

## Section 5: Creation | *Creation Theology*

### Lesson 5.1—*God the creator of all things*

#### Memorize

Q5.1— Who created all things?

A5.1— “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” – Genesis 1:1”

#### Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. What are possible reasons (besides belief in God) that people might give as to why there is something rather than nothing?
2. What difference does it make that creation was on purpose and not accidental?

#### Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. Genesis 1:1—What do the words “in the beginning” hint at here? **(We must consider that God was *before* the beginning. That is, before any created thing existed, the creator existed. The phrase “in the beginning” is intended to set God in a category of His own. He is the creator, all else is a creation. Whatever but needed to be given a beginning is a creation.)**
2. John 1:1—How is John intentionally referring to Genesis 1:1? What is he changing? What is he trying to show us? **(In place of “God” he is putting “the Word.” But he also adds that the word “was God” and was “with God.” He is trying to show that Jesus is included in that “In the beginning God created” phrase.)**
3. Genesis 1:3—How did God create? **(His Word. He could have simply willed it. But here we see that He spoke a word. Additionally, the first thing He created was light. He also creates all sorts of life. Word, life, and light are what John immediately introduces Jesus as in John 1.)**
4. Isaiah 45:18—Did God have any help from angels in creating the heavens and the earth? **(No. He Himself, with “no other” made it. This is important because Jehovah’s Witnesses say that God created Michael the Archangel [their version of Jesus] who then was used by Jehovah to create all things.)**
5. Jeremiah 10:12—How did God create the world?
6. Acts 17:24–25—What did God make? **(The world and everything in it. He did not create a limited thing and allow it to slowly evolve into all things. He is the giver of life. He is the current sustainer of creation.)**
7. Creation was given to testify of God. Read and discuss:
  - a. Job 26:7—What do you see? **(Consider how marvelous it is that this is a universe that is “expanding” at just the right rate that we can still exist and function as normal. Consider that earth, planets, the sun, the moon, are hanging over nothing, all perfectly functioning for life on *this* planet to revolve around humans. This is not merely a Christian idea. This is called the “Anthropic Cosmological Principle” and challenges the increasingly common atheist idea that aliens created us. It teaches the concept that everything in our universe appears clearly existing with the intention of *human* life thriving on planet earth and nowhere else.)**
  - b. Psalm 19:1—What do the heavens and firmament (think sky or space) declare? **(God’s glory and handiwork.)** What does that mean? **(Even atheists marvel at the complexity of the skies. Plato, in his book *Laws* said two things lead men to believe in a God: [1] the sense that they have a soul and are not just flesh and bones, and [2] “the order of the motion of the stars.” The complexity of the heavens to be able to accurately predict things, the proper distances of the sun and moon, etc. make it totally irrational to say they were not created on purpose. More than that, the beauty of a sunset, for instance, leads people to marvel at the glory they are seeing. That glory points to a higher glory of God.)**

- c. Romans 1:18–20—What does the physical creation reveal about God? **(Certain attributes. Namely, that He is an eternal God, that is, that He exists outside of our limited creation. That He is a powerful God who had the ability to create all this. And His “Godhead” or “divine nature.” That is, that He is that uncaused first cause.)** What does this mean for people who do not believe in a God? **(They are suppressing the truth in unrighteousness. The issue is never really a lack of evidence. A meticulously ordered universe that happened by accident is a ridiculous concept. It bears witness that a deeper issue of wanting to walk their own way without answering to God is the real issue. This is why Paul says it is manifest to them and they are without excuse.)**
- 8. What should recognizing creation lead us toward? Read and discuss?
  - a. Nehemiah 9:6
  - b. Psalm 95:6
  - c. Romans 11:36
  - d. Revelation 14:7
- 9. Mark 10:6—Did humans evolve from the great apes? **(“From the beginning.” This is a *creatio de novo*. Meaning that God created man directly and “from the beginning.” If many other creatures existed for billions of years before man was made directly, this would not be *de novo* [“from the beginning”])**

#### **Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)**

- 1. Revelation 4:11
  - a. Why is God worthy to receive our glory, honor, and power? **(Because He created all things and because we exist by His will.)**
  - b. Would we exist if God did not will us into existence? **(No. This makes it strange then that atheists demand evidence that God is real. They do not realize that the only reason *they* are real is because a *real* being existed and willed them to exist.)**

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**Lesson 5.2—*The Father “Of Whom Are All Things”***

**Memorize**

Q5.2— Did the Father create all things?

A5.2— “The Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him.” – 1 Corinthians 8:6

**Exploration (What Do We Think?)**

1. How does creation reflect the God as Father?

**Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)**

1. 1 Corinthians 8:4–6
  - a. 8:4—How does Paul compare idols to the one true God? **(They are lifeless. They have no power.)**
  - b. 8:5—Paul speaks of “so-called gods” and hints that perhaps some of these false gods might have some sort of existence. Read and discuss 1 Corinthians 10:19–20 and discuss what he might mean? **(He is saying that there is no power in these lifeless images. And yet, in some cases perhaps there might be some real power or existence of these gods. If this is the case, it is a demonic power. Demons pretending to be the one true God.)**
  - c. 8:6—How does God sum up our one God? **(“The Father, of whom are all things.” He says more regarding Christ, but for the sake of this lesson we are focusing on this concept of the Father of/from whom are all things. This distinguishes God from these false gods. He is the one who made all things.**
  - d. 8:6—What does Paul teach about our relationship to God as creator? **(We were made “for Him.” That is our purpose as creatures.)**
2. Malachi 2:10
  - a. In what sense is God a Father to all people, even the unsaved? **(We are all created by Him. He is our source.)**
  - b. What does the sin of the people reflect about our relationship to God as creatures to Father? **(This is a more complicated question, so perhaps we might need to explain. This passage refers to the treacherous living they have committed. God as Father deserves a certain honor that we are dishonoring when we deal treacherously with one another.)**
3. Isaiah 64:8–9
  - a. 64:8—How is God as Father and creator revealed in this verse? **(We are clay. He is the potter. He shapes us as He wills.)**
  - b. 64:9—While all people can say God is their Father in the sense of being their creator, only those who are saved have a relationship with God as their adopted Father and as children of God in the sense the New Testament promises mention. How is that seen here? **(They appeal to God not to be furious or remember their iniquity forever. They appeal to their relationship as His own people.)**
4. Ephesians 3:9—Who created all things through Jesus Christ? **(The Father. It is common for Paul to distinguish between Christ as “Lord” and the Father as “God.” There are times He uses these interchangeably, but for the most part he uses these terms as distinctions.)**
5. John 1:3—If all things were made through Christ, who was the one making them through Christ? **(The Father.)**
6. Hebrews 1:2—What is the role of the Father in creation? **(He made “the worlds” through the Son.)**
7. God as creator reminds us of the authority a Father has. Read and discuss God’s authority as creator:
  - a. Psalm 24:1
  - b. Jeremiah 27:5

8. Matthew 6:26—What is the Father's role in creation? **(The Father is watching over creation carefully and compassionately.)**
9. James 1:17—What good gifts does the Father give us as creator? **(All good gifts are from the Father.)**

**Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)**

1. Matthew 6:25–30—There is an old hymn that says “This is my Father's world... let me never forget that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.” What does this mean? How does this passage remind us that because our heavenly Father is the creator, we do not need to worry?

**Section 5: Creation | *Creation Theology***  
**Lesson 5.3—*The Son Through Whom Are All Things***

**Memorize**

Q5.3—Did the Son create all things?

A5.3— “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.” – Colossians 1:16

**Exploration (What Do We Think?)**

1. Why is it important to understand that Jesus is not a creature but the creator?

**Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)**

1. Colossians 1:15–17
  - a. 1:15—Who is the image of the invisible God? **(Jesus. It is important to ask this so that we make it clear that the rest of the verse is referring to the Son.)**
  - b. 1:15—What does it mean that Jesus is the firstborn over all creation? **(Many cults claim this means Jesus was the first creature to be created. Some responses: first, John 1 says all things were made through Christ, second, that is not what the verse says. It does not say He is the first of all God’s creatures. In fact, Hebrews 1:8–12 says the Son is “forever and ever” and is distinct from creation as the creator. Third, what it is actually saying is that Jesus has the preeminence as the firstborn. To be the firstborn is not a statement of Him coming into existence, it is reference to His authority as the only begotten Son of God, in whom we share His inheritance. For example, God says He will “make” David—who had many older brothers—His “firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth.” This is a reference to rank and authority, not of being created.)**
  - c. 1:16—What is the Son’s role in creation? **(By Him all things were created. The word in its grammatical context means “by/from.” That He is the agent used to accomplish the task.)**
  - d. 1:16—How many things were created by the Son? What does this include in this verse? **(All things. Including even demons and angels.)**
  - e. 1:16—Why were all things created? **(Through Him and for Him.)**
  - f. 1:17—What does this verse say about the Son existing before anything was created? **(He is before all things. Literally, He predates all created things.)** What is the Son doing with creation? **(Holding it all together. In Him all things consist/are held together.)**
2. 1:1–3—What does this passage teach us about the Son as creator? **(He is the God who existed before all things as much as the Father did. He is that God of Genesis. He was with the God of Genesis. When Genesis says “in the beginning God” the Son was “in the beginning with God.” All things, not just some things, were made through Him. Again, we see that word “through.” Anything that was made was not made unless it was made with Him.)**
3. Hebrews 1:2—What is the Son’s role in creation? **(Through whom.)**
4. Ephesians 3:9—What is the Son’s role in creation? **(Through)**
5. Micah 5:2—What does this teach us about Christ being creator, not creature? **(His origins are from everlasting. He has always existed. He did not need to be created because He is creator.)**
6. Revelation 22:13—What does the Son claim about Himself? **(As the Alpha and Omega, Beginning and the End, He is saying He is eternal. He is the source of all things. He is the one upholding all things.)**
7. Psalm 19:1–5—How does creation reveal God as Son? **(Pay close attention. This Psalm is saying that the heavens speak truth. They reveal knowledge to us about who God is. The sun is “like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber.” Christ is the bridegroom. He refers to Himself as the “strong man” who binds and destroys Satan.)**

8. John 1:26–27—Knowing that Jesus is declared to be the image of the invisible God, how does this passage reveal the Son? **(We were made *in* His image. Christ has all dominion; Christ is part of the “us” in this passage.)**

**Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)**

1. John 5:23—How does the Son as creator change how people should regard Him? **(He is worthy of all honor.)**

## Section 5: Creation | *Creation Theology*

### Lesson 5.4—*The Life-Giving Spirit*

#### Memorize

Q5.4—Did the Holy Spirit create all things?

A5.4— “The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.” – Job 33:4

#### Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. What role did the Holy Spirit play in creation?

#### Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. Job 33:4—Who did Job credit as his creator? **(Even in the Old Testament, Job says that God’s Spirit made him. Additionally, the word used for “breath” in Hebrew is sometimes used for “spirit.” It is a different word than the word used when he says “God’s Spirit” made him, but it still hints at the concept of spirit.)**
2. Genesis 1:1–2
  - a. 1:1—We have covered this essential truth, but it cannot be said enough. Who created the heavens and the earth in the beginning? **(God. The uncaused first cause.)**
  - b. 1:2—What does it mean that creation was “without form and void”? **(I take this to be an attempt to describe “nothing.” The concept of “nothing” existing is incomprehensible to us. That is because there is no such thing as “nothing” entirely. God has always existed, so in that sense there has *always* been *something* that exists. So I take this to be an attempt to describe to us in understandable language the concept of nothing being made into something. “Without form” means “formlessness, emptiness, a state of empty space and so nothingness with no shape. Implied to be a state prior to order and form. “Void” in Hebrew means exactly that. A vast emptiness with no order whatsoever.)**
  - c. 1:2—What about the concept of darkness over the face of the deep? **(The concept of darkness here is not that darkness is *something* that existed in this nothingness, but the reminder that there was an absence of any sort of light. The deep here represents an inaccessible, mysterious depth we cannot fathom. Again, I take this to hint that without God there was nothing. And since we cannot picture full nothingness, the picture of deep, dark, chaos is given to us here. For example, Psalm 36:7 describes God’s judgments as being “a great deep.” Additionally, the concept of deep hints as “waters” as a chaotic, uncontrollable picture.)**
  - d. 1:2—Considering all this chaos and nothingness, considering that “waters” is a picture of uncontrollable, unformed chaos, what does it mean that the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters? **(DBL Hebrew dictionary says, “tremble, hover... with a possibly associative meaning of caring superintendence over an object.”)**
  - e. Read Deuteronomy 32:11. Recognize that the word “hovers” is the same Hebrew word used about the Holy Spirit hovering at creation. What was the Holy Spirit doing?
3. Psalm 104:30—What do we learn about the Holy Spirit in creation here? **(God gives His Spirit to give life.)**
4. Job 26:5–14, esp. 13—Read and discuss what you see about the greatness of God in creation.
5. Psalm 139:1–7—What do you see about God being over you as creator? What specifically do you see regarding the Holy Spirit? **(We cannot go from God’s Spirit.)**
6. Isaiah 63:14—What does the Holy Spirit do with creatures? **(Here we see that Spirit causing beasts to rest. This is marvelous sovereignty.)**
7. The Holy Spirit not only participated in creating natural life but also causes us to be born again. This renews our creation in some sense. Read and discuss:
  - a. Ezekiel 37:1–14

- i. 37:1—How was Ezekiel brought out? **(In the Spirit of the LORD.)**
- ii. 37:2–6—What has happened here? What is God’s promise? **(This is a valley of dry bones. The dryness emphasizes how long these bones have been rotting. It is a picture of lifelessness and hopelessness. Yet God says He will bring “breath” or “spirit” into them to live. This is an image regarding Israel being restored from their exile, which itself can serve as a picture of our spiritual salvation as well.)**
- iii. 37:7–10—What was the problem with the bones from living? What caused them to officially live? **(breath. Spirit.)**
- iv. 37:11–14—How does God say He will make them alive? **(His Spirit. This is how the dry bones received their spirit/breath. By the uppercase Spirit.)**
- b. John 6:63
- c. Romans 8:11 **(This refers to the coming resurrection at Christ’s return.)**
- d. Titus 3:5
- e. Galatians 6:8

### **Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)**

- 1. John 3:5–6—Have you been born again? Are you born of the Spirit? Do you know what that means? **(This is a great time to remind of the gospel. That we are spiritually dead but that Jesus Christ died that we might live. Whoever believes in Him is born again by the Spirit. Sealed by the Holy Spirit for eternal life.)**

**Section 5: Creation | Creation Theology**  
Lesson 5.5—*Creation out of Nothing (Creatio Ex Nihilo)*

**Memorize**

Q5.5—Did God make the world out of physical stuff (matter)?

A5.5— “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.” – Hebrews 11:3

**Exploration (What Do We Think?)**

1. What does “creation out of nothing” mean?
2. Why is it important to believe that God did not use pre-existing material to create?
3. How does creation out of nothing highlight God’s power and sovereignty?

**Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)**

1. Hebrews 11:1–3—This chapter in Hebrews emphasizes the power of faith. It is in that context that the Hebrews author mentions our verse. After giving a definition of faith, the author mentions our faith that God made the worlds out of nothing. Read and discuss:
  - a. 11:1—What is faith in this verse? **(More literally, it is the reality of things hoped for. It is proof of things not seen. That is, faith is not blind. Faith is what opens our eyes to reality. It helps us see an even greater reality that we would not see without faith.)**
  - b. 11:2—How did leaders in the faith obtain a good testimony? **(By faith.)**
  - c. 11:3—What is the first thing he says we understand about faith? **(The worlds [lit. “ages.” This implies the course of things. All of human history. That is, God is not like the deist God who created things, set them in place, and then moved on and let them play out how they were going to play out. He is an involved God who continues to sustain and move throughout history according to His will.)**
  - d. 11:3—What were all physical things *not* made out of? **(Physical things. In other words, material stuff. God did not have a pre-existing matter that He molded into the rest of creation. That would make the matter itself a form of God.)**
2. Genesis 1:1—What does it imply that God was “in the beginning” and created? **(It is meant to say that He is before all things. That includes any form of matter. For questions about the concept of “the deep” or “formless and void” and how that relates to our topic, see last week’s lesson.)**
3. Psalm 33:6—How did God create? **(By His word, not by forming matter. Mormons teach that God created out of a pre-existing matter. That is one reason why this makes a difference.)**
4. Psalm 33:9—How plain does this make what happened at creation? **(He spoke, it happened.)**
5. Acts 17:24–25—If God was eternally related to matter, how would that change this verse? **(God would indeed be limited to a time and space.)**
6. Romans 4:17—How is God described here? **(He creates when there was previously nothing there.)**
7. Genesis 1:3—What significance is trying to be shown by the words “God said” and “and there was...”? **(It is showing the power of His word.)**
8. Revelation 4:11—What does this show about God’s power? **(It shows that God’s will is what leads to life.)**
9. Job 38:4—God rebuked Job’s pride by reminding him of His marvelous work as creator. What does this question reveal about God’s greatness in creating out of nothing? **(It is incredible. God brings something out of nothing. He is the only one who can claim that.)**
10. Jeremiah 10:12—What two words does Jeremiah say God made/established the earth by? **(His power and His wisdom. God’s power demonstrates how significant it is that He made something out of nothing. His wisdom displays how perfectly He made it.)**

11. Romans 1:20—Physical things have not always existed. But what do they show us about God?

**Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)**

1. Psalm 96:6—What should be our response to God as the powerful and wise creator?
2. Revelation 21:3–6—What do we see about God as creator and what He will do in the future? **(He is not done creating. He will make all things new! He will be with us.)** What else do we learn about God from the words “these words are true and faithful”? What picture does the fountain of life give? **(This is who God is. He gives life and He gives life and He gives life. He never runs out. He is the God who gives life to the dead and calls into existence things that do not exist.)**

## Section 5: Creation | *Creation Theology*

### Lesson 5.6—*Creation in Six Days*

#### Memorize

Q5.6—In how many days did God make the heavens and the earth?

A5.6— “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. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.” – Exodus 20:11

#### Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. What do people mean when they talk about a “young earth” or an “old earth”? **(After hearing their thoughts, we can explain that young earth is the orthodox view that this earth is thousands of years old and that the days are literal days and that the earth is only some thousands of years old. Whereas old earth creationism is the view that the “days” are actually symbols of extremely long periods of evolution, resulting in an earth that is billions of years old.)**
2. What problems result in believing in a young earth? What about an old earth?

#### Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. Genesis 1:3–5—What did God make on the first day? What do you see about this passage? What is said about the first day? **(Evening and morning. This is critical for what we will get to. Point out that the Jews viewed days by evening–morning, not morning–evening.)**
2. Genesis 1:6–8—What did God create on the second day? What is said to have happened as the second day? **(Evening and morning.)**
3. Genesis 1:9–13—What did God do on this day? In verse 13, what was said that made this the third day? **(Evening and morning.)**
4. Genesis 1:14–19—What did God do on the fourth day? In verse 19, what made it the fourth day? **(Evening and morning.)**
5. Genesis 1:20–23—What did God do on the fifth day? In verse 23, what made this the fifth day? **(Evening and morning.)**
6. Genesis 1:24–31—What did God do on this sixth day? In verse 31, what made this the sixth day? **(Evening and morning.)**
7. What is the significance of always mentioning “evening and morning”? **(If these were just symbolic terms for non-literal days, it seems strange that he was provide the most literal example of how we would describe a literal day. It makes it stranger that he did it for every single day, and that we divide our literal days into seven days at a time.)**
8. Genesis 2:1–3
  - a. 2:1–2—What did God do on the seventh day? **(Rested.)** Does God get tired? What was He doing? **(God does not get tired. This is meant to teach us something. But it does mean He did not create on this day. Instead, He blessed.)**
  - b. 2:3—What did God do on this day? **(Blessed and sanctified this day specifically because He rested from *all His work*. That is a very important phrase for later.)**
9. Exodus 20:8–11—Read and discuss:
  - a. 20:8–10—What is this law saying? **(It is fairly plain. We must remember the Sabbath day. Remember what Sabbath day? The first Sabbath day. The Sabbath rest from when God created the heavens and the earth.)**
  - b. 20:11—What is the reasoning for why the law asked them to remember the Sabbath day? **(God created in six days and then rested on the seventh. The same word for “day” here is the same used for “day” in Genesis. It is true that sometimes the word *yom* is used for perhaps a generic time, but when it is mostly used as a literal day like we would use it. This should be especially true when each day of creation is mentioned with a number and comes after**

**mentioning an evening and a morning. If God wanted to make it plain to us that these days were literal and not figurative, what else could He have said?)**

10. Mark 10:6—If the “days” were actually billions of years of evolution, eventually resulting in man, what would that do to this verse? **(Male and female “from the beginning of the creation.” Not just “creation” but “the creation” with a definite article. Meaning, the one and only first creation. What? Did Jesus mean to say that billions of years after creation He made male and female to be produced by being born from the great apes and somehow declared them to be made in His image?)**
11. Romans 5:12—Does Adam sound like a symbol here? **(Some people deny a literal Adam. This would undo our entire doctrine on our sin nature and what Christ came to be as the true and better Adam. Additionally, Genesis 3:19 introduces death as a consequence of sin, not a natural process before Adam. What happened to other creatures for billions of years before Adam?)**

### **Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)**

1. What was the Sabbath about? Read and discuss Hebrews 4:1–10
  - a. 4:1—What promise do Christians have? **(Entering His rest. This is what the Sabbath day was originally about. Saturday is meant not to be the ultimate Sabbath, but to point back to God’s Sabbath on day seven. Even that Sabbath was meant to point us to our ultimate Sabbath in Christ!)**
  - b. 4:2–5—What do we learn about the Sabbath? **(God’s works were already, in a sense, finished from the foundation of the world. Yet He still says He rested on the seventh day. That was so He could give us the picture of finding our rest in Christ.)**
  - c. 4:6–8—Did the Hebrews receive real rest on the Sabbath day or when they entered the promised land? **(No. That’s why there is still a rest spoken of by God. A rest in Christ.)**
  - d. 4:9–10—What is the Sabbath really about? **(Resting in Christ, saved by grace through faith so we also can *cease from all our works!* This must be taught.)**

**Section 5: Creation | *Creation Theology***  
**Lesson 5.7—*God's Goodness in Creation***

**Memorize**

Q5.7— Did God create sin?

A5.7— “Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.” – Genesis 1:31

**Exploration (What Do We Think?)**

1. Did God create sin?

**Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)**

1. Genesis 1:31—How is God's creation described? What does this teach us about God? **(God did not create the world with sin in it. He made it very good. He gave man an option to eat or not by their own choice.)**
2. Deuteronomy 32:1–5—This is “the Song of Moses.” Read and discuss what Moses emphasizes about God not authoring evil in His creation:
  - a. 32:1—Who is this message for? **(Everyone. The heavens and the earth.)**
  - b. 32:2—What is this message supposed to do to our souls? **(Bless us as fresh rain on the grass.)**
  - c. 32:3—What is Moses proclaiming? **(The name of the LORD. That is, everything God is in His very nature.)**
  - d. 32:4
    - i. What does the imagery of a rock represent? **(God is trustworthy. He is sure. He does not deceive us. He can be relied upon.)**
    - ii. What does it tell us about God that His work is perfect? **(What God does is perfect. He does not mess up. This should not be taken for granted. One famous Jewish author once wrote a famous book as a response to how God could exist and yet the Holocaust happened. He concluded that God is limited in some sense and cannot always control every possible thing. This is not a biblical answer.)**
    - iii. What is this verse saying by telling us that all God's ways are justice or that He is righteous and upright? **(He is always just. He does no wrong to anyone.)**
  - e. 32:5—What went wrong? **(Man sinned. Man corrupted themselves.)**
3. Where did evil come from?
  - a. Isaiah 14:12–15 **(Satan said in his own heart... He had pride that he himself chose to have. We are not given an explanation for why he started having this desire. But we are told that God made him “perfect” until iniquity was found in him [Ezekiel 28:15–17])**
  - b. Genesis 2:17, 3:6 **(Man was clearly warned, given many other options, yet was willingly deceived.)**
  - c. Ecclesiastes 7:29
  - d. James 1:13–15 **(“The devil made me do it” is not an option. The devil can only tempt us based on our own desires. Follow the pattern: desire → enticed with temptation because of that desire → sin → death.)**
4. 1 John 1:5—What does John say is his important message he was declaring? **(God is light. In Him is no darkness at all.)** What does this mean? **(God does no evil. There is not even a hint. The Greek here presents things more powerfully than in English. He uses a double negative. It is as if he is saying, “in Him is no darkness at all... none.”)**
5. 2 Peter 3:13—What is God's plan for this sinful world? **(He will bring a new heavens and a new earth where only righteousness is. He will fix what we broke.)**
6. Revelation 22:1–5—What is the final result? Read and discuss:

- a. 22:1—What is seen here? **(Many take this as a picture of the life-giving Trinity. God and the Lamb as the Father and the Son. The pure river of water of life as the Holy Spirit [a reference to John 7:38–39])**
- b. 22:2—What tree is seen here? **(The tree of life. The tree Adam and Eve rejected for the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, which led to death.)**
- c. 22:3—What does God get rid of? **(The curse. That is, the curse Adam's fall led to.)** What is there instead? **(The throne of God and of the Lamb. That is, the same throne mentioned in verse 1.)**
- d. 22:4–5—What promises do we see in this new creation?

#### **Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)**

- 1. Romans 8:18–19—What promises do we see here in response to how man has messed up God's good creation? **(We live in a fallen world. With that comes plenty of sin, death, and everything that comes with it. Yet, Paul promises that for those who are in Christ these pains are not worth comparing to the future glory that will be revealed *in* us. Not to us. In us. God will change even ourselves as the glorious creatures of this new creation where nothing is wrong.)**

## Section 5: Creation | *Creation Theology*

### Lesson 5.8—*God Sustaining Creation*

#### Memorize

Q5.8—Is God currently sustaining creation?

A5.8—“If He should set His heart on it, if He should gather to Himself His Spirit and His breath, all flesh would perish together, and man would return to dust.” – Job 34:14–15

#### Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. God created the universe, but is He continuing to keep it going? What would that mean?

#### Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. Job 34:13–15
  - a. 34:13—What does God’s sovereignty have to do with His sustaining of creation? **(He is working all things according to the counsel of His own will. That is difficult for our limited minds to understand when we consider that there is evil that happens. But that is why verse 12 says that God will never do wickedly or ever pervert justice.)**
  - b. 34:14–15—What would happen if God decided to gather His Spirit and breath to Himself? **(All flesh would perish together. We would all return to dust. There would be an *actual* Thanos moment.... Sorry, I couldn’t help myself.)**
2. Deuteronomy 32:39—What is God in charge of here? How does that impact your view of God?
3. Colossians 1:17—The word “consist” means to be held together or to be held in proper arrangement. What does that say about God’s role in creation even today? **(He is continuing to uphold all things.)**
4. Hebrews 1:3—What is Jesus upholding? **(All things.)** How? **(By the word of His power.)**
5. Nehemiah 9:6—What does this teach us about creation? What about God sustaining creation?
6. Job 12:10—How much greater does this make God look than we sometimes give Him credit for?
7. Psalm 104:29–30—How do people die? **(God takes away their breath. He is in control of all things.)**
8. Psalm 139:13–14—How does God sustain creation in this verse? **(He has provided natural processes for life, but ultimately He is the giver of life and the one forming us by those processes.)**
9. Matthew 6:26—Who feeds the birds? **(Our heavenly Father. He is that in control. He is providing for all creatures.)**
10. Psalm 145:15–16—What does the Psalmist say about God’s control to feed people? **(He is in charge.)**
11. Psalm 147:8–9—What is God doing here? How does that impact your view of God?
12. Genesis 8:22—What does this teach us about the weather? **(God is in control of that as well. He has promised to continue to provide proper seasons.)**
13. Daniel 2:21—What is God in charge of as He sustains creation?
14. Acts 17:26—What else is God in charge of? **(Even forming nations!)**
15. Acts 17:28—How do the verses we have been studying change how we might interpret this verse? **(It shows that He is how we are continuing to be sustained. We think we are so independent.)**

#### Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)

1. Since God is who needs to sustain us even physically, how should we respond spiritually? Read and discuss:
  - a. Psalm 55:22
  - b. Isaiah 41:10
  - c. John 15:5

- d. 2 Corinthians 12:9
- e. Philippians 4:19