

The Bible Is Still Current and Still Relevant

I. Introduction

A. *This Week in Clear Living*

1. The Events of Creation (Genesis 1:1-31)
2. The Real Identity of Jesus (John 1:1-14)
3. Jesus was the Creator of the World (Colossians 1:15-16)
4. The Promises to Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3)
5. The End of the Age (Matthew 24:1-51)

Question: What happened on each day of Creation? How do John 1:1-3 and Colossians 1:15-16 prove Christ's deity?

B. The events of Creation "*ex nihilo*".

1. Day 1 - Genesis 1:3 says, "And God said, Let there be light: and there was light."
2. Day 2 - Genesis 1:7 says, "And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so."
3. Day 3 - Genesis 1:9-11 says, "And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so. . . . And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so."
4. Day 4 - Genesis 1:16 says, "And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also."
5. Day 5 - Genesis 1:21 says, "And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good."
6. Day 6 - Genesis 1:27 says, "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."
7. Day 7 - Genesis 2:2 says, "And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made."

C. Things to think about concerning Creation.

1. Notice the parallel between the days of Creation.
 - a. Days 1 and 4 pertain to light.
 - b. Days 2 and 5 pertain to water.
 - c. Days 3 and 6 pertain to life on earth.
2. *Some theologians believe that each day could have represented an entire Age rather than just a 24-hour period. Do you agree or disagree?*
 - a. Some theologians believe that days were longer than twenty-four hours.

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- b. Some theologians do not believe that the days of Creation are in the exact order as in Genesis 1:1-27. They believe that the parallel days were single occurrences over separate days or Ages (the Age-Day theory).
- c. Some theologians believe that a large gap of time occurred between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2 (the Gap theory). This theory tries to accommodate scientists' claims of an old earth.
 - 1) How would you explain stars that are millions of light-years away?
 - 2) If a star is one million light years away and can be seen, it would mean that the light from that star started towards earth one million years ago. How can that be?
3. ***In your opinion does the doctrine of Creation refute or support dualism, which is the belief that "EQUAL" forces of good and evil are at work today?***
 - a. Some people believe that two equal forces, one good and one bad, battle each other with the idea that a clear winner has not yet been determined.
 - b. What does James 1:17 say about the existence of good and evil in the world today?
 - c. James 1:17 says, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, ***with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.***"
 - d. God did not create anything that was evil.
 - e. **Evil is the byproduct of God's created creatures exercising their free will.**
- D. John 1:1-3 and Colossians 1:15-16 identify Jesus as the Creator.
 1. John 1:1-3 says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. ***All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.***"
 2. Colossians 1:15-16 says, "Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: ***all things were created by him, and for him:***"
 3. Creation shows the Trinity.
 - a. God the Father is seen in Genesis 1:1.
 - b. God the Son is seen in John 1:1-3 and Colossians 1:15-16.
 - c. God the Holy Spirit is seen in Genesis 1:2.
 - d. The Jews understood a little bit about the Trinity because of the name for God (Elohim).
 - 1) God (Elohim) - plural rulers, judges, divine ones, angels, or gods.
 - 2) In the Hebrew, Elohim was used with singular rather than plural verb forms.
 - 3) Genesis 1:26 says, "And God said, ***Let us make*** man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea,

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and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth,
and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth."

- E. My beliefs about Creation are very simple.
1. I totally reject the Big Bang theory and Macroevolution.
 2. I accept Microevolution which does not include one species evolving into a new species but which does explain why so many seven-foot tall people exist today.
 3. I reject the Age-Day theory. I believe that Creation occurred in six 24-hour days in the order presented in Genesis 1:1-27.
 4. I reject the Gap theory because I do not see any reason to try to support the scientific view of an old earth.
 5. I reject the belief the belief of dualism.
 6. I believe that stars were created by God and that He created the light from those stars so that we can see them now even though they may be millions of light years away.

Question: Why were Jews commanded to do no work on the Sabbath? Why does the universal church gather on Sunday?

- II. The Sabbath was sanctified by God.
- A. Genesis 2:3 says, "And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made."
1. Sanctified (*qadash*) – to be holy or to set apart.
 2. The Fourth Commandment: Exodus 20:8-10 says, "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:"
 3. The Sabbath was very important to the Jews.
 4. The Pharisees frequently opposed Jesus because His Sabbath-day activities (Matthew 12:2 and John 5:9-10). They had elevated that day to an ungodly level.
- B. How does the Fourth Commandment affect the Church?
1. Many Christians think that Sunday is the Christian Sabbath, **but it is not!!!**
 2. Saturday is the seventh day of the week, and Sunday is the first day of the week.
 3. Christians do not practice the Sabbath ritual of the Jews.
- C. The doctrine surrounding Sunday worship.
1. In the Old Testament, Passover week lasted for seven days. (Leviticus 23:5-10).

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2. Leviticus 23:9-10 says, "And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest:"
 3. On the eighth day, or the first day after Passover week which would have been a Sunday, the Jews brought forth their firstfruits to be presented to and accepted by the priest.
 4. Paul wrote that Jesus is our Firstfruit.
 5. I Corinthians 15:20-23 says, "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming."
- D. The church worships on Sunday for two reasons.
1. *We celebrate the resurrection. Jesus arose on the first day of the week.*
 2. *We celebrate Jesus being our firstfruits offering to the Lord.*

Question: Where was Abraham from? How old was he when God called him from his land, and what specific promises did God make to Abraham that are still relevant today?

III. The Life of Abraham

- A. Abraham was from Ur of the Chaldees (Genesis 11:31).
 1. Notice that Abraham did not completely obey the Lord.
 2. He stopped and dwelt in Haran (Genesis 11:31).
 3. The Lord called him a second time, when he was seventy-five (Genesis 12:4).
 4. On the second occasion, he took his nephew with him. In Genesis 12:1, he was told to separate from his family because they worshipped idols (Joshua 24:2).
- B. God made two promises to Abraham.
 1. A promised seed (Genesis 12:2).
 2. A promised land (Genesis 13:14-17).
- C. Those two promises explain why conservative theologians interpret the Book of Revelations literally.

Question: How did the Apostle John say that Jesus would be received by His own people? Who were the first two disciples? Who were the next two disciples?

IV. The Apostle John wrote about Jesus.

- A. In John 1:9-11, He wrote that he would be rejected by His own people.
- B. In John 1:37-40, the first two disciples were John and Andrew.

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- C. In John 1:41-42, Andrew brought in Peter. Later John's brother, James, joined them.

Question: How did Jesus describe the end times to His disciples? What was the question they asked that He could not answer? Why was He unable to answer their question? What is the kenosis?

- V. In Mark 13:1-37, Jesus told His disciples about the end times.
- A. In Mark 13:32, He indicated that He did not know when the end times would come.
 - B. This was an example of the kenosis (Philippians 2:7).

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Next week's lesson: "All are Sinners Because of Adam" (Genesis 3:1-24)

Five Day Recommended Reading:

Monday:	Genesis 3:1-24
Tuesday:	Psalms 10:4, Proverbs 29:23, and Daniel 5:20
Wednesday:	Matthew 22:37-39
Thursday:	Romans 5:12 and II Timothy 3:16
Friday:	II Peter 1:21 and I John 2:16

Study questions:

1. How do theologians explain Adam's transgression on all humanity?
2. Does the evidence of Genesis 3:21 suggest that Adam and Eve were saved or that they were lost?
3. What are the steps that lead a person to sin, and at what point does the person actually sin?
4. How does the Bible define sin? What does I John 2:16 say about the nature of sinners?
5. How would you explain to someone the steps for being saved?
6. How do you know that you can trust the Bible?
7. What do you know about the KJV and the NIV? In your opinion, is one version better than the other?