

## **God and His Creation**

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was unformed and void, darkness was on the face of the deep, and the Spirit of God hovered over the surface of the water. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and God divided the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. So there was evening, and there was morning, one day;" Genesis 1:1-5 CJB.

### **We believe:**

\* The Bible teaches that God's creation is not God. What God created relies on Him. The Bible teaches us God is greater than creation, He sustains His creation, and is involved with His creation.

There has been a shift in the understanding of God in our modern times. People have been taught that we only can know things through experimentation. The shift from understanding biblical truth has resulted in mistrust and unbelief. Most of what people believe is by looking at small segments of God's creation instead of creation as a whole and its immense complexity.

Therefore, science often does not take into account the complexity of life on earth. Because of the great complexity of life and what can be seen, some scientists admit that life on earth could not have come by random accident. Shaul (Paul) says that we can know that God exists simply by what God has created. "For ever since the creation of the universe his invisible qualities - both his eternal power and his divine nature - have been clearly seen, because they can be understood from what he has made;" Romans 1:20 CJB.

If we truly look at all creation and all its complexity, we would have to conclude that there is a God and He created the world and everything in it. Shaul goes on to say in Romans, "Therefore, they have no excuse; because, although they know who God is, they do not glorify him as God or thank him. On the contrary, they have become futile in their thinking; and their undiscerning hearts have become darkened. Claiming to be wise, they have become fools!" Romans 1:20b-22 CJB.

### **We understand:**

- \* The Bible says that God created the heavens and the earth.
- \* God spoke light and everything He created into existence.
- \* Evening and morning were the first day – the correct concept of a day begins in the evening. We live in a culture where the day goes from midnight to midnight and we need to apply it to our everyday lives, but when it comes to celebrating Shabbat or God's feasts, the reckoning for those days begins in the evening.
- \* Creation is described in the first two chapters of Genesis.
- \* The writing style in ancient times often gave two accounts. Even though there appear two accounts of creation, it is one story. Archaeology has shown the writing style changed after 1,300 BC so the accounts in Genesis are fixed at the time Israel would have left Egypt and Moshe (Moses) was indeed the writer of the Torah. Recent scholarship shows Israel leaving Egypt around 1447 BC (1 Kings 6:1).
- \* God can create everything in a second so it does not mean we have to believe in the development of the earth and universe as science theorizes. What they believe is only a theory.
- \* God tells man that he is to replenish the earth. Even if there was something there before Adam as it suggests, it does not mean that God did not create the heavens and the earth. God is eternal, so it doesn't matter if the universe 12,000 years old, 15 billion years old or a 100 billion years old; God is the creator.
- \* The fight between believers over a short earth (God created everything just 6 thousand years ago) or a long earth (creation took place 5 billion or 15 billion years ago) is inconsequential and should not be an issue which keeps people from believing in God. Since God is the creator, He could create the universe any way He wants to.

\* Perhaps the best argument for a short creation is we are in a temporary time of testing. Genesis 2-3; Deut. 8:2-3; Ps. 17:3; 2 Chron. 32:31; 2 Cor. 13:5.

**Nonbiblical beliefs about creation (we don't believe in):**

\* Materialism – is the practice that life revolves around acquiring possessions. In other words, they are living for possessions. Materialism has been the cause of many wars.

\* Pantheism – is the belief that God is the universe. Typical thinking that arises from that is "we become god" or that "everything is god."

\* Dualism – is the belief that God and creation exist side by side. They teach that God is not the ruler of creation. Sometimes people who believe this think that creation is evil or they may think in terms of good and evil forces that exist in the universe.

\* Deism – is the teaching that God created everything, but it goes on by its own. They believe that God is separate from creation and creation exists on its own.