

Strengthening Your Foundation

Genesis 1

Title

Topic: Creation
Theme: How do we fight the pagan philosophies of our day?
Thrust: Defend God as Creator and King.
Purpose: The listeners will trust the Genesis account of creation at face value.
Reading: Genesis 1:1–2:3 (in the message itself)

Introduction

Earth

• “in the”

Title

Questions

Parallels

Black

Slaves

40 years

Jericho

Text &
Subject

- Interest:** Who are you? To answer this, you need to see where you came from.
 - This is why God gave us the Book of Genesis, which, in the Hebrew, is called “in the beginning.”
 - We get our title of Genesis from the Greek for “origin, source, or birth.”
- Need:** People always want to know who they are, why things have gone wrong, and if there is hope. Can you answer these basic questions? Of course you can, but do you know why? Because of Genesis!
 - Literary Background:** Moses was not the first to record man’s beginnings. Actually, some pagan versions of the creation and the flood were written hundreds of years before Moses. But Ancient Near East religions were polytheistic with ridiculous explanations of their origins.
 - Sumerians said that the high god raped the air goddess, resulting in the moon god.
 - Babylonians taught that king of the created gods (Marduk) murdered his mother (Tiamat) and cut her into two halves that became the land and sea (cf. Gen. 1:6-8). So the world started from a son murdering his mother!
 - The Atrahasis Epic says that the greater gods created the lesser gods to do manual labor, but they got tired of this so they created man to do the work instead!
- Historical Context:** What’s the background to the Genesis creation account?
 - Israel had been under God’s discipline for 40 years in the desert.
 - Jews in the desert were about to cross over into Jericho. Canaan had horrible origin myths and practices of child sacrifice. So how would Israel stand up against these powerful peoples after Moses was gone?
- Text:** So Genesis 1 answers these crazy notions of how the world began and gives what Israel needed to know about their God to defeat Canaan. It does the same for us by letting us know where we came from. It answers this question:

6. Subject: How do we fight the pagan philosophies of our day?

7. Preview: Today we will first look at Genesis 1, secondly see similar pagan challenges of our day, and finally learn how to respond to these beliefs.

Preview

• 1 • 2 • 3

MPI

I. Our God is King who created everything in contrast to man-made ideas (1:1-31).

Chart

A. The account gives six days of forming and filling [explain].

32 slides

B. Let's read Genesis 1 together from the screen. You will see some great pictures, but guess who did the Photoshop? God! [Read Genesis 1:1–2:3 slides.]

Kingdom

C. Over and over in Genesis 1 we see evidence that God is King [explain reasons].

Chart

D. The account is as straightforward as you'd expect—form before filling [explain].

MPII

II. However, creationism and God's Kingship are continually attacked today.

A. Many creation theories compromise the Bible to try to harmonize with evolution.

Theories

1. Four unacceptable theories play with the text of Genesis 1 [explain].

Ape-Man

2. We must choose creation over evolution. Decide who your *real father is!*

Dinosaurs

3. We must admit that the normal reading here is that God created all animals—even dinosaurs—on the sixth day. No evolution artists draw pictures of useless animals waiting for wings to grow or fins to turn into legs. Such animals would be such easy prey that they would have died out rather than evolved!

Transition

B. The 2008 movie "Expelled" by Ben Stein shows the anti-God bias of the modern scientific world, whose evolution bias is dubbed "No Intelligence Allowed" in a pun on the refusal to even consider ID: Intelligent Design. Ben Stein is a Jew—not a Christian—but he shares in common with us belief in the Genesis account. It highlights expelled creationists and then of atheists who shun them. The movie hardly showed even in the USA where it was made let alone overseas. I wrote the movie theatres to request it but never got a response. Let's see the teaser trailer [see 1 min. <http://www.expelledthemovie.com/video.php>].

Expelled

iTunes Clip

Black (So what should we do? How do we respond to the pagan philosophies of our day?)

MPIII

III. We must defend against attacks on God as Creator and King.

A. Defend a face-value interpretation of Genesis 1.

Cartoon

1. "Whew! I just created a 24-hour period of alternating light and darkness," God says. "What are you going to do now?" an angel asks. God: "Call it a day."

24-Hours

2. We should not be deterred from holding to a normal reading of Genesis 1 as literal 24-hour days.

• Instant

a) Genesis describes God's creative work as instantaneous. He spoke, and it came into being. This excludes long, drawn-out processes for creation over centuries.

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| • Ps 33:6 |
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| • Whitcomb |
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| • “evening” |
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| Num 7 |
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- b) Psalm 33:6, 9 supports the concept of an instantaneous creation: “By the word of the LORD were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth.” John Whitcomb writes, “There is certainly no thought here of delay, or a trial-and-error process, or a gradual, step-by-step fulfillment” (*The Early Earth*, 24).
- c) The repeated formula “there was evening and there was morning—the first [etc.] day” (Gen. 1:3, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31) surely indicates a literal time element, for one cannot have morning without sunrise and evening without sunset. The same phrase appears in Daniel 8:26 (cf. 8:14) in reference to 2300 days. Further, Leupold notes that the words for “evening” and “morning” in the OT never refer to long periods of time (*Genesis*, 1:56).
- d) While “day” sometimes refers to a period of time as in Genesis 2:4, the use of a numerical adjective (“first,” “second,” etc.) with the word “day” (*yom*) elsewhere limits this “day” to a literal 24-hour period (cf. Num. 7:12, 18, 24, 30, etc.).
- e) This creation week sets a pattern for man’s work cycle as explained in the fourth commandment (Exod. 20:11; 31:17). As God worked in the daytime during literal 24-hour days, so man works in the daytime and rests at night.
- f) The fact that the sun and moon were not created until the fourth day argues for a literal interpretation (1:14-19). Could the preceding days be long eras of time—like “morning” and “evening” were each 1000 years? How then could plant life sustain itself for centuries without light? However, such is possible in a 24-hour period. The text specifically says that these “lights” were made to govern “days” in the normal sense of the word (1:14, 16, 18).

(What *else* can you do besides have a normal reading of Genesis 1? You need to...)

Protect

B. Protect your foundational belief in Creation.

Ps 11:3

1. Psalm 11:3 reminds us that foundations are vital.

House

a) A house may be built strong...

Trucks

b) But surround it with heavy machinery that hurts the foundation...

Collapse

c) Then even a strong foundation will crumble.

2. The foundation of all our doctrine is Genesis.

Doctrine

...

a) Here we get our belief in the seven-day week, work, dominion, the curse, and Christ as the last Adam who came once to resolve the curse and will come back to rule.

Left...

b) Creation is the foundation of laws, marriage, standards and meaning in life.

3. But the switch from a foundation in creation to evolution brought us disaster.

• right side

a) It has led to lawlessness, homosexuality, pornography, and abortion.

Sagan

b) Carl Sagan admitted, “The secrets of evolution are time and death. Time for the slow accumulations of favorable mutations, and death to make room for new species.”

Evolution

c) Based on evolution, now we accept death as normal. We have deceived ourselves into thinking that death has brought us to a high position today!

Creation

d) In reality, we have degenerated from a high position to a low position due to sin, which leads to death.

Reinterp

e) The cracked foundation in Genesis has led to reinterpretations that make evolution look good and the Bible look bad.

Conclusion

Black

1. So what have I said (MPs)?

MPs

a) Our God is King who created everything in contrast to man-made ideas.

b) Creationism and God's Kingship are continually attacked today.

c) But we must defend against attacks on God as Creator and King.

MI

2. So what's the main idea? It's the answer to my question earlier...

a) How do we fight the pagan philosophies of our day?

b) Defend God as Creator and King.

3. So how should we fight the pagan philosophies of our day?

Problem

a) We often attack the *results* of humanism rather than the *cause*: evolution. At the same time they are attacking our foundation in creationism. Sometimes we even help them by attacking it ourselves!

• We attack

Solution

b) Instead of attacking the results of evolution, we need to attack their *foundation*—evolution itself.

Answers

(1) One way to do this is to equip yourself from the hundreds of articles at answersingenesis.org or PPTs at BibleStudyDownloads.org.

BSD

(2) Also see Ben Stein's movie on YouTube by escapingplatoscave.

Expelled

(3) The LORD of all can take care of *your* life! [evangelistic close]

Gospel

Black

4. Prayer

SBC Chapel/Crossroads International Church
 17 April 2008/ 4 May 2008
 NIV

Dr. Rick Griffith
 Single Message
 35 Minutes

Who's Your Real Father? Genesis 1

Topic: Creation
Theme: How do we fight the pagan philosophies of our day?
Thrust: Defend God as Creator and King.
Purpose: The listeners will trust the Genesis account of creation at face value.
Reading: Genesis 1:1–2:3 (in the message itself)

Introduction

Earth

1. Interest: To know who we are, we need to see where we came from.

Title

a) This is why God gave us the Book of Genesis, which, in the Hebrew, is called "in the beginning."

b) We get our title of Genesis from the Greek for "origin, source, or birth."

Questions

2. Need: People always want to know who they are, why things have gone wrong, and if there is hope. Can you answer these basic questions? Of course you can, but do you know why? Because of Genesis!

Parallels

3. Literary Background: Moses was not the first to record man's beginnings. Actually, some pagan versions of the creation and the flood were written hundreds of years before Moses. But Ancient Near East religions were polytheistic with ridiculous explanations of their origins.

Black

a) Sumerians said that the high god raped the air goddess, resulting in the moon god.

b) Babylonians taught that king of the created gods (Marduk) murdered his mother (Tiamat) and cut her into two halves that became the land and sea (cf. Gen. 1:6-8). So the world started from a son murdering his mother!

Slaves

c) The Epic of Atrahasis says that the greater gods created the lesser gods to do manual labor, but they got tired of this so they created man to do the work instead!

40 years

4. Historical Background: What's the historical background?

a) Israel had been under God's discipline for 40 years in the desert.

Jericho

b) Jews in the desert were about to cross over into Jericho. Canaan had horrible origin myths and practices of child sacrifice. So how would Israel stand up against these powerful peoples after Moses was gone?

Black

5. Text: So Genesis 1 answers these crazy notions of how the world began and gives what Israel needed to know about their God to defeat Canaan. It does the same for us by letting us know where we came from. So what does Gen 1 say?

Preview

6. Preview: Today we will first look at Genesis 1, secondly see similar pagan challenges of our day, and finally learn how to respond to these beliefs.

MPI

I. Our God is King who created everything in contrast to man-made ideas (1:1-31).

Chart

A. The account gives six days of forming and filling [explain]. Tofu wo bofu!

32 slides

B. Let's read Genesis 1 together from the screen. You will see some great pictures, but guess who did the Photoshop? God! [Read Genesis 1:1–2:3 slides.]

Kingdom

C. Over and over in Genesis 1 we see evidence that God is King [explain reasons].

Chart

D. The account is as straightforward as one would expect—form must precede filling.

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II. However, creationism and God's Kingship are continually attacked today.

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Transition

Expelled

B. The new movie "Expelled" by Ben Stein shows the anti-God bias of the modern scientific world. Its commitment to evolution is dubbed "No Intelligence Allowed" in a pun on the refusal to even consider ID: Intelligent Design. Ben Stein is a Jew—not a Christian—but he shares in common with us belief in the Genesis account. The movie is now showing in the USA though I'm not sure it's in Singapore. I wrote both Cathay and Global Village to request it but haven't received a response. Let's see the teaser trailer. It gives clips first of expelled creationists and then of atheists who shun them [see 1 min. <http://www.expelledthemovie.com/video.php>].

iTunes Clip

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(So what should we do? How do we fight the pagan philosophies of our day?)

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24-Hours

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| • First |
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| Num 7 |
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| • Work |
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- d) While “day” sometimes refers to a period of time as in Genesis 2:4, the use of a numerical adjective (“first,” “second,” etc.) with the word “day” (*yom*) elsewhere limits this “day” to a literal 24-hour period (cf. Num. 7:12, 18, 24, 30, etc.).
- e) This creation week sets a pattern for man’s work cycle as explained in the fourth commandment (Exod. 20:11; 31:17). As God worked in the daytime during literal 24-hour days, so man works in the daytime and rests at night.
- f) The fact that the sun and moon were not created until the fourth day argues for a literal interpretation (1:14-19). Could the preceding days be long eras of time—like “morning” and “evening” were each 1000 years? How then could plant life sustain itself for centuries without light? However, such is possible in a 24-hour period. The text specifically says that these “lights” were made to govern “days” in the normal sense of the word (1:14, 16, 18).

(What *else* can you do besides have a normal reading of Genesis 1? You need to...)

B. Protect your foundational belief in Creation.

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| Ps 11:3 |
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|-------|
| House |
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- a) Here we get our belief in the seven-day week, work, dominion, the curse, and Christ as the last Adam who came once to resolve the curse and will come back to rule.
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| Left... |
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- b) Creation is the foundation of laws, marriage, standards and meaning in life.
3. But the switch from a foundation in creation to evolution brought us disaster.
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d) In reality, we have degenerated from a high position to a low position due to sin, which leads to death.

Reinterp

e) The cracked foundation in Genesis has led to reinterpretations that make evolution look good and the Bible look bad.

Conclusion

Black

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a) We often attack the *results* of humanism rather than the *cause*: evolution. At the same time they are attacking our foundation in creationism. Sometimes we even help them by attacking it ourselves!

• We attack

Solution

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Answers

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Stein

(2) Also see Ben Stein's movie or DVD as soon as it comes out.

Gospel

(3) The LORD of all can take care of *your* life! [evangelistic close]

Black

4. Prayer

Creation: Do We Believe It? *Genesis 1*

Topic: Creation
Theme: How do we fight the pagan philosophies of our day?
Thrust: We must defend against attacks on God as Creator and King.
Purpose: The listeners will trust the Genesis account of creation at face value.
Reading: Genesis 1:1–2:3 (in the message itself)

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1. Interest: To know who we are, we need to see where we came from.

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a) This is why God gave us the Book of Genesis, which, in the Hebrew, is called “in the beginning.”

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2. Need: People always want to know who they are, why things have gone wrong, and if there is hope. Can you answer these basic questions? Of course you can, but do you know why? Because of Genesis!

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3. Literary Background: Moses was not the first to record man’s beginnings. Actually, some pagan versions of the creation and the flood were written hundreds of years before Moses. But Ancient Near East religions were polytheistic with ridiculous explanations of their origins.

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a) Sumerians said that the high god raped the air goddess, resulting in the moon god.

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4. Historical Background: What’s the historical background?

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b) Jews in the desert were about to cross over into Jericho. Canaan had horrible origin myths and practices of child sacrifice. So how would Israel stand up against these powerful peoples after Moses was gone?

Black

5. Text: So Genesis 1 answers these crazy notions of how the world began and gives what Israel needed to know about their God to defeat Canaan.

6. Main Idea: In contrast to the ANE myths and Canaan’s impotent deities, the LORD of the universe created everything as King (1:1–2:3).

[I. Israel’s LORD of the universe is King who created everything in contrast to man-made pagan gods and Canaan’s impotent deities (1:1-31).]

Chart

A. The account gives six days of forming and filling [explain].

32 slides

B. Let's read Genesis 1 together in English and Chinese in alternate slides [Read Genesis 1:1–2:3 slides.]

Chart

C. The account is as straightforward as one would expect—form must precede filling.

II. However, creationism and God's Kingship are continually attacked today.

A. Many creation theories compromise the Bible to try to harmonize with evolution.

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1. We must choose creation over evolution. Decide who your *real father is!*

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c) While "day" sometimes refers to a period of time as in Genesis 2:4, the use of a numerical adjective ("first," "second," etc.) with the word "day" (*yom*) elsewhere limits this "day" to a literal 24-hour period (cf. Num. 7:12, 18, 24, 30, etc.).

• Work

d) This creation week sets a pattern for man's work cycle as explained in the fourth commandment (Exod. 20:11; 31:17). As God worked in the daytime during literal 24-hour days, so man works in the daytime and rests at night.

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(What *else* can you do besides have a normal reading of Genesis 1? You need to...)

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Creation

d) In reality, we have degenerated from a high position to a low position due to sin, which leads to death.

Reinterp

e) The cracked foundation in Genesis has led to reinterpretations that make evolution look good and the Bible look bad.

Conclusion

Black

1. So what have I said (MPs)?

a) When facing myths and Canaan's powerless gods, Israel saw that their God was LORD of the universe who created everything as King (MI restated).

- b) Creationism and God's Kingship are continually attacked today.
- c) But we must defend against attacks on God as Creator and King.

Problem

2. So what should we do? How should we respond? How do we fight the pagan philosophies of our day?

• We attack

a) We often attack the *results* of humanism rather than the *cause*: evolution. At the same time they are attacking our foundation in creationism. Sometimes we even help them by attacking it ourselves!

Solution

b) Instead of attacking the results of evolution, we need to attack their *foundation*—evolution itself.

Answers

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SBC Chapel
17 April 2008
NIV

Dr. Rick Griffith
Single Message
25 Minutes

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2. Need: People always want to know who they are, why things have gone wrong, and if there is hope. Can you answer these basic questions? Of course you can, but do you know why? Because of Genesis!

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3. Literary Background: Moses was not the first to record man’s beginnings. Actually, some pagan versions of the creation and the flood were written hundreds of years before Moses. But Ancient Near East religions were polytheistic with ridiculous explanations of their origins.

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Black

5. Text: So Genesis 1 answers these crazy notions of how the world began and gives what Israel needed to know about their God to defeat Canaan.

6. Main Idea: In contrast to the ANE myths and Canaan’s impotent deities, the LORD of the universe created everything as King (1:1–2:3).

7. Restated Main Idea: Was Israel’s God different from the ANE myths and impotent deities of Canaan? Yes! The LORD of the universe made all we see and proves he is Boss (1:1–2:3).

8. Preview: Today we will first look at Genesis 1, see similar pagan challenges of our day, and then learn how to respond to these beliefs.

[I. Israel's LORD of the universe is King who created everything in contrast to man-made pagan gods and Canaan's impotent deities (1:1-31).]

Chart

A. The account gives six days of forming and filling [explain].

32 slides

B. Let's read Genesis 1 together in English and Chinese in alternate slides [Read Genesis 1:1–2:3 slides.]

Kingdom

C. Over and over in Genesis 1 we see evidence that God is King [explain reasons].

Chart

D. The account is as straightforward as one would expect—form must precede filling.

II. However, creationism and God's Kingship are continually attacked today.

Theories

A. Many creation theories compromise biblical integrity to try to harmonize with evolution.

1. Four unacceptable theories play with the text of Genesis 1 [explain].

2. But we must choose between creation and evolution. We must ask who our *real father is!*

3. We must admit that the normal reading of the text is that all animals—including dinosaurs—were created on the sixth day. No evolution artists draw pictures of useless animals waiting for wings to grow or fins to turn into legs. Such animals would be such easy prey that they would have died out rather than evolved!

B. The new movie "Expelled" by Ben Stein shows the anti-God bias of the modern scientific world. Its commitment to evolution is dubbed "No Intelligence Allowed" in a pun on the refusal to even consider ID: Intelligent Design. Ben Stein is a Jew—not a Christian—but he shares in common with us belief in the Genesis account. The movie is now showing in the USA though I'm not sure it's in Singapore. I wrote both Cathay and Global Village to request it but haven't received a response. Let's see the teaser trailer. It gives clips first of expelled creationists and then of atheists who shun them [see 1 min. <http://www.expelledthemovie.com/video.php>].

Black

(So what should we do? How do we fight the pagan philosophies of our day?)

III. We must defend against attacks on God as Creator and King.

A. Defend a face-value interpretation of Genesis 1.

Cartoon

1. "Whew! I just created a 24-hour period of alternating light and darkness," God says. "What are you going to do," an angel asks. "Call it a day."

24-Hours

2. We should not be deterred from holding to a normal reading of Genesis 1 as literal 24-hour days.

• Instant

a) Genesis describes God's creative work as instantaneous. He spoke, and it came into being. This excludes long, drawn-out processes for creation to occur

over centuries. To say that God spoke but it took millions of years for His word to take effect goes beyond the natural reading of the text.

- b) Psalm 33:6, 9 supports the concept of an instantaneous creation: “By the word of the LORD were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth.” John Whitcomb writes, “There is certainly no thought here of delay, or a trial-and-error process, or a gradual, step-by-step fulfillment” (*The Early Earth*, 24).

• Formula

- c) The oft-repeated formula “there was evening and there was morning—the first [etc.] day” (Gen. 1:3, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31) surely indicates a literal time element, for one cannot have morning without sunrise and evening without sunset. The same phrase appears in Daniel 8:26 (cf. 8:14) in reference to 2300 days. Further, the words for “evening” and “morning” in the OT never refer to long periods of time (Leupold, *Genesis*, 1:56).

• First

- d) While “day” sometimes refers to a period of time as in Genesis 2:4, the use of a numerical adjective (“first,” “second,” etc.) with the word “day” (*yom*) elsewhere limits this “day” to a literal 24-hour period (cf. Num. 7:12, 18, 24, 30, etc.).

• Work

- e) This creation week sets a pattern for man’s work cycle as explained in the fourth commandment (Exod. 20:11; 31:17). As God worked in the daytime during literal 24-hour days, so man works in the daytime and rests at night.

• Sun

- f) The fact that the sun and moon were not created until the fourth day argues for a literal interpretation (1:14-19). What if the preceding days were long periods of time—like “morning” and “evening” were each 1000 years? How then could plant life sustain itself for centuries without light? However, such is possible in a 24-hour period. The text specifically says that these “lights” were made to govern “days” in the normal sense of the word (1:14, 16, 18).

(What *else* can you do besides have a normal reading of Genesis 1? You need to...)

B. Protect your foundational belief in Creation.

Ps 11:3

1. Psalm 11:3 reminds us that foundations are vital.

House

- a) A house may be built strong...

Trucks

- b) But surround it with heavy machinery that hurts the foundation...

Collapse

- c) Then even a strong foundation will crumble.

2. The foundation of all our doctrine is Genesis.

Doctrine
...

- a) Here we get our belief in the seven-day week, work, dominion, the curse, and Christ as the last Adam who came once to resolve the curse and will come back to rule.

Left...

- b) Creation is the foundation of laws, marriage, standards and meaning in life.

3. But the switch from a foundational belief in Creation to evolution has had horrible results.

• right side

- a) It has led to lawlessness, homosexuality, pornography, and abortion.

Sagan

b) Carl Sagan admitted, “The secrets of evolution are time and death. Time for the slow accumulations of favorable mutations, and death to make room for new species.”

Evolution

c) Based on evolution, now we accept death as normal. We have deceived ourselves into thinking that death has brought us to a high position today!

Creation

d) In reality, we have degenerated from a high position to a low position due to sin, which leads to death.

Reinterp

e) The cracked foundation in Genesis has led to reinterpretations that make evolution look good and the Bible look bad.

Conclusion

Black

1. So what have I said (MPs)?

a) When facing myths and Canaan’s powerless gods, Israel saw that their God was LORD of the universe who created everything as King (MI restated).

b) Creationism and God’s Kingship are continually attacked today.

c) But we must defend against attacks on God as Creator and King.

Problem

2. So what should we do? How should we respond? How do we fight the pagan philosophies of our day?

• We attack

a) We often attack the *results* of humanism rather than the *cause*: evolution. At the same time they are attacking our foundation in creationism. Sometimes we even help them by attacking it ourselves!

Solution

b) Instead of attacking the results of evolution, we need to attack their *foundation*—evolution itself.

Answers

(1) One of the best ways to do this is to equip yourself from among the hundreds of articles at the answersingenesis.org website.

Expelled

(2) Also see Ben Stein’s movie or DVD as soon as it comes out.

Black

Study Questions (Step 1)

Purpose: Why is this passage in the Bible?

1. At face value this text tells us that God created the entire universe, including man. But why would this be important?

Context: What did the author record just prior to this passage?

1. We interpret best by reading Scripture in context, but there is no prior context here? What do we do?
2. This passage must be read in its Ancient Near East context.

Background: So what did the ANE peoples believe about how the world came to be?

A. Content

1. All ancient pagan stories of man's origins agree with the Bible that the universe was created rather than the product of chance. In this sense the peoples of the Ancient Near East could see what often escapes many modern pagans—that an orderly universe came into being by a creative intelligence. (Actually, an indigenous atheistic society has never been discovered by anthropologists.)
2. Both the biblical and pagan perspectives of origins saw the actions of God/gods as the cause of man's experiences in life.
3. Certain themes are common to biblical and pagan stories: preexisting watery chaos (all pagan accounts), creation by the spoken word (Egyptian), and man being made from clay (Sumerian).
4. In fact, the Sumerian and Babylonian creation stories were written *before* Moses penned Genesis 1!

B. So what did these cultures teach about creation?

1. Sumerians said the high god raped the air goddess, resulting in the moon god.
2. The Babylonian king of the created gods (Marduk) murdered his mother (Tiamat) and cut her into two halves that became the land and sea (cf. Gen. 1:6-8). Thus the world started from a son who murdered his mother!

C. Back to the purpose for Genesis 1: It appears that Genesis 1 is written actually in response to these pagan stories to show the true nature of creation!¹

1. It does not mention a single pagan deity, except indirectly: "On the first day the gods of light and darkness are dismissed. On the second day, the gods of the sky and sea. On the third day, earth gods and gods of vegetation. On the fourth day, sun, moon, and stars. The fifth and sixth days take away any associations with divinity from the animal kingdom. And finally human existence, too, is emptied of any intrinsic divinity—while at the same time all human beings, from greatest to the least,

¹ Thomas Brisco, "The Creation Narratives: A View from the Tell," *Southwestern Journal of Theology* 40 (1998): 58; cited by Razovelhu Vasa, "Creation," unpublished research paper for the course OT Backgrounds, SBC, 2004, p. 2.

and not just pharaohs, kings and heroes are granted a divine likeness and mediation."²

2. Notice the preceding contrasts in several ways:

Pagan	Biblical (Genesis)
Polytheistic	Monotheistic (1:1)
Myth	History
Written to satisfy man's curiosity on origins	Written to glorify God & extend his rule
The gods created themselves and other gods	Jesus existed before creation (John 1:1-3)
The gods struggle for sovereignty	Yahweh sovereign by nature (1:3)
Man mostly not in divine image (low status)	Man created in God's image (high status)
People made to be slaves of the gods	Man rules over creation (1:26-27)
The most powerful god used magic to create	Yahweh did not need to use magic
Male and female gods had sexual activity	Yahweh had no female consort
Creation results from conflict between gods	Creation by orderly means
Creative activity not separated into days	Six days of creation model the work week
These are gods in and of themselves	Creation of light, sun, sky, moon, etc.
No corresponding rest day is taught	A Sabbath rest completes creation
Material assumed to be eternal in the past	No pre-existent material (Heb. 11:3)

- D. As believers today we have a responsibility to share the truth in the left column above rather than assume that unbelievers share our worldview.

1. Since the doctrine of creation is foundational to everything else we believe, we must not with compromise with evolution or other theories that demean man's high status!
2. The irony is that evolution exalts man by claiming that the origin of the universe came without God, but then the theory puts man on a far lower level than Scripture as an "exalted animal" basically no different than the animals.
3. However, Genesis 1 does not explain creation by directly attacking alternate theories. Instead, it presents the truth in a positive manner with pagan views only surmised by implication. In like manner, believers generally need not attack godless views of origins directly but only need to speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15; cf. 1 Pet. 3:15).

- E. Biblical creation provides the foundation for ethical living in the Ten Commandments.³

1. Why have no other gods (Exod. 20:3)? Because the LORD alone made heaven and earth (Gen. 1:1).
2. Why not murder (Exod. 20:13)? Because humans alone are created in God's image (Gen. 1:26-28).
3. Why have a day of rest (Exod. 20:8-11)? Because God set it apart (Gen. 2:2-3).

Questions

1. Does Genesis 1 refer to literal 24-hour days?
2. What other evidences support a literal 24-hour days in Genesis 1?
 - a) The Genesis account describes God's creative work as instantaneous. He spoke, and it came into being. This would exclude long, drawn-out processes

² Chia Choon Yee, "Creation," unpublished research paper for the course OT Backgrounds, SBC, 2004, p. 2.

³ Adapted from Chia Choon Yee, 2.

necessary for creation to occur over centuries. To say that God spoke and then it took millions of years for His word to take effect goes beyond the natural reading of the text.

- b) Psalm 33:6, 9 supports the concept of an instantaneous creation: “By the word of the LORD were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth.” “There is certainly no thought here of delay, or a trial-and-error process, or a gradual, step-by-step fulfillment. In fact, it is quite impossible to image a time interval in the transition from nonexistence to existence!” (Whitcomb, *The Early Earth*, 24-25). While this verse applies to the stars, even when *living things* were created (marine creatures, birds, animals, man), “complex entities appear suddenly, even though built upon preexistent lifeless materials” (ibid., 25).
- c) The often repeated formula “there was evening and there was morning—the first [etc.] day” (Gen. 1:3, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31) surely indicates a literal time element, for one cannot have morning without sunrise and evening without sunset. The same phrase appears in Daniel 8:26 (cf. 8:14) in reference to 2300 days. Further, the words for “evening” and “morning” in the OT never refer to long periods of time (Leupold, *Genesis*, 1:56).
- d) While “day” is sometimes used in a non-literal sense as pointed out above (Gen. 1: 5, 14, 16, 18; 2:4), the use of a numerical adjective (“first,” “second,” etc.) with the word “day” (*yom*) elsewhere limits this “day” to a literal 24-hour period (cf. Num. 7:12, 18, 24, 30, etc.).
- e) This creation week sets a pattern for man’s work cycle as explained in the fourth commandment (Exod. 20:11; 31:17). As God worked in the daytime for literal 24-hour days, so man works in the daytime and rests at night.
- f) The fact that the sun and moon were not created until the fourth day argues for a literal interpretation (1:14-19). If the preceding days were long periods of time (e.g., “morning” and “evening” were each 1000 years), how could plant life sustain itself for centuries without light? However, such is possible in a 24-hour period. The text specifically says that these “lights” were made to govern “days” in the normal sense of the word (1:14, 16, 18).
- g) The day-age theory advocates theistic evolution at least to some degree. (See the section on pages 76-79 that critiques theistic evolution.)

3.

Tentative Theme/Thrust Statements (Step 5)

Text

Possible Illustrations (Step 6)

<http://www.expelledthemovie.com/video.php>

Possible Applications (Step 6)

1. Text

Outlines (Steps 2-5)

Strengthening Your Foundation

Genesis 1

Exegetical Outline (Steps 2-3)

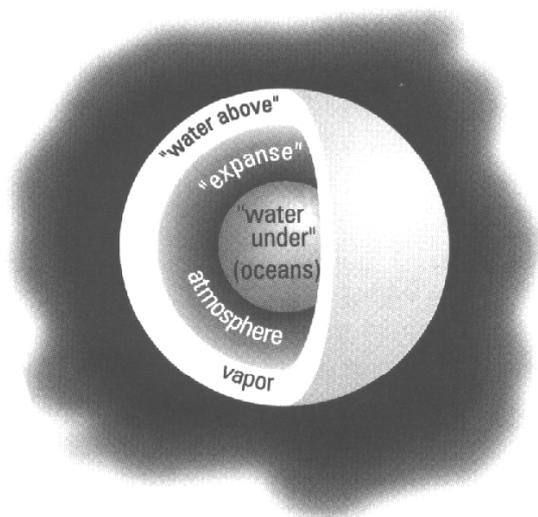
Exegetical Idea (CPT): The Creation portrays God as the Creator of all life so that Israel might know that, as the sovereign LORD of the universe in contrast to Canaan's impotent deities, the God who elected Israel can elect whom He chooses and to show the importance of the Sabbath (1:1–2:3).

- I. (1:1-2) The introduction to the Creation account portrays God as the Creator of everything and describes the chaotic condition of the earth when God began the first day of His creative work so Israel may see God's power in contrast to powerless Canaanite deities.
 - A. (1:1) The title of the Creation account portrays God as the Founder and Creator of everything at the beginning of the universe.
 - B. (1:2) At the start of God's creative activity the world is described as in a chaotic state to provide an outline for God's activity of bringing form and fullness to His creation.
- II. The six days of creation recount the origin of all living things (except angels and God) by God's spoken word alone to show Israelites that their God is LORD (sovereign king) of the universe in contrast to powerless Canaanite deities (1:3-31).
- III. God's rest and blessing on the seventh day set an example of the Sabbath instituted under the Law (2:1-3).

The Creative Days of Genesis			
DAY	FORMING	DAY	FILLING
1	Light	4	Sun, Moon, Stars
2	Firmament	5	Sea Life, Birds
3	Land, Sea, Plants	6	Land Life, Man
And He rested on the seventh day...			

David Egner, *Knowing God Through Genesis*
(Grand Rapids: Radio Bible Class, 1991), 9

* For a summary of differing theories of creation, see page 71.



A.

B.

II.

A.

B.

III.

A.

B.

Purpose or Desired Listener Response (Step 4)

The listeners will trust the Genesis account of creation at face value.

Homiletical Outline (Cyclical deductive form)—Steps 5-6

Subject: How do we fight the pagan philosophies of our day?

Introduction

1. **Interest**: To know who we are, we need to see where we came from.
 - a) This is why God gave us the Book of Genesis, which, in the Hebrew, means “in the beginning”—or in Greek, “origin, source, or birth.”
 2. **Need**: People always want to know who they are, why things have gone wrong, and if there is hope. Can you answer these basic questions? Of course you can, but do you know why? Because of Genesis!
 3. **Background**: Moses was not the first to record man’s beginnings. Actually, some pagan versions of the creation and the flood were written hundreds of years before Moses.
 - a) The ANE was polytheistic with ridiculous explanations of their origins.
 - b) Israel had been under God’s discipline for 40 years in the desert—and was about to cross over into Jericho. Canaan had horrible origin myths and practices of child sacrifice, so how would Israel stand up against these powerful peoples after Moses was gone?
 4. **Text**: Genesis 1 answers these crazy notions of how the world began and what Israel needed to know about their God to defeat Canaan. It tells us...
 5. **Main Idea**: In contrast to the ANE myths and Canaan’s impotent deities, the LORD of the universe created everything as King (1:1–2:3).
 6. **Restated Main Idea**: Was Israel’s God different from the ANE myths and impotent deities of Canaan? Yes! The LORD of the universe made all we see and proves he is Boss (1:1–2:3).
 7. **Preview**: Today we will first look at Genesis 1, see similar pagan challenges of our day, and then learn how to respond to these beliefs.
- I. **Our God is King who created everything in contrast to man-made ideas (1:1-31).**
- A. The account gives six days of forming and filling [explain].
 - B. Let’s read Genesis 1 together in English and Chinese in alternate slides [Read Genesis 1:1–2:3 slides.]
 - C. Over and over in Genesis 1 we see evidence that God is King [explain reasons].

D. The account is as straightforward as one would expect—form must precede filling.

II. However, creationism and God's Kingship are continually attacked today.

A. Many creation theories compromise biblical integrity to try to harmonize with evolution.

1. Four unacceptable theories play with the text of Genesis 1 [explain].
2. But we must choose between creation and evolution. We must ask who our *real father is!*
3. We must admit that the normal reading of the text is that all animals—including dinosaurs—were created on the sixth day. No evolution artists draw pictures of useless animals waiting for wings to grow or fins to turn into legs. Such animals would be such easy prey that they would have died out rather than evolved!

B. The new movie "Expelled" reveals the anti-God bias of the modern scientific community.

(So what should we do? How should we respond? How do we fight the pagan philosophies of our day?)

III. Christians must defend against attacks on God as Creator and King.

A. Defend a face-value interpretation of Genesis 1.

1. "Call it a day."
2. We should not be deterred from holding to a normal reading of Genesis 1 as literal 24-hour days.

B. Protect your foundational belief in Creation.

1. Psalm 11:3 reminds us that foundations are vital.
 - a) A building without a strong foundation will crumble [explain].
 - b) The foundation of all our doctrine is Genesis 1.
2. Switching our foundational in Creation to evolution has had horrible results.
 - a) It has led to lawlessness, homosexuality, pornography, and abortion.
 - b) We have accepted death as normal.
 - c) We have deceived ourselves into thinking that death has brought us to a high position today.
 - d) In reality, we have degenerated from a high position to a low position due to sin, which leads to death.
 - e) The cracked foundation in Genesis has led to reinterpretations that make evolution look good and the Bible look bad.

Conclusion

1. So what have I said (MPs)?
 - a) When facing myths and Canaan's impotent deities, Israel saw that their God was LORD of the universe who created everything as King (MI restated).
 - b) Creationism and God's Kingship are continually attacked today.
 - c) But Christians must defend against attacks on God as Creator and King.
2. So what should we do? How should we respond? How do we fight the pagan philosophies of our day?
 - a) Too often we attack the *results* of humanism rather than the *cause*: evolution. At the same time they are eroding our foundation in creationism.
 - b) Instead of attacking the results of evolution, we need to attack their *foundation*—evolution itself.
 - (1) One of the best ways to do this is to equip yourself with the articles from answersingenesis.org website.
 - (2) I also recommend that you see Ben Stein's movie or DVD as soon as it comes out.

Bulletin Outline (filled in)

Introduction

1. Principle: To know who we are, we need to see where we came from.
2. Background: Some pagan creation and flood stories were written hundreds of years before Moses.
3. Main Idea: In contrast to pagan ideas of our origins, the LORD of the universe created everything as King.

I. Our God is King who created everything in contrast to man-made ideas (1:1-31).

A. The account gives six days of forming and filling.

B. Genesis 1 gives many evidences that God is King.

II. However, creationism and God's Kingship are continually attacked today.

A. Many creation theories try to squeeze evolution into the Bible.

B. The movie "Expelled" reveals the anti-God bias of our modern world.

III. Christians must defend against attacks on God as Creator and King.

A. Defend a face-value interpretation of Genesis 1.

B. Protect your foundational belief in Creation.

1. Psalm 11:3 reminds us that foundations are vital.

2. Switching our foundation from creation to evolution has had horrible results.

Conclusion

1. So how do we fight the pagan philosophies of our day? Defend God as Creator and King (Main Idea).
2. How specifically can we defend a natural reading of Genesis 1?

Bulletin Outline (with blanks)**Introduction**

1. Principle: To know who we are, we need to see where we came from.
2. Background: Some pagan creation and flood stories were written hundreds of years before Moses.
3. Main Idea: In contrast to pagan ideas of our origins, the LORD of the universe created everything as King.

I. Our God is _____ who created everything in contrast to man-made ideas (1:1-31).

- A. The account gives six days of forming and filling.
- B. Genesis 1 gives many evidences that God is King.

II. However, creationism and God's Kingship are continually _____ today.

- A. Many creation theories try to squeeze evolution into the Bible.
- B. The movie "Expelled" reveals the anti-God bias of our modern world.

III. Christians must _____ against attacks on God as Creator and King.

- A. Defend a face-value interpretation of Genesis 1.
- B. Protect your foundational belief in Creation.
 1. Psalm 11:3 reminds us that foundations are vital.
 2. Switching our foundation from creation to evolution has had horrible results.

Conclusion

1. So how do we fight the pagan philosophies of our day? Defend God as _____ and _____
2. How specifically can we defend a natural reading of Genesis 1?