

Making Sense of the Creation Story



Providence
MIDLAND

The Relevance of Genesis 1-3

- True
- Good
- Relevant

The Relevance of Genesis 1-3

¹ Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ² **By this gospel you are saved**, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

³ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins **according to the Scriptures**, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day **according to the Scriptures**

The Relevance of Genesis 1-3

- True
- Good
- Relevant

Ultimate Questions 1.A

- **Origin** - where did we come from?
- **Meaning** - what are we here for?
- **Morality** - how should we treat one-another?
- **Destiny** - what happens when we die?

Ultimate Questions 1.B

- **Origin** - where did we come from?
- **Meaning** - what are we here for?
- **Morality** - how should we treat one-another?
- **Destiny** - what happens when we die?
- **Identity** – what is a person worth?

Ultimate Questions

“The sole cause of our unhappiness is that we don't know how to stay quietly in our room”

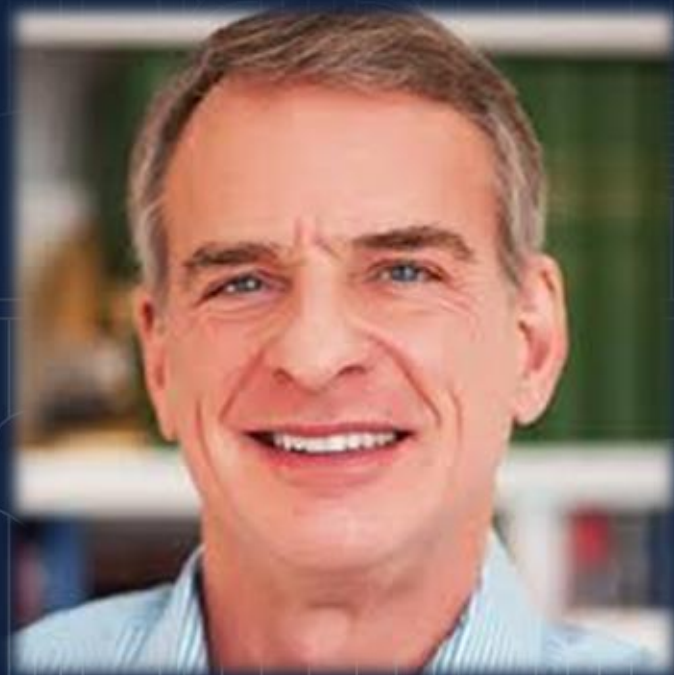
- Blaise Pascal, Pensee 136.

The Genre of Genesis 1-3

- **Philosophy** - What is conceptually possible or probable?
 - What God can/can't do?
- **Theology** – What is theologically permissible?
 - What is open for interpretation?
- **Science** – What is discernable through the scientific method?
 - What can we figure out from the study of nature?
 - Theistic Evolution? Old Earth/Young Earth? Age of the universe & humanity...etc.

“But with respect to asking the question ‘Does God exist?’ ... what science can do is support a premise in a philosophical argument that leads to the conclusion that God exists.”

- William Lane Craig



Making Sense of...

God,

- Read Genesis 1:1-9
- What essentials does it communicate about God's nature, character, and relationship to his creation?

Making Sense of...

God,

- Uncreated Creator (“uncaused cause”)
 - Self-existent
- Speaking God
- Personal (makes decisions and relates)
 - Singular and plural in “us” (1:27)
- The Master Artist
- Creator/Creature distinction

Making Sense of

God,

the World...

Making Sense of God, the World...

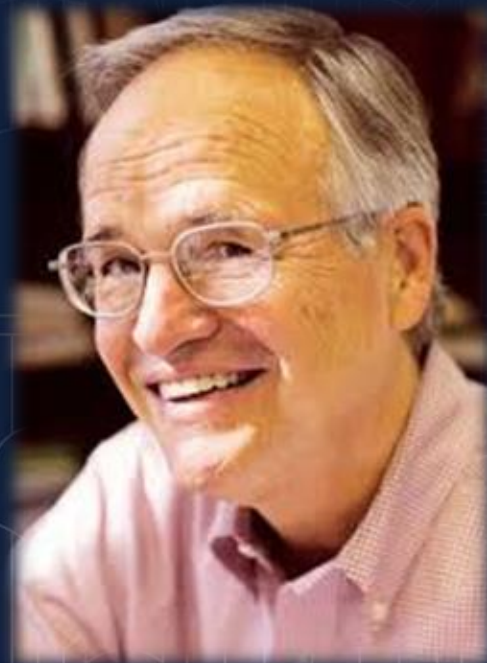
- Not accidental or incidental
 - Intended and purposed, not chaotic and random.
- Ordered and rational
 - Foundation of modern science
- Valuable to God
 - “God saw that it was good”
 - Matter Matters
- We have responsibility to “rule over” the creation and to enjoy it (1 Tim 6:17b)

"the very notion of physical law is a theological one in the first place, ... Newton first got the idea of absolute, universal, perfect, immutable laws from the Christian doctrine that God created the world and ordered it in a rational way."

- Prof Paul Davies (physics, agnostic)

"I used to think the top environmental problems were biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse and climate change. I thought that thirty years of good science could address these problems. I was wrong. The top environmental problems are **selfishness, greed and apathy, and to deal with these we need a cultural and spiritual transformation.** And we scientists don't know how to do that."

- Gus Speth (US Advisor on Climate Change)



Making Sense of
God,
the World,
and You.

Making Sense of God, the World, and You.

- Image of God
 - What is a person worth?
 - Purpose
 - Rule, reflect and relate
- Male and Female
 - Equal and different
- Marriage and Sex
 - Marriage is grounded in biology
 - Sex is a good gift of God.



“Good relationships
keep us happier and
healthier.”

- Dr Robert Waldinger

If I set the sun beside the moon, And if I set the land beside the sea,
And if I set the town beside the country,
And if I set the man beside the woman,
I suppose some fool would talk about one
being better.

- G.K. Chesterton

³ Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?”

⁴ “Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ [Gen 1:27] ⁵ and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’? [Gen 2:24] ⁶ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

- Matthew 19:3-6

“We might fancy some children playing on the flat grassy top of some tall island in the sea. So long as there was a wall round the cliff’s edge they could fling themselves into every frantic game and make the place the noisiest of nurseries. But the walls were knocked down, leaving the naked peril of the precipice. They did not fall over; but when their friends returned to them they were all huddled in terror in the centre of the island; and their song had ceased.”

- G.K. Chesterton, *Orthodoxy*, p. 53.

"TERRIFIC NEW BOOK."

—ROBERT R. GEORGE, Princeton University

LOVE THY BODY



Answering Hard Questions about Life and Sexuality

NANCY R. PEARCEY

Bestselling Author of *Total Truth*

In the ancient world, Christians were distinctive for their humanitarian efforts - taking care of babies, slaves, widows and orphans, of the sick and the elderly, of the unwanted and abandoned. Today, as the West sinks back into pre-Christian practice, we must once again be ready to stand with courage and conviction. We need to confront the underlying worldview of personhood theory, with its dehumanizing impact, **and then find practical way to express the Bibles' high view of life.**

- Nancy Pearcey, *Life Thy Body*, pg 81

Explanatory Power of Genesis 1-3

- Suffering and Pain
- Beauty and Brokenness
 - Genesis 3:1-20
- Hope
 - As soon as there is a fall there is a plan of restoration and redemption alongside just consequences

Is There Any Hope?

- God seeks (3:9)
- God promises
 - Eve's offspring crushes (3:15)
- God covers (3:21)
- God protects (3:22-24)

¹⁵ And I will put enmity
between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will crush your head,
and you will strike his heel.”

Genesis 3:15

²¹ The Lord God made **garments of skin** for Adam and his wife **and clothed them.**

Genesis 3:21

How Do You Live?

- Philosophy
 - Is God there?
- Theology
 - What is God like?
- Science
 - What mechanism did God use?

Making Sense of God, the World, and you.

- Colossians 1:15-20
- John 1:1-14
- Hebrews 1:1-3

¹ In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and **through whom also he made the universe.** ³ The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, **sustaining all things by his powerful word.** After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

Hebrews 1:1-3

Jesus Isn't Just Our Creator But Also Our Redeemer

- Revelation 4:11
- Revelation 5:9
- 2 Cor 5:17

¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say:

11

“You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they were created
and have their being.”

Rev 4:11

⁹ And they sang a new song, saying:

“You are worthy to take the scroll

and to open its seals,

because you were slain,

and with your blood you purchased for God

persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.

10

You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God,

and they will reign[b] on the earth.”

Rev 4:9

Kintsugi



Questions

