



Origins Lesson 1 1Q 2013

Jesus, Creator of Heaven and Earth

Thoughts about the focus of this quarter? Any questions you would like to have answers for this quarter?

Any conundrums, problems, mysteries, regarding Origins, that you would like to discuss this quarter?

SUNDAY

The lesson contrasts the Bing Bang theory with Biblical Creation – which is more reasonable, which has more evidence to support it, which is more scientific?

Read first paragraph, “There are many...” thoughts?

Do you agree the universe has a beginning? Do you think Genesis 1:1 is the best Scripture to use for the beginning of the universe?

If not, what scripture would you use?

- In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. Jn 1:1-3
- In the past, God spoke to our ancestors many times and in many ways through the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us through his Son. He is the one through whom God created the universe, the one whom God has chosen to possess all things at the end. Heb 1:1,2
- By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. Heb 11:3
- He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Col 1:15-17

What is different about these texts than the Genesis 1:1 text?

Could the Genesis 1 text be referring only to the creation of earth and our solar system, whereas the other texts are more encompassing?



“Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation?
Tell me, if you understand.
5 Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know!
Who stretched a measuring line across it?
6 On what were its footings set,
or who laid its cornerstone—
7 while the morning stars sang together
and all the angels shouted for joy? Job 38:4-7

What does this indicate? That angels were already in existence before earth was created – meaning what about the universe? There was something already here when earth was created, so Genesis 1 likely doesn’t refer to the creation of the universe but the creation of our solar system.

One of the founders of our church understood Scripture to teach that the universe was already in existence when earth was created.

Angels on probation had been deceived by Satan, and had been led on by him in the great rebellion in heaven against Christ. They failed to endure the test brought to bear upon them, and they fell. **Adam was then created in the image of God and placed upon probation.** He had a perfectly developed organism. All his faculties were harmonious. In all his emotions, words, and actions, there was a perfect conformity to the will of his Maker. {Con 18.2}

The King of the universe summoned the heavenly hosts before Him, that in their presence He might set forth the true position of His Son and show the relation He sustained to all created beings. The Son of God shared the Father’s throne, and the glory of the eternal, self-existent One encircled both. About the throne gathered the holy angels, a vast, unnumbered throng--"ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands" (Revelation 5:11.), the most exalted angels, as ministers and subjects, rejoicing in the light that fell upon them from the presence of the Deity. Before the assembled inhabitants of heaven the King declared that none but Christ, the Only Begotten of God, could fully enter into His purposes, and to Him it was committed to execute the mighty counsels of His will. The Son of God had wrought the Father’s will in the creation of all the hosts of heaven; and to Him, as well as to God, their homage and allegiance were due. **Christ was still to exercise divine power, in the creation of the earth and its inhabitants.** But in all this He would not seek power or exaltation for Himself contrary to God’s plan, but would exalt the Father’s glory and execute His purposes of beneficence and love. {PP 36.2}

Thoughts?

What do you think of the last parenthetical statement, “scientific views, even those once deemed sacrosanct, are often changed or refuted.” Is this a bad thing or a good thing?

What about religion, theology, should we in our religious beliefs have a willingness to refute previously held beliefs, if the evidence supports it, even if they are “sacrosanct”?



But as **real spiritual life declines, it has ever been the tendency to cease to advance in the knowledge of the truth.** Men rest satisfied with the light already received from God's word and discourage any further investigation of the Scriptures. They become conservative and seek to avoid discussion.

"There is no excuse for any one in taking the position that there is no more truth to be revealed, and that all our expositions of Scripture are without an error. The fact that certain doctrines have been held as truth for many years **by our people, is not a proof that our ideas are infallible.** Age will not make error into truth, and truth can afford to be fair. **No true doctrine will lose anything by close investigation."** *Review and Herald*, Dec. 20, 1892 (*2RH* 623:1:1); *CWE* 35; compare *RH* July 26, 1892; *The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials* 991

"However long men may have entertained certain views, **if they are not clearly sustained by the written word, they should be discarded.**

"I have been shown that **many who profess to have a knowledge of present truth know not what they believe.** They do not understand the evidences of their faith. . . . When the time of trial shall come, there are **men now preaching** to others who will find, upon examining the positions they hold, that there are many things for which they can give no satisfactory reason. Until thus tested they knew not their great ignorance. And there are many in the church who take it for granted that they understand what they believe; but, until controversy arises, they do not know their own weakness. When separated from those of like faith, and compelled to stand singly and alone to explain their belief, they will be surprised to see how confused are their ideas of what they had accepted as truth. . . .

"Experience is said to be the best teacher. **Genuine experience is indeed superior to mere theoretical knowledge,** but many have an erroneous idea as to what constitutes experience. Real experience is gained by a variety of **careful experiments, made with the mind free from prejudice, uncontrolled by previously established opinions and habits. The results are marked with careful solicitude.** . . .

"That which many term experience is not experience at all. . . . There has not been **a fair trial by actual experiment and thorough investigation, with a knowledge of the principles involved in the action.** . . .

"Here is where we have met the greatest difficulties in religious matters. The plainest facts may be presented, the clearest truths, sustained by the word of God, may be brought before the mind; but the ear and the heart are closed, and the all-convincing argument is, 'my experience.' Some will say, 'The Lord has blessed me in believing and doing as I have; therefore I cannot be in error.' 'My experience' is clung to, and the most elevating, sanctifying truths of the Bible are rejected. . . .

"Many examples might be given to show how people have been deceived by relying upon what they supposed to be their experience." *Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene* 109-110



(1890 - Originally written in 1865 in a series "How to Live"); *Testimonies*, vol. 3, p. 71; *RH* July 27, 1886; *The Health Reformer*, June 1, 1872; *Australasian Signs of the Times*, Dec. 19, 1904; *The Watchman*, Sept. 1, 1908

Thoughts about this attitude?

How are we to determine what we believe? The Integrative Evidence Based approach, which integrates three threads, Scripture, Science and Experience, finding the answer in which all three harmonize.

Read the 2nd and 3rd paragraphs, “As with Genesis 1:1... thoughts?”

The Big Bang postulates that the universe came from nothing, from no pre-existing matter. So what is the difference between this and the Big Bang?

While God was not dependent upon pre-existing matter, as the lesson points out, did the universe come from absolutely nothing, or from something? Is God nothing? Or is God something real? Is God pre-existent? So if everything came from God then did it come from nothing or from something? This is a critical difference between the Big Bang and Creation.

What evidence to you cite that supports creation over evolution?

- Evolution is contrary to natural laws (without exception) whereas creation is consistent with natural laws—for example, creation is consistent with the laws of thermodynamics and law of biogenesis. Evolution violates those laws.
 - The fundamental premises to each theory:
 - Something comes from nothing, or something comes from something (1st law of thermodynamics, energy is conserved)
 - Complexity comes from chaos without intelligent input, or with intelligent input (2nd law of thermodynamics, without energy put into a system it decays)
 - Life comes from non-life, or life comes from life? (the law of biogenesis)
- There are no known biological processes for evolution into higher levels of organization and complexity—mutations are degenerative and none have been documented to actually advance a species. Read *Genetic Entropy* by Sanford for documentation of this.
- Geologic landforms and sedimentary features are consistent with a worldwide flood as described in the Book of Genesis.
- There is no credible technique for establishing the age of sedimentary rock—fossil dating used to establish the age of sedimentary rock suffers from circular reasoning and guesswork, all based on the assumption of evolution.
- The standard geologic column with transitional creatures evolving toward more complex forms, as depicted in most science textbooks, is *fictitious*, and cannot be found anywhere in the real world.



- There are *no* transitional forms—there is not one single example of evolution! There should be billions of examples of transitional forms with transitional structures if evolution were true, but there are *none*. The bottom line, speciation has *never been observed* to occur within living populations. Therefore the idea of one life form evolving to another higher life form is not scientific, it is fiction or fantasy. Science requires observable, reproducible results. This idea has neither.
- Carbon-14 has been found in coal and diamonds supposedly hundreds of millions of years old. (C-14 has a relatively short life-span dissipating completely in 50,000 years.)
- Abundant daughter isotopes are indicative of accelerated nuclear decay associated with creation and *not slow and gradual processes over billions of years*.
- Evidences of accelerated nuclear decay in igneous rocks found worldwide are helium in zircon crystals, radiohalos and fission tracks, and rapid magnetic field reversals and decay.
- The seven day weekly cycle in all cultures of the world, no natural phenomenon can explain it. The Bible does.
- The law of love, as the circle of giving that all life is created to operate upon, and is observable and testable.

So, which theory is more scientific? Creation is abundantly more consistent with the evidence. Therefore, creation is more scientific than evolutionary theory of origins.

MONDAY

Read paragraphs 1-4 “Not just...” thoughts?

Any questions?

Do you agree with the idea that everything is carefully balanced? Is it consistent with a designer?

Where did all the water for the flood come from?

A water layer above the earth – okay, and if so, what does this also explain? The apparent age of organic material that existed before the flood. C14, is used to date organic material, and C14 is created from solar radiation. If there was a water layer above the earth before the flood then living matter before the flood would appear much older as it starts with less C14.

But, then what do we do about the last paragraph, that the earth is positioned in the exact right temperate zone from the sun? If there was a water layer above the earth, reducing solar radiation, then would the earth still be in the right zone? And how did such a water layer stay above the earth?

Perhaps, the Bible gives us an answer:



- The moon will shine like the sun, and the sunlight will be seven times brighter, like the light of seven full days, when the LORD binds up the bruises of his people and heals the wounds he inflicted. Isa 30:26

Thoughts?

TUESDAY

Read first paragraph, “Though we cannot...” thoughts?

Here is a description from the book *Education*:

- **Upon all created things is seen the impress of the Deity.** Nature testifies of God. The susceptible mind, brought in contact with the miracle and mystery of the universe, cannot but recognize the working of infinite power. **Not by its own inherent energy does the earth produce its bounties**, and year by year continue its motion around the sun. **An unseen hand guides the planets in their circuit** of the heavens. **A mysterious life pervades all nature--a life that sustains the unnumbered worlds throughout immensity**, that lives in the insect atom which floats in the summer breeze, that wings the flight of the swallow and feeds the young ravens which cry, that brings the bud to blossom and the flower to fruit. {Ed 99.1}

The same power that upholds nature, is working also in man. **The same great laws that guide alike the star and the atom control human life. The laws that govern the heart's action, regulating the flow of the current of life to the body, are the laws of the mighty Intelligence that has the jurisdiction of the soul. From Him all life proceeds.** Only in harmony with Him can be found its true sphere of action. For all the objects of His creation the condition is the same--**a life sustained by receiving the life of God, a life exercised in harmony with the Creator's will.** To transgress His law, physical, mental, or moral, is to place one's self out of harmony with the universe, to introduce discord, anarchy, ruin. {Ed 99.2}

Thoughts?

This is very significant, scientists can take a seed and study it, break it down to its various chemical and biological components, but science cannot take those base elements and build a seed that actually grows. There is something science cannot explain, create, reproduce – life. The spark that makes things reproduce and grow. That life energy originates in God.

Read third paragraph, “Many scientists...” thoughts?

Is this perhaps a straw man set up by scientists? Of course God is not “restricted” by the laws of nature, why? Because all natural law originates with the builder of the universe.



Does God violate his laws? Is God restricted by the laws of nature?

Is walking on water a violation of natural law? Or could it be an exercise of natural law beyond our understanding?

If all things originate from God, hold together by his constant care, then, does he know how the laws work beyond our ability?

When God exercises his power, does he ever exercise it in ways that violate his nature and character of love?

Is nature built to operate in harmony with God's character of love?

Then whatever God is doing, it is in harmony with natural law, as natural law is an expression of God's character of love God doesn't operate contrary to his own character.

Can God express his character in "laws" or methods not yet understood by humans?

So it is a straw man to argue God is restricted by natural law- but in reaction, could it be an error to argue God operates contrary to natural law?

WEDNESDAY

Jesus, Creator of Heaven and Earth – why do you think the Scripture makes it clear that Jesus is the member of the Godhead through whom the universe was created?

Were the Father and Holy Spirit not capable? Of course they were, so was there a specific reason it was Jesus?

And is this reason also connected to why Jesus was the member of the Godhead who became human and died to save us?

With whom did Lucifer allege equality? Do we have any indications of this from Scripture?

- 12 "How you are fallen from heaven,
 O Lucifer, son of the morning!
 How you are cut down to the ground,
 You who weakened the nations!
- 13 For you have said in your heart:
 'I will ascend into heaven,
 I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;
 I will also sit on the mount of the congregation
 On the farthest sides of the north;



- 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds,
I will be like the Most High.⁷
15 Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol,
To the lowest depths of the Pit. Isa 14:12-15 NKJV

To whom is this referring? Satan before his fall – how do other versions render verse 12, what NKJV call Lucifer?

- How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! NIV
- How you are fallen from heaven, Day Star, son of Dawn! NRSV

Does this suggest anything in your mind?

And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the **morning star** rises in your hearts. 2Pet 1:19

The morning star refers to who? Jesus – and the Greek is phosphoros, which in the Latin is Lucifer.

φωσφόρος [*phosphoros* /foce·for·os/] adj. From 5457 and 5342; TDNT 9:310; TDNTA 1293; GK 5892; AV translates as “day star” once. **1** light bringing, giving light. **2** the planet Venus, the morning star, day star. **3** metaph. Christ.¹

Lucifer means light bearer, and who does John say is the light which lightens all men?

And throughout Scripture Jesus, prior to His incarnation is described as appearing in the form of an angel.

For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea.² They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.³ They all ate the same spiritual food⁴ and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual **rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ**. 1Cor 10:1-4

The member of the Godhead who led the children of Israel through Moses was Jesus Christ.

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the desert and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.² There **the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush**. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up.³ So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this

¹ Strong, J. (2001). *Enhanced Strong's Lexicon*. Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software.



strange sight—why the bush does not burn up.”

⁴ When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, **God called to him from within the bush**, “Moses! Moses!” Exodus 3:1-4

Notice the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the flames and God called to him from the bush.

The point is simple, God is infinite, beyond the understanding and engagement of finite beings and is described as living in “unapproachable light” 1Tim 6:16,17. Therefore, God, longing intimacy with his creatures has always had one member of the Godhead interact on the level of his creation, that member is Jesus and prior to his incarnation Jesus *manifested* himself in the form of an angel. He **was not** an angel, but manifested as an angel.

Jesus was/is God. Lucifer, however alleged equality with Jesus and claimed no difference between the two. This is the distortion he used to cause disaffection and jealousy in heaven and undermined trust in the Father suggesting the Father played favorites in allowing Jesus to enter into counsels with the Father Lucifer could not.

With this perspective do we gain any insight into why Jesus was the member of the Godhead that created?

THURSDAY

The Creator Among Us

After Lucifer started his lies about God, what did God in heaven do? He announced the truth that Jesus was equal with the Father and then Christ went about showing his equality by creating earth and life on earth.

How did Lucifer respond in heaven to that?

We have a ruler over us, someone who abuses power, someone who Lords over, someone who will not sacrifice himself for others. I like the description found in the book *Patriarchs and Prophets*, do you like it or have problems with it?

The King of the universe summoned the heavenly hosts before Him, that in their presence He might set forth the true position of His Son and show the relation He sustained to all created beings. The Son of God shared the Father's throne, and the glory of the eternal, self-existent One encircled both. About the throne gathered the holy angels, a vast, unnumbered throng--"ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands" (Revelation 5:11.), the most exalted angels, as ministers and subjects, rejoicing in the light that fell upon them from the presence of the Deity. Before the assembled inhabitants of heaven the King **declared that none but Christ, the Only Begotten of God, could fully enter into His purposes**, and to Him it was committed to execute the mighty counsels of His will. **The Son of God had wrought the Father's will in the creation of all the hosts of heaven**; and to Him, as



well as to God, their homage and allegiance were due. Christ was still to exercise divine power, in the creation of the earth and its inhabitants. But in all this He would not seek power or exaltation for Himself contrary to God's plan, but would exalt the Father's glory and execute His purposes of beneficence and love. {PP 36.2}

The angels joyfully acknowledged the supremacy of Christ, and prostrating themselves before Him, poured out their love and adoration. Lucifer bowed with them, but in his heart there was a strange, fierce conflict. Truth, justice, and loyalty were struggling against envy and jealousy. The influence of the holy angels seemed for a time to carry him with them. As songs of praise ascended in melodious strains, swelled by thousands of glad voices, the spirit of evil seemed vanquished; unutterable love thrilled his entire being; his soul went out, in harmony with the sinless worshippers, in love to the Father and the Son. But again he was filled with pride in his own glory. His desire for supremacy returned, and envy of Christ was once more indulged. The high honors conferred upon Lucifer were not appreciated as God's special gift, and therefore, called forth no gratitude to his Creator. He gloried in his brightness and exaltation and aspired to be equal with God. He was beloved and revered by the heavenly host, angels delighted to execute his commands, and he was clothed with wisdom and glory above them all. **Yet the Son of God was exalted above him, as one in power and authority with the Father. He shared the Father's counsels, while Lucifer did not thus enter into the purposes of God. "Why," questioned this mighty angel, "should Christ have the supremacy? Why is He honored above Lucifer?"** {PP 36.3}

Leaving his place in the immediate presence of the Father, **Lucifer went forth to diffuse the spirit of discontent among the angels.** He worked with mysterious secrecy, and for a time concealed his real purpose under an appearance of reverence for God. He began to insinuate doubts concerning the laws that governed heavenly beings, intimating that though laws might be necessary for the inhabitants of the worlds, angels, being more exalted, needed no such restraint, for their own wisdom was a sufficient guide. They were not beings that could bring dishonor to God; all their thoughts were holy; it was no more possible for them than for God Himself to err. **The exaltation of the Son of God as equal with the Father was represented as an injustice to Lucifer, who, it was claimed, was also entitled to reverence and honor.** If this prince of angels could but attain to his true, exalted position, great good would accrue to the entire host of heaven; for it was his object to **secure freedom for all. But now even the liberty which they had hitherto enjoyed was at an end; for an absolute Ruler had been appointed them,** and to His authority all must pay homage. Such were the subtle deceptions that through the wiles of Lucifer were fast obtaining in the heavenly courts.

{PP 37.1}

There had been no change in the position or authority of Christ. Lucifer's envy and misrepresentation and his claims to equality with Christ had made necessary a statement of the true position of the Son of God; but this had been the same from the beginning. Many of the angels were, however, blinded by Lucifer's deceptions. {PP 38.1}

What do you think of this description? Does it give some sense to what the struggles were in heaven? Does it give some reason as to why Christ was the member who created? What does it reveal? It demonstrates that Christ and Lucifer are not the same. Christ is fully God, the creator. Lucifer is a created being.



Does it also give insight into why Christ came to save us? He created us, we are evidences of His creatorship, Satan may allege, he can't create things right, look how messed up this is. And, Satan alleged that Christ was no a ruler over them. Suggesting Christ was selfish and wouldn't sacrifice himself for others. He was projecting his own evil character upon God and Christ.

“Satan had accused God of requiring self-denial of the angels, when he knew nothing of what it meant himself, and when he would not himself make any self-sacrifice for others. This was the accusation that Satan made against God in heaven; and after the evil one was expelled from heaven, he continually charged the Lord with exacting service which he would not render himself. Christ came to the world to meet these false accusations, and to reveal the Father.” RH, February 18, 1890

Thoughts?

The lesson describes Christ's miracles, which are phenomenal to be sure- but seems to use these as evidences to prove Christ is the creator – what is the problem with this argument?

Jesus gave them this answer: “I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.”²

So Jesus said, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am the one I claim to be and that **I do nothing on my own** but speak just what the Father has taught me.”³

Jesus lived as a man and overcame as a man, and the miracles he performed were not done by exercising his own divine ability but by trust in his Father. Just as other humans have done. In fact, one of the great points of Jesus temptations was to use his own divine ability to perform miracles, thus doing something no other human could do.

Many humans were used by God to perform miracles, Elijah raised the dead child, Elisha floated an axe head, Moses parted the sea, the Apostles healed many diseases – yet none of these miracles proved they were the Creator.

Read bottom question, “Miracles...” thoughts?

FRIDAY

Read first two paragraphs, thoughts?

² *The Holy Bible: New International Version*. 1984 (Jn 5:19). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

³ *The Holy Bible: New International Version*. 1984 (Jn 8:28). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.