

The Bigger Picture on Creation

Answer Key

by

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Lesson 1 – The Big Picture

Scripture Discussion:

1. Sample answers for repeated words and phrases in Genesis 1:1-2:3 may include:
 - “God created”
 - “And God said...”
 - “God made...”
 - “Let there be...”
 - “Let the water...” or “Let the land produce...”
 - “And there was...”
 - “There was evening and there was morning...”
 - “day one,” “day two,” etc.
 - “And God saw that it was good” and “...very good.”
2. Answers will vary.
3. Miracles:
 - “create” (*bārā*) miracles
 - **Gen. 1:1** “heavens and the earth”
 - **Gen. 1:21** “great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems”
 - **Gen. 1:27** “male and female”
 - **Gen. 2:4** “heavens and the earth”
 - “made” (*ʿāsā*) miracles
 - **Gen. 1:16** “greater light” (Sun) and “lesser light” (Moon)
 - **Gen. 1:25** “wild animals,” “livestock,” and “all the creatures that move along the ground”
 - **Gen. 1:26** humans
 - **Gen. 1:31** “God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.”
 - “Let there be...” (*hāyā*) miracles
 - **Gen. 1:3** “Let there be light”
 - **Gen. 1:6** “Let there be an expanse between the waters...”
 - **Gen. 1:14–15** “Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky...”
 - “form” (*yātsar*) miracles
 - **Gen. 2:7–8** “the man” (Adam)
 - **Gen. 2:19** “beasts of the field” and “all the birds of the air”

Lesson 2 – “In the Beginning...”

Scripture Discussion:

1. A *bārā*’ miracle describes acts performed by God, not humans or false gods. Within the context of Genesis 1, *bārā*’ seems to refer to things coming into existence for the first time. This is generally what we think of when we envision a “poof-like” miracle.
2. The creation of the universe, birds and sea creatures (day 5), and humanity (day 6).
3. **Job 36:26** – “How great is God—beyond our understanding! The number of his years is past finding out.”

Psalm 90:2 – “Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.”

2 Peter 3:8 – “But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.”

Revelation 1:8 – “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

4. “...the heavens and the earth.”
5. The Bible does not give a specific date for the beginning of the universe in terms of years, however, it does make it clear there was an absolute beginning to all that exists within our universe.
6. **Ephesians 1:4 and 1 Peter 1:20** - The creation of the world
I Corinthians 2:7, 2 Timothy 1:9, and Titus 1:2 – The beginning of time
7. **Genesis 1:2** – “Spirit of God”
Job 38:4–7 – the angels (“morning stars”)
John 1:1–3, 14, Colossians 1:16–17, Hebrews 1:2, and Revelation 10:6 – God the Son (“the Word”)
8. God is stretching out the heavens.
9. The universe will not last forever.
Isaiah 34:4 - “the stars will be dissolved,” “the sky rolled up like a scroll”
Hebrews 1:10–12 - the heavens and earth will eventually “perish” and “wear out like a garment,” they will be “changed” like a garment, they will be “rolled” up “like a robe”
2 Peter 3:10 - the heavens will “disappear with a roar” and the “elements will be destroyed by fire”

Digging Deeper:

1. All things have been made through God the Son (second person of the Trinity).
2. Answers will vary.
3. Answers will vary.
4. Christ is the very fabric that holds all of creation together.

Lesson 3 – “And the Earth...”

Scripture Discussion:

1. “The earth was formless and void”
2. “darkness” and “water” The early Earth was shrouded in darkness and covered by water.
3. **Job 38:4, 9** – clothed in clouds “like a garment” and wrapped in “darkness”
Psalm 104:5–6 – covered in deep water “like a garment” so that even the mountains were covered in water
Proverbs 8:27–29 – covered with clouds and water
4. The “Spirit of God”
5. God was forming the earth.

Lesson 4 – Creation Days 1–3

Scripture Discussion:

Days of Forming		Days of Filling	
Day 1	Distinguish between “day” and “night”	Day 4	Sun, stars, and moon <u>Function:</u> Separate the day from night; serve as signs for seasons and days and years; govern day and night
Day 2	Separating of the “waters above” (sky) from the “waters below” (seas)	Day 5	Sea creatures and birds <u>Function:</u> “Be fruitful” (“fill the water in the seas and let the birds increase on the earth”)
Day 3	Formation of continents and appearance of vegetation	Day 6	Land animals and humans <u>Function:</u> “Fill the earth” and “Rule over” the animals

4. Answers may vary, but the basic idea should be that He speaks what He wants, it comes into existence, and He is pleased with what He makes.
5. day
6. That which is emitted by the sun, by which we are able to see.
7. sky
8. The water was separated from the ground and land appeared.
9. The water was once covering all of the earth, but God made dry land appear.

10. **Day 3:**

vs. 11 Then God said, “Let the land produce vegetation...”

vs. 12 The land produced vegetation...

Day 6:

vs. 24 And God said, “Let the land produce living creatures...”

vs. 25 God made the wild animals...

11. Although the opening for each day begins the same (“Let the land produce...”), the mechanism for how these ends are accomplished is different. In the case of plants, the land produces the vegetation. God isn’t mentioned in this context. However, God directly intervenes to “make” the beasts of the field.

12. The text seems to imply that God was more directly involved in bringing the animals into existence than He was with the plants. The text may leave the door open for the land to bring vegetation into existence without direct divine intervention.

Lesson 5 – A Short Interlude

Scripture Discussion:

1. Daylight hours
2. 24 hours
3. An unspecified period of time
4. 12 hours; night hours between dusk and dawn
5. The seventh day
6. No
7. God planted a garden and placed Adam in it. These verses imply that Adam was formed outside the Garden.
8. List of events described in Genesis 2:4–24:
 - vs. 7 God “formed” Adam.
 - vs. 8 God planted a “garden in the East.”
 - vs. 9 God made trees and plants grow in the garden.
 - vs. 15 God put Adam in the garden to work and take care of it.
 - vv. 19–20 Adam named “all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field.”
 - vs. 21 God performed an operation on Adam and fashioned a woman from the material He extracted from Adam’s side.
9. Answers may vary, but it seems like it would have taken more than 24 hours for these events to occur.
10. "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man" (ESV) or “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken” (NRSV).
11. This verse may imply Adam had been searching for the right companion for quite some time.
12. Moses
13. “Before the mountains were born,” before God “brought forth the earth and the world,” and from everlasting to everlasting”
14. Grass that withers away.
15. A thousand years with the Lord is like a day that has already passed. The verse conveys that time does not constrict God.

Lesson 6 – Creation Days 4–6

Scripture Discussion:

1. He made the Sun and the Moon.
2. To give light to the Earth, separate day from night, and mark seasons, days, and years.
3. **Day 2:**
 - vs. 6 Then God said, “Let there be an expanse between the waters...”
 - vs. 7 So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above it.

Day 5:

- vs. 20 And God said, “Let the water teem with living creatures...”
 - vs. 21 So God created the great creatures of the sea...and every winged bird.
4. Both constructions begin with the phrase, “And God said...” followed by a pronouncement by the Creator of what He intends to do next. However, Creation Day 2 uses the Hebrew verb *‘āśā* to describe God separating the waters. This implies that He was refashioning preexisting materials for a new purpose. In contrast, creation Day 5 uses the verb *bārā’* to describe God’s creation of the sea creatures.
 5. A *bārā’* miracle described acts performed by God, not humans or false gods. Within the context of Genesis 1, *bārā’* seems to refer to things coming into existence for the first time. This is generally what we think of when we envision a “poof-like” miracle. This verb would seem to preclude the idea of theistic evolution, which would involve God refashioning preexisting creatures (lower life-forms) into higher life-forms.
 6. birds
 7. Answers will vary, but some possible options may include whales, sharks, and swimming dinosaurs.

8. Day 3:

- vs. 11 And God said, “Let the land produce vegetation...”
- vs. 12 The land produced vegetation.

Day 6:

- vs. 24 And God said, “Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds...”
 - vs. 25 God made the beasts of the earth, the cattle and all the creatures that move along the ground...
9. Although the opening for each day begins the same (“Let the land produce...”), the mechanism for how these ends are accomplished is different. In the case of plants, the land produces the vegetation. God isn’t mentioned in this context. However, God directly intervenes to “make” the beasts of the field.

10. Answers will vary, but some possible options may include dinosaurs, reptiles, and insects.
11. Answers will vary but should focus in some way on the fact that humans alone (not animals or plants) are made in the image of God. Bible scholars believe that possessing the “image of God” is what gives every person inherent dignity and value.
12. The Hebrew verbs *bārā*, *‘āśā*, and *yātsar* are used.
13. Genesis 1:27 describes humans as being the result of a *bārā* creation, while Genesis 1:26 uses the verb *‘āśā*. Genesis 2:7–8 describes the origin of Adam as a *yātsar* miracle.

For Further Study:

1. Answers will vary, but should indicate something pertaining to human cognition or consciousness.
2. God used the same source material (“dirt”) to create both humans and animals. However He also took the additional step of breathing the “breath of life” into Adam. Most Bible scholars believe this breath of life refers to Adam’s spiritual capacity, another unique feature of humans. Humans alone engage in the worship of their Creator.
3. In 2:7–8 and 2:19 God is shaping like a potter, which implies that he is refashioning preexisting material into something new and beautiful. The Hebrew verb *‘āśā* used in Genesis 1:25–26 also implies the use of preexisting materials.
4. The author may have been trying to show that even though man and animal were made from earthly materials, they also have a uniqueness to them that is not found in earthly materials.

Lesson 7 – Creation Day 7 and Beyond

Scripture Discussion:

1. He completed His work and He rested.
2. The eternal rest that God's people will enjoy in heaven.
3. He is holding all of creation together. He is sustaining His creation through the natural laws He has put in place.
4. **Isaiah 34:4** - "the stars will be dissolved," "the sky rolled up like a scroll"

Hebrews 1:10–12 - the heavens and earth will eventually "perish" and "wear out like a garment," they will be "changed" like a garment, they will be "rolled" up "like a robe"

2 Peter 3:10 - the heavens will "disappear with a roar" and the "elements will be destroyed by fire"

5. A "new creation"
6. God will dwell among His people. It will be a true and eternal fulfillment of what God promised Israel (Ex. 29:46).
7. There will be no more crying, death, or pain. No one will sin or be able to sin. Only those who have accepted Christ's gift of pardon for their sins will live there. No more curse. It will be eternal.