want to have a child? The answer most of the time is that they want someone they can love, who will love them back. Love is made complete when it has something to love. This helps us understand why God created human beings. He wanted children to love, who would love him back. Before he created the children, however, he had to prepare a place they could live.

‘Genesis’ means a ‘book of beginnings.’ God was there, because God is eternal. God has always existed, but the earth had a beginning. The Bible says, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters” (Gen 1:1-2). Out of darkness and nothing, God brought our world into existence.

In Lesson 5, we discussed the presence of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit at the time of creation. The triune godhead created a dazzling, beautiful world. The word ‘creation’ means the supernatural act of God, by his command, which formed the universe, the earth, and everything in them. No one knows exactly *how* God created the universe and everything in it, for no human being was present for the occasion. The Bible simply describes the events.

Each part of God’s creation completely fulfilled his will and intended purpose. God created the world to reflect his glory and to be a place where his children could share in his joy and life. It is important to understand that merely by speaking, God brought all things into being. “God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light. God saw that the light was good and separated the light from the darkness. God called the light ‘day,’ and the darkness he called ‘night.’” On the second day God created the sky to separate the water under it from the water above. On the third day he said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.” And it was so. God called the dry ground “land,” and the gathered waters he called “seas.”

So on the first 3 days of creation, God created light, the atmosphere, the seas and land. We see that on the second three days, God filled the light with ‘lights,’ filled the sky with birds and the sea with fish, and filled the land with creatures, plants, and human beings.

On the fourth day, God spoke into existence the great light (sun), lesser light (moon), and stars to govern day and night. On day five, God said, “Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth.” Then he said, “Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals.” And it happened as he had commanded. He saw that it was good (Gen 1:1-25).

God’s last act of creation, day six, was his crowning achievement—human beings. “So God created mankind in his own image ... male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, ‘Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground’” (Gen 1:27-28). These first human beings, later called Adam and Eve, were created in the image and likeness of God. They were innocent, endowed with intelligence, conscience, free will and other attributes like

their Creator. They were given dominion over all living things on earth. God created them for fellowship with himself.

Men and women cannot create things out of nothing as God can, but they have the ability to develop many things from the material God has provided. Mankind's intelligence is a clear reflection of a wise and all-knowing Creator. God gave the first humans the power to choose whether or not they would obey God. They worshiped and obeyed their Creator because they wanted to do so. Their power to choose between good and evil involved the possibility of choosing disobedience and evil instead of obedience and good. Their intelligence made them fully responsible for all their choices.

Our fourth *Statement of Faith* says: "We believe that human beings were created in the image of God for a loving relationship with him. They chose to disobey God, however, and thus experienced physical death and separation from God." Our Bible verse to memorize is, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Gen 1:1).

This lesson is **important** because it helps us understand that God created the world from nothing. The purpose for this beautiful place was a home for the children God would create. He loved them and wanted them to love him in return.

The **main truth** of this lesson is that the beginning of the world occurred when God created the heavens and the earth.

Let's **review** this lesson—

1. What does the word 'Genesis' mean? [Pause.]
  - A. If you said that the word 'Genesis' means a 'book of beginnings,' you are correct.
2. What does the word 'creation' mean? [Pause.]
  - A. If you said that the word 'creation' means the supernatural act of God, by his command, which formed the universe and everything in it, you are right.
3. How are human beings different from the rest of the creation? [Pause.]
  - A. If you said that male and female were created in the image of God, with the ability to choose between right and wrong, you are correct.

Your **assignment** is to begin to memorize our fourth *Statement of Faith*: "We believe that human beings were created in the image of God for a loving relationship with him. They chose to disobey God, however, and thus experienced physical death and separation from God." Please memorize the following verse: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Gen 1:1). Then try to gather some children from your neighborhood and explain to them why God created the world and why he created human beings. Help them to learn the verse you have memorized.