

Grace OPC High School Sunday Class Teaching Notes			
Year:	1 of 4		Date: 10/26/2003
Quarter:	1 of 4	Theology	
Lesson Title:	Creation – part 1		
Lesson Purpose:	To Examine the Doctrine of Creation and Defend it Biblically.		

1. Introduction

- The decrees of God are His purposes, or His plans. A study of the decrees naturally lead on to their execution, which begin with the work of creation. This is the beginning of all revelation, and the foundation of all religious life. The knowledge of creation is obtained from the Bible and is received by faith.
Hebrews 11:3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.
- It is important that we as Christians understand this doctrine, not only because it is God’s revelation to us, but also because secularists (those who reject every form of religious faith) and atheist attack the Judeo-Christian doctrine of divine creation to undercut Christianity. Secularists deny the existence of God, that there was a beginning and that there was a creation.

2. The Doctrine of Creation

God called into existence the visible universe *ex nihilo* (from nothing) in six days, all of which was very good, to the manifestation of His own glory.

Genesis 1:1-2 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. **2** The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

Nehemiah 9:6 You alone are the LORD; You have made heaven, The heaven of heavens, with all their host, The earth and everything on it, The seas and all that is in them, And You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You.

Psalms 33:6 By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.

John 1:3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

Acts 17:24 "God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands.

Colossians 1:6 for by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

Hebrews 11:3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

A. In the Beginning

- Scripture teaches that the world had a beginning.
- “In the beginning,” means at some unknown point a definite commencement in time.
- Augustine thought it more correctly to say the world was created “with time” rather than say it was created “in time.”
- The Bible speaks of a time when the word did not exist.
Mark 10:6 But from the beginning of the creation, God ‘made them male and female.’
John 17:5 And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.
Hebrews 1:10 And: “You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands.”
Psalms 90:2 Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.
Psalms 102:25 Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands.

B. The Triune God Created the World

- The Scriptures declare that God created the world.
Exodus 20:11 For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day.
- The Scriptures attribute creation—(1) To God absolutely, without distinction of person (Gen. 1:1,26). (2) To the Father (1 Cor. 8:6). (3) To the Father through the Son (Heb. 1:2). (4) To the Father through the Spirit (Ps. 104:30). (5) To the Son (John 1:2,3). (6) To the Spirit (Gen. 1:2; Job 33:4).¹

C. “Creation out of Nothing.”

- The term “creation out of nothing” is not found in the Bible. It is stated in one of the apocryphal books, II Macc. 7:28. However, the idea is clearly taught in scripture.
- To say “the world was created out of nothing” is not the same as saying *ex nihilo nihil fit* (“out of nothing, nothing comes”).
- But God,

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

Psalm 33:9 For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.

Psalm 148:5 Let them praise the name of the LORD, For He commanded and they were created.

Romans 4:17 (as it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations") in the presence of Him whom he believed -- God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did;

Hebrews 11:3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

- God not only created the material world but also created the spiritual world.
Psalm 33:6 By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.
Psalm 103:20 Bless the Lord, you His angels, Who excel in strength, who do His word, Heeding the voice of His word.
Colossians 1:16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

D. In Six Days

- The orthodox view is that God created the world in the space of six days of ordinary length (24 hour periods).
- The usage of the Hebrew word “*yom*” (day) generally refers to a full day and night cycle.
- On Day 1 God himself "called" the light "day."
Genesis 1:5 God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.
Genesis 2:1-2 Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. 2 And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.
Exodus 20:11 For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day.
- Moses qualifies each of the six creation days by "evening and morning."
Exodus 16:13 So it was that quails came up at evening and covered the camp, and in the morning the dew lay all around the camp.
Exodus 18:13 And so it was, on the next day, that Moses sat to judge the people; and the people stood before Moses from morning until evening.

E. God declared that His creation was “very good”

- God himself declared that His completed works were “very good.”
Genesis 1:31 Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.
- This does not mean that finite and material things possessed an absolute perfection.
- It means that God made all things excellent with respect to their kind.
- All things were made perfectly good with reference to the general and special design of God.

F. God Created the World and all things to Manifest His Glory, Goodness and Wisdom

Psalms 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.

Psalms 148:13 Let them praise the name of the Lord, For His name alone is exalted; His glory is above the earth and heaven.

Proverbs 16:4 The Lord has made all for Himself, Yes, even the wicked for the day of doom.

Isaiah 43:7 Everyone who is called by My name, Whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him.”

Luke 2:14 14 “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”

Romans 11:36 For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.

Colossians 3:9-11 “...and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, 11 according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord...”

3. Conclusions

- God created the heaven and earth, that is, all things visible and invisible, out of nothing by speaking them into existence.
- The world had a beginning. The world is not self-existent (or eternal), and did not evolve or arrive by chance. Further, God and world are not one.
- God created the spiritual world, consisting of Angels.
- God created the world out of nothing by speaking it into existence.
- God created the world in six days of ordinary length.
- God declared that His creation was very good. The material world was not evil.
- God created the world for the manifestation of His own glory. God did not create the world for the happiness of man but created man for Himself. God does aim at promoting the welfare of man and tunes their hearts to praise Him.