

Any list of history's great scientists includes Sir Isaac Newton. The man invented calculus. He applied the force of gravity to planetary motion. If Isaac Newton had taken the SAT he would've done quite well. *And* he believed in God... Newton once said, "He must be blind... mad and senseless who refuses to acknowledge the Almighty Creator."

In his home, Newton had built a replica of the solar system. He sized the planets and set their distance to the sun according to scale. Isaac's model had cranks, cogs, and belts - the planets moved in their orbits.

One day an atheistic friend asked him, "Who made this brilliant replica?" Newton's reply was abrupt, "Nobody." The scientist laughed, "You didn't hear me... Who built this amazing model?" Newton snapped back, "Nobody!" The visitor was offended, "Do you think I'm a fool?" Newton explained, "My solar system is a puny imitation of a grander system. If I can't convince you this toy is without designer and maker, how can you believe the great original came into being without a designer or maker? What kind of reasoning draws such an absurd conclusion?"

This same logic is as true today as it was in the days of Isaac Newton. How can a universe - as complex, yet as carefully ordered as our own - come into being through chance incidents of accidental circumstances?

Notice this glass of water sitting motionless on the stage. This glass sits on the surface of a planet that's spinning on its axis at nearly 1000 mph? The Earth is orbiting the sun at 67,000 mph. By the way, *that's 30 times faster than a bullet exiting a rifle.*

You can't tell by the glass of water, but we're speeding through the universe... *Don't expect to get the frequent flyer credit* - but over a lifetime an earthling ends up traveling about 40 billion miles. The earth is also part of a solar system that's streaking through the Milky Way Galaxy at 560,000 mph. Our galaxy is moving through a galaxy group at 665,000 mph. And our galaxy group is a member of another cluster of galaxies that's moving at about a 1,000,000 mph. *If you ever get dizzy... now you know why!* I hope there're no Snellville cops in the crowd today, I'm sure they'll want to write me a ticket...

We're moving at a colossal rate of speed, yet the water in this glass sits undisturbed - not a ripple. *Not once have you ever felt you were about to fly off the planet... and why?* The laws of motion are in exact proportion.

Today's scientists talk about "the fine-tuning of the universe." Nature's forces are precisely designed and balanced to sustain life on our planet. The earth spins at 1000 mph and orbits at 67,000 mph. If we were just two mph faster or slower there'd be no life on planet Earth. We're finely-tuned. Scientist Freeman Dyson quips, "The universe in some sense must have known we were coming." It's perfectly prepared for life.

Today, our "Essentials" series tackles "God's creation." We'll discuss some *debatable details* this morning, but let's begin with a *statement of essentials...* that we'll also recite at the end... *We believe God created all things. Within creation God established boundaries and distinction. Jesus alone is the Sustainer, Ruler, and Redeemer of His creation. And He created us to worship Him.*

Let's begin in Genesis 1:1. *Behold the beauty of brevity.* The most explosive, far-reaching, mysterious, and majestic moment in history is covered by God in just ten words - "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth..." *Never was so much said in so few words!*

It's been noted this one verse refutes *atheism* since the universe was created by God - *pantheism*, because God is separate from His creation - *polytheism*, since one God created all things - *materialism*, for matter had a beginning - and *humanism*, since God, not man, is the

ultimate reality.

Genesis wasn't written as a scientific textbook. It's a theological history. Galileo was right, "The Bible isn't as concerned with telling us how the heavens go, as it is in telling us how to go to heaven." Nevertheless the Bible is always consistent with good science.

As little as eighty years ago the prevailing consensus among scientists was that matter and the universe were eternal – it had no beginning. This squared nicely with all the world's religions except Judaism and Christianity. Genesis 1:1 tells us matter is not eternal – it was created. Today though, the scientific consensus has flipped-flop. Few scientists would suggest the universe is eternal. Astronomers talk of "*The Day of Creation.*" Scientists now believe the universe is both *expanding* and *slowing down* – which means, it had to have had a beginning!

Today's prevailing hypothesis for the origin of the universe is "*The Big Bang.*" It theorizes that twenty billion years ago a cloud of hydrogen gas exploded and spawned the galaxies, and solar systems, and planets.

In 1965 two Bell Laboratory scientists, Penzias and Wilson, supposedly proved the Big Bang. They detected a low-level radiation that shrouds and permeates the entire universe. They interpreted this background radiation as the remnant or fallout of that first exploding fireball that started it all.

*There are though a few problems with the Big Bang... Often they get overlooked... why let a few pesky facts throw off a good theory... First*, astronomers are cloudy on the origin of the cloud. *Who passed the initial gas? Second*, how did a random explosion yield sophisticated systems.

I believe the "*Big Bang*" was the initial infusion of energy from the hand of a *Big God* beginning His creative work – *and* the background radiation is the glory of God declared in the heavens that praises Him daily.

A recent version of the Big Bang, "*The inflationary Big Bang,*" suggests the universe developed quickly, in the first few moments it existed. Secular scientists are moving closer and closer to the biblical account of creation.

In his book, "*God and the Astronomers*", former NASA scientist, Robert Jastrow writes, "*It is not a matter of another year, another decade of work, another measurement, or another theory... it seems as though science will never be able to raise the curtain on the mystery of Creation. For the scientist who has lived by faith in reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He's scaled the mountains of ignorance, he's about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he's greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries.*"

A book has an author - a song a composer - a piece of art has an artist. It's illogical and unscientific to expect *something greater* from *something lesser*. Behind all complex systems there has to be a higher intelligence. And what's true in astronomy, also applies to biology.

With the discovery of DNA the old idea of "*biogenesis*" – that *inanimate* matter coupled with energy can produce life – has become preposterous. Life requires a third component - "*information*" or "*intelligence.*" Stick an electrical probe in a jar of peanut butter, and all you'll get is messy peanut butter. Information has to be present for life to form.

The late Princeton biologist, Edwin Conklin, once wrote, "*The probability of life originating from accident is comparable to the probability of the unabridged dictionary resulting from an explosion in a print shop.*"

Take 10 pennies - *mark one* – then put them in your pocket. If you tried to draw the marked penny the odds of choosing the right one is 1 in 10. But if you marked the pennies 1 through 10 - and tried to draw the first two pennies in order - the odds would shoot up to 1 in 100. To draw

out all 10 in the numerical order, the odds would be astronomical - 1 in 10 billion. And that's to simply pull out a string of 10 pennies in sequence.

The least complex living cells contain strings of 55 amino acids that link together in just the right order. The odds of the right chemicals emerging by chance from a primordial soup - then connecting in just the right sequence to form a living cell - is beyond responsible speculation.

Nobel winners, Fred Hoyle and Chandra Wilkramasinghe, did research on the probability of life forming at random. They calculated the odds of just 20 amino acids forming by chance as 1 in 10(40,000) – that's one chance in a number that begins with 1 followed by 40,000 zeros.

Of course, the evolutionist has a lot of faith. He believes given enough time, anything can happen. But even if the earth is 4.5 billion years old the odds are still outrageous. The number of seconds in 4.5 billion years is just 10(18). So we'd only have 10(18) seconds to produce the 10(40,000) chances needed.

Fred Hoyle compared the possibility of life evolving at random - with the chance of a tornado sweeping through a junkyard and assembling a 747. Molecular biologist, Michael Denton, calls it ["simply an affront to reason."](#)

Genesis 1:1 states, ["In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."](#) Notice, there's no date. The word translated ["beginning"](#) means ["an indefinite period."](#) The universe isn't like milk – stamped with a date. How old is the universe? *Twenty billion years? Ten-thousand years?*

All we have is theories. The only person present at the time was God, and apparently, it wasn't that important for Him to tell us! All we know is when the curtain opens - there is God - before anything else exists.

It's interesting, but most people suggest either a very old earth (*4.5 billion years old*), or a very young earth (*6000 -10,000 years old*).

People who believe in an old earth point to carbon-14 and radiometric dating - and the vast distances between the earth and the stars. Star distances are measured in light years - or the distance light travels in a year. The nearest star is Proxima Centauri, a mere 4.2 billion light years away. Thus, the earth is at least 4.2 billion years old... *maybe...* That's making some assumptions. [Is the speed of light consistent every where in the universe? Has it slowed down over time? Did God create the light trails before He created the actual stars? We don't know.](#)

There're also uncertainties about radiometric dating... [varying decay rates - assumptions about initial deposits - seepage possibilities...](#) Lots of factors can distort results, especially with very old objects.

There are also a number of observations that support a young earth... [The Earth's decaying magnetic field - the mineral content of the ocean - short-period comets – the absence of dust on the surface of the moon...](#)

Young earth scientists – *and there are more than you think* – believe the global deluge of Noah's day compressed the earth's topography. I believe a worldwide flood offers a far better explanation of the fossil record than just normal decomposition and uniform processes over long ages.

Young earth advocates also talk about ["the appearance of age."](#) When God created Adam he was one day old, but he had the stature and appearance of a grown man. He was the perfect human specimen - *I figure he had the body of a 51 year old.* Adam was created with maturity.

And if that's how God created Adam, why shouldn't all His creation have an appearance of age? [Did the trees in the Garden of Eden have annual rings? Did God create eggs with yolks? Did Adam have a belly-button?](#)

There is another way to look at the age of the earth. *The planet* may be very old, but *life* may

be very young. Everyone agrees homo-sapiens, or man, appear just 6000 – 10,000 years ago.

Verse 1 reads, “In the beginning God created...” The Hebrew word translated “created” is “bara” which means “to create out of nothing.” Here’s the first cause - *the prime mover*... God begins with no raw materials - no building blocks – yet He fashions the universe with nothing but the power of His Word!

There’s another Hebrew word translated “create” – it’s the word “asah.” When you hear it, think of the word “assemble”. If we bara-ed this stool we’d produce it out of thin air! But if it were *asah-ed* - we’d go to Lowes, buy a few wooden rods, some nails, and varnish – then put it together.

*Now here’s where the plot thickens!* In Exodus 31:17 Moses tells us, “In six days the LORD made (or asah-ed) the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested...” Moses wrote both Genesis and Exodus. In Genesis the universe was created from nada – in Exodus it was assembled from existing materials. *Which is it? It could be both.*

Notice verse 2, “The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep.” This scene is not what we would expect. In chapter 1 each aspect of God’s creation is called “good.” But here the earth is *unformed* and *unfilled*. The Hebrew phrase is “tohu wabohu.” This terminology usually described the aftermath of judgment. Verse 2 depicts the earth as shapeless and chaotic - a vast sea shrouded in darkness.

It reminds me of a joke... Three professionals - a doctor, an engineer, and a politician were arguing over whose profession was the oldest... The doctor noted God performed surgery on Adam when he created Eve. *The medical profession was the oldest.* The engineer pointed to the creation. In just six days God started with chaos and confusion, and constructed the universe. *Engineering was the older.* That’s when the politician jumped in. He cleared his throat, “Where do you think the chaos and confusion came from?”

Isaiah 45:18 shines a light on verse 2. It says God did not create the earth “in vain, (He) formed it to be inhabited...” Planet earth was not created “in vain” - or “tohu” - the same word used in Genesis 1:2. Genesis says the earth was created “tohu” – *unformed*. Isaiah says, “No” - it was formed, inhabitable. So *which is it?* Perhaps it’s both! I believe a gap of time exists between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2.

When did God create the angels? Genesis doesn’t say, but Job 38:7 tells us they shouted for joy when God laid the foundations of the earth. We know one of the angels sinned. Isaiah 14 and Revelation 12 depict Lucifer’s fall, and how a third of the angels joined in his revolt. Jesus said in Luke 10:18, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.” Its possible Lucifer’s fall brought a horrible judgment that damaged God’s creation.

In verse 1 God creates a beautiful world that’s scarred and defaced by Satan’s revolt. In verse 2 He starts over *reforming* and *refilling* that world. But a long gap of time may’ve elapsed between the two verses. The important thing is that you believe God created the heavens and earth.

The rest of Genesis 1 depicts six creative days. *Which prompts another question? Are these six days literal 24 hour periods – or longer ages?*

The Hebrew for “day” is “yom.” It appears 1,424 times in the OT and is translated 51 different ways. Based on the term you can’t be dogmatic. But if you take these days as geological ages of millions of years you’ve got problems... For example, plants are created on Day Three that require the pollination of insects - that don’t appear until Day Five. If these days were millions of years apart the plants would never have survived.

I believe the language of Genesis suggests these days are six 24 hour periods. The phrase “the evening and the morning” supports that idea.

In the rest of Genesis 1 God prepares the planet – He decks it out and paves the way for the crown of His creation – the man and the woman.

On Day 1, God separates light from darkness.

On Day 2, He divides the waters above from the waters below. Water is suspended as vapor in the clouds. God creates the hydrological system.

On Day 3 God draws out the land and gives the sea its boundaries. He generates plant life - grasses, and herbs, and berries, and fruit trees.

On Day 4 God further divides day from night and separates seasons.

On Days 5 and 6 God separates animals by their natural habitat. He fills the sky with birds - the sea with fish - and puts creepy crawlers on the earth – the insects, and reptiles, and amphibians, and mammals.

And ten times we're told God created everything, "**according to its kind.**"

Understand the difference between **micro** and **macro** evolution. Micro-evolution recognizes the adaptability that's been programmed into our DNA. Mutations occur in living organisms.

Birds that migrate to a new environment can change colors to blend into their new surroundings. But though a bird may adapt, it remains a bird. It's created after its kind.

In 1859 Charles Darwin wrote, "**The Origin of the Species.**" *That's what you were told.* Listen to its real title, **The Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favored Races in the Struggle for Life.**" Darwin believed just as certain animals were superior to other species and the stronger would destroy the lesser – likewise, certain races were superior and destined to out-survive inferior races. Darwin believed that Caucasians had out-evolved blacks – as Australians had aborigines. Proponents of evolution don't want you to know its racist element.

The Christian belief in the equality of all men is based on our common Creator, and common father, Adam. Evolution fosters a racial elitism.

Darwin also promoted macro-evolution – a fish crawls out on the ground and ends up a bird – an ape climbs out of a tree and becomes a human. Macro-evolution doesn't just allow for mutations, but *transmutations*.

This is the great failure of evolution - with all the fossils found all over the world there's a glaring absence of transitional forms. *The missing link is still missing!*

When Kathy gave birth we were pretty sure we'd have a boy or girl – not an ape or a walnut. Granted, at times they act like monkeys, and get a little nutty - but they're Adams' - and they'll reproduce Adams' – *soon, we hope.* Thankfully all four of my kids mutated and turned out far better-looking than me. *Micro-evolution* and genetic adaptation is a **marvel**, but *macro-evolution* is a **myth**. God created all things "**according to its kind.**"

A key theme in Genesis is God's establishment of boundaries. The Creator Himself remains separate and distinct from His creation.

He distinguishes light from darkness – day from night. He divides the waters above from those below. He separates the sea from the land. He draws specific habitats. He engineers life to reproduce after its kind. God even creates humanity with distinction - male and female.

And remember why this matters. We talked on week one about two current worldviews... Paganism is **One-ism**. Christianity is **Two-ism**.

**One-ism** denies any distinctions. There's one circle – the circle of life. And One-ism tries to push and keep everything within that one circle. Recently, the Dali Lama stated, "**The world use to believe there are two. We now know there is one.**" *Few people grasped his deception.*

One-ism denies the distinction between God and His creation. In One-ism God is in all and all is God. Don't look for God outside the circle. Look within... Look for the spark of God within you... *And this is just the tip of the iceberg...*

In One-ism the entire spirit world is forced into the circle. There's no distinction between *angels and demons* – people talk of just “spirits.”

Neither does One-ism distinguish between *plants and animals*. A city tries to chop down an old oak tree for a new park and the tree huggers come to protest. *Why?* One-ism teaches that the tree has the same rights as the dogs and humans that'll play in the park. All is one.

This is the worldview of the radical animal rights groups. One PETA spokesperson drew this connection, “*A rat is a pig is a dog is a boy...*” If there's no distinction between humans and animals - if humans are just highly-evolved animals – then a man has no more rights than a rat.

Feminism breaks down the distinctions between *male and female*. Gender doesn't matter in One-ism. When everything is inside the circle society has no choice but to accept homosexuality, lesbianism, prostitution, and co-habitation. Who's to say one arrangement is better than another?

This is why same-sex marriage is the sacrament and celebration of One-ism. It glorifies oneness. Homosexual marriage totally erases the boundaries and distinctions God weaved into the fabric of civilization.

In One-ism *all* moral distinctions disappear. Since all is one, right and wrong don't exist – or true and false. There's no authority, only voices. Mass murderer, Charles Manson, put it, “*If all is one, what is bad?*” If everything is in the same circle, why is *racism* evil and *kindness* good?

It's tragic but today One-ism has even invaded the church. So-called “*emergent churches*” see themselves inside the circle. Rather than trumpet God's truth - and stand on Bible's authority - their goal is to draw other people in the circle into a conversation. Rather than say we took a wrong turn, they talk of us all being on the same journey.

Ultimately, One-ism downplays religious differences and promotes a common faith. Everyone can worship his own higher power – it doesn't matter how you define *him* or *her* or *it* – as long as you're tolerant. And this is why **Jesus is the enemy of One-ism**.

Jesus doesn't try to be politically correct. He's not afraid to be exclusive. He acknowledges distinctions. We're not *one* – we're *two*. Creation is in the circle and God is outside the circle calling us to turn from our sin. Jesus says to postmodern ears, “*I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*” Jesus alone can save us.

Our hope is Two-ism, not One-ism. The Creator is not a part of His creation. He exists outside the circle - to **sustain**, to **rule**, to **redeem**.

Colossians 1:16-17 says of Jesus, “*By Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth... all things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.*” (ESV) As our Creator, Jesus **sustains**, and **rules**, and **redeems** His creation.

Colin's Law observes that “*like charges repel.*” Yet every atom's nucleus consists of similarly-charged particles, or protons. What keeps atomic structure intact? Colossians says Jesus “*holds all things together.*” Jesus is the atomic glue. He sustains what He creates.

The Bible records how the universe began, but it also records how it'll end. 2Peter 3:10 reads, "The elements will melt with fervent heat." One day, Jesus will let go His grip and it'll all go up in a blaze of glory.

In the meantime, it's Jesus who holds it all together, and **sustains** our very lives - not just atomically – but He holds together our marriage, and our family, and our friendships, and our sanity, and our church.

From outside the circle Jesus *sustains*... and He **rules** over the circle. Jesus is the ruling party. He defines right from wrong. Colossians says, "He is before all things." One day, all creation will be judged by Jesus.

Don't miss the obvious - if Jesus created life, He knows the best way to live. The fool ignores His wisdom. It makes sense to trust our Creator.

And Jesus also **redeems**. Colossians says we were created "for Him." Your life is not an accident. You're not just a whim of nature. God knew you and loved you before you were born. Next week we'll learn that we've been scarred by sin, *but Jesus isn't scared off by damaged property*. He came to earth and to the cross to buy back what belongs to Him.

One-ism is fatalistic. If all is one, we have no real choices. But In Two-ism we can choose to worship *the creation OR the Creator*.

Every human is a worshipper at heart. Worship is in our spiritual DNA. Over the ages men have worshipped nature, or the sun, or the stars, or they've made gods from animals, or they've worshipped the human body, or sex, or money, or pleasure, or themselves – but *everyone* worships...

Philosopher Mortimer Adler didn't become a Christian until he was 81 years old. When asked why it took him so long to come to a decision, he answered, "I simply didn't want to exercise a will to believe."

In other words, he wasn't waiting on more facts to come in. The truth was obvious! The issue wasn't *could he believe*, but *would he believe*. Atheism is a convenient excuse not to bow. Don't be stubborn and reject the truth of God, just because you want it have it *your way*...

Let's conclude by reciting this morning's statement of faith... We believe God created all things. Within creation God established boundaries and distinction. Jesus alone is the Sustainer, Ruler, and Redeemer of His creation. And He created us to worship Him.

## BONUS MATERIAL

Once, a young reporter was sent to cover a story. When he turned in his article his editor took a quick glance, and growled, "Cut it in half." When he submitted the barebones version, he was told, "Reduce it to a single page."

Finally, the new reporter protested. The editor answered, "Young man, you've failed to notice that when the Creator of the universe records His creation He does so in just ten words."

Famed physicist, Dr. Robert Griffiths, an expert in quantum mechanics once commented, "Today, if we need an atheist for a debate, I go the Philosophy Department. The Physics Department isn't much use."

Acts 7:22, "Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians..."

Schools in Egypt taught life started when a primeval egg hatched the sun god – who had four sons. Through their rivalry creation occurred.

The Greeks believed a giant named Atlas held the Earth on his arms.

The Hindus taught that the Earth sat on the backs of three elephants - that were standing on a tortoise - as he swam in the cosmic sea.

In light of this silliness, how did Moses end up with such a sublime and sophisticated summary? As we learned last week, it was God's revelation.