



STORY

Creation - *Genesis 1:1-2:7; 2:18-25*

6/14/04

TEACHER PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I praise You for your incredible Creation! Teach me to see the hand of Your power and wisdom throughout the Creation with which You have blessed us! Hinder and stop the efforts of Satan and the world to discount Creation and thereby discount Your greatness. Send Your Holy Spirit to bless my study and teaching. Equip me to so teach Your truth that the children will be awed by Your power and moved by Your grace to love You. Jesus, Savior, be with me as I seek to feed Your lambs. Amen.

VOCABULARY

Create - “to make something that did not previously exist” “Create” is not necessarily to make something out of *nothing* because God called upon the plants and animals to come out of the ground (1:11; 1:24; see also “Frequently Asked Questions” below). God also used “material” when creating Adam (clay) and Eve (rib). Even when God did make use of “material” to create, there is still no doubt that what came forth was a new creation and that it existed by the power of His Word.

Good - God’s pronouncement at the end of each creative day is that He saw it and it was “good.” When everything had been created, God declared that it all was “VERY good” (1:31). When God declared His Creation “good” it was good in every possible way. God’s Creation was good in design, good in appearance, good in its functions (no mutations, abnormalities, etc.), good in its productivity—perfect in every way!

Firmament - Literally: “an extended flat surface which is spread out fixed and steadfast.” Picture a flat surface pushed up between the waters. Above the surface are the waters of heaven held apart from the earth. (See further discussion in the text notes below.)

“according to its kind” - This is a quality which God built into the plants (1:12) and sea creatures (1:21) and animals (1:25). This is part of the order God established at Creation so that each individual type of plant/animal would reproduce its same kind of plant/animal (See further discussion in the text notes below.)

God’s Image/Image of God - God is a Spirit and therefore, has no flesh and blood and thus no “image” in terms of appearance. In his letters, Paul connects the “image of God” with the characteristics of the New Man who is created by the Holy Spirit when He brings a sinner to faith (Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:9-10). From Paul’s description together with the Creation account (and the fall into sin as the contrast), we conclude that when God created Adam and Eve in the image of God He created them sinless and with a perfect knowledge of God’s Will. Furthermore, Adam and Eve were created in such a way that they had a unique relationship with God which was not enjoyed by any of the other creatures—a blissful/happy/perfect knowledge and relationship with God. After Adam and Eve fell into sin, it becomes immediately apparent that the image of God was lost. The significance of that loss also becomes sorrowfully obvious (cf: Genesis 3:8,10) .

OUTER AIM

The Triune God created all things

INNER AIM

I am God’s creation whom He still preserves

BACKGROUND

The importance of the Creation account cannot be ignored. The truth that we are God's creatures is the foundation upon which our whole relationship with God begins:

- God is my Creator...He, therefore, has the authority to declare His will for my life.
- God is my Creator...He, therefore, has the power to preserve and help me in every need.
- God is my Creator... He is almighty and holy. He is just and, therefore, must judge sin. Since I sin daily, He must judge my sin. His grace is highlighted when I hear that this almighty Creator also loves me and sent His Son to die for me. I look forward to an eternal existence with my Creator in heaven.

The absence of the Creation truth is *part* of what leads to a godless society. The absence of Creation's truth (either through evolution or other beliefs) leaves the sinner without a foundation for a relationship with God.

- I am the product of a natural process of earth's biology...I'm not under any rule or authority except my own.
- I am the product of natural process of earth's biology...I'm going to live in nearly constant fear if I see the deterioration of the earth which sin causes.
- I am the product of natural process of earth's biology...I will be concerned most with life on the earth-its successes and pleasures.
- I am the product of natural process of earth's biology...I will make science my religion and rely upon myself and other men.

The Creation account displays the glory, power, and wisdom of the one true God. It establishes Him as our Creator. It provides the assurance that our almighty Creator also provides for us day by day.

Text Commentary:

The Creation account can be viewed as a progression of God supplying the earth's many needs until after the seventh day when its needs were completely satisfied.

Day 1

Verse 1: In the Beginning

Man has spent time and money on trying to answer the question of the origin of life (cf. Hubble Telescope). Here lies the answer, plain, simple, clear, and straightforward. This marks the beginning of all existence. The beginning of all things was an act of God. Before the events recorded in Genesis 1:1 took place, only God existed and He eternally.

Those who wish to guess how the universe and all life came into being and devise their own explanations should listen to the question which God asked Job, "*Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?*" (Job 38:4).

God

The first subject of Genesis, and in fact of the whole Bible, is **God**. He is the Triune God. The "Holy Spirit" is mentioned in verse 2, and the Son ("The Word") is associated with Creation in John 1:1.

Created the heavens and the earth

Heavens and earth signify the entire universe. The heavens are the universe and in the space of that Creation there is also the earth. Verse 2 turns to a particular discussion of the earth.

Verse 2:

- All the Creation at this point was still “without form and void”
- The first step in the Creation was not a mistake or an imperfect failed attempt. This first step in Creation was good and according to God's intent. His design was to create the earth formless and then step-by-step change it from formless and void to a masterpiece. God created the unformed mass and then began to shape and to form it into its perfected complete state, as a potter fashions clay (Romans 9:20-21).
- "The face of the deep" and "the face of the waters" are parallel descriptions. "The deep" = deep waters, ocean (2 Peter 3:3-5).
- "*Hovering*" = like a vulture/eagle hovering over young (Deuteronomy 32:11). The Holy Spirit's hovering would not have been an aimless wandering. It must surely have had purpose. What purpose, we aren't told. The Son of God was also present and active at Creation (John 1:1ff).
- The created universe is described by three needs: 1) without form, 2) empty, 3) darkness. The rest of Creation solves these needs

Verses 3-5 **Darkness**

- SUPPLYING NEED: "Let there be light. . ."

God said. . .and there was. . .

Throughout the Creation account, it is God's Word alone which does the creative work. Notice the pattern throughout the account, "God said. . .thus God made / and it was so. . ." (Psalm 33:6,9)

God divided the light from the darkness

God created light for the newly created earth. With the creation of light God caused a division between the darkness and light when before there was only darkness. God did not do away with the darkness because it would be as necessary as the light. However, now there was a period of light and a period of dark to which God assigned names. The sun was not yet created so this was simply pure light without any particular light-bearing body. The creation of light on the first day creates time which did not exist before the Creation of the world. The newly created reference to time is used in marking the days of Creation. Later (Day 4), light would be assigned to specific light-bearing bodies.

The evening and the morning. . .

Literally the time aspect of each day can be translated, "It was evening and it was morning Day One." Evening and morning by themselves do not equal a 24 hour day. However, properly understood the text speaks of evening coming, going into night and then morning arrives to mark the beginning of the second creative day.

Day 2

Verses 6-8 **Formlessness**

- SUPPLYING NEED: "Let there be a firmament"

Firmament

Literally: an extended flat surface which is spread out fixed and steadfast.

Picture a flat surface pushed up between the waters. Above the surface are the waters of heaven held apart from the earth. In the Flood the windows of heaven were opened and the waters normally held above the earth came crashing down for forty days and forty nights (Genesis 7:11). The waters were deep and God pushed an atmosphere between them. The firmament of God's Creation is not the same atmosphere, clouds, etc. that we know today. Instead, we can conclude that atmospheric conditions were quite different in the days before the Flood from what they are now—a vapor canopy over the earth providing a uniform tropical climate and mist that came up from the ground to water the earth (Genesis 2:6). To support this, rain is not mentioned until the Flood. In short, when God created the firmament, He made an atmosphere in which plant, animal, and human life could exist.

Day 3

Verses 9-13 Emptiness on Earth

- SUPPLYING NEED: “Let there be vegetation to fill the earth.”

- The waters on the earth which had been separated from the waters above on the second day are now separated further to produce dry land.
- The waters gathered in "one standing place." Some Christian scientists believe that God accomplished this by creating gravity. This is very plausible and does not diminish the creative miracle of God. However, we cannot say with absolute certainty that this was the means by which God had the water flow to “one standing place.” We should not imagine the earth’s first forms, water and land bodies to be the same as what we know today. The topography of the earth changed greatly at the time of the Flood. It is very likely that at Creation, the earth had one land mass and one body of water. Then, after the Flood, it pleased God to give us the earth with continents and oceans as we know them today.
- Piece by piece the world is starting to take shape. Notice that the process is very orderly—a demonstration of the “orderliness” and wisdom of our God.

Let it cause to grow

- "herb" is used in a broader sense for all vegetation rather than what we would consider as "herbs and spices."
- "grass" = the young tender plants "herbs bearing seed" = the older mature plants with seed.

Each to reproduce according to its kind

- God’s orderliness continues to show itself. If we plant a seed we know exactly the kind of plant it will produce. This is because God created each plant to reproduce according to its own kind.
- God provides for the reproduction of every plant.
- Some plants were created with a fruit around the seed (“whose seed is in itself”). This outer fruit surrounding the seed would provide food for man and animals as well as nutrients for the growing plant when allowed to grow in reproduction.
- Reproducing according to its kind is also true of the animals (v.21, 24).
- Some genetic crossing can be done but it is very limited. If the plants are “left alone” they will revert to the original form. (Hybrids can be produced in corn but it is still corn and the hybrid can't reproduce itself. Peaches can be altered to produce nectarines, but you cannot cross an apple and orange. Differing breeds of dogs and cats can be produced but they remain dogs and cats. A donkey and horse can produce a mule, but the mule is sterile and can't reproduce, etc.)

The third day is divided into two parts: first, the creation of dry land; and secondly, the creation of vegetation. God pronounced all things good at the end of each part.

Day 4

Verses 14-19 Emptiness in the Firmament

- SUPPLYING NEED: “Let there be lights to fill the firmament.”

Lights in the firmament

- ! On Day 2 God separated the sky from the earth. On Day 3 He began to fill the earth and now, on Day 4, He turns back to the sky to fill it.
- ! The "Lights" = light-bearers, luminaries. God created light on the first day. On the fourth day God created specific heavenly bodies to bear the created light.
- ! These luminaries would cause a division between day and night just as the light on Day 2 had done.

Signs and seasons, days, and years

- “Sign” = a sign by which a person or group is characteristically marked; a reminding token
- The sun, moon, and stars are signs that testify to the glory of God (cf: Psalms 8, and 19).
- It was a star that served as a sign for the wisemen who came to worship Jesus (Matthew 2:2).
- The sun and moon came into play during the "Long Day of Joshua" (Joshua 10).
- Jesus comments that we look to the sky for signs of coming weather (Matthew 16:2-3).
- The North Star is a “constant” so dependable it can be used for navigation (and was depended upon for navigation before our modern navigational equipment was available).
- Days and years have been and are determined by the light-bearing bodies God created.
- **Seasons:** An astronomer can determine the season simply by noting the position of constellations in the sky: The seasons are determined by the sun's position in the sky (as viewed from earth...or the earth's position around the sun as viewed in space). Likewise, the seasons established by God continue to determine the time for planting, harvest, going out to sea, etc.
- God promises that the seasons He set in motion on the fourth day of Creation will continue until He destroys this earth on Judgment Day (cf: Genesis 8:22).

The greater and the lesser

"Greater" and "lesser" do not necessarily refer to a greatness in size, but can also be a reference to magnitude and intensity.

Day 5

Verses 20-23 Emptiness in air and water

- **SUPPLYING NEED:** “Let there be animals to fill sky and waters.”

Let the waters abound

- Literally, "swarm, teem." (cf: Exodus 1:7, 8:3; Psalm 105:30)
- According to its own kind (just as with the plants)
- God’s creation of WATER animals included everything in the waters...from large sea mammals, to fish, to plankton and to small microscopic organisms. The waters do certainly TEEM with life!
- God’s creation of AIR animals included every flying thing...birds, insects, etc.

God blessed all these and said, "be fruitful and multiply and fill. . ."

God also gave this command to Adam and Eve after their creation. God again repeated it to Noah and his family after the Flood. God's will is that the earth be filled. Population control goes contrary to God's intent (especially when accompanied with fear that doesn't believe that God will provide for what He gives). God blessed His Creation with the ability to reproduce. By that blessing, His Creation was and is able to reproduce abundantly. God has built an incredible reproduction potential into His Creation, and the reproduction is of itself amazing!

Day 6, Part I

Verses 24-25 Emptiness on Earth

- **SUPPLYING NEED:** “Let there be land animals.”

- “The beasts of the earth” = what we know as “wild animals”
- “Cattle” = what we know as “domesticated animals”
- According to their own kind - as with plants, air and water animals
- “Creeping things on the land,” are parallel to the “every living thing that moves” which God created for the water.

Day 6, Part II

Verses 26-31 and 2:18-25 The crowning work of all God's Creation was the creation of man. Man was created in God's image (see vocabulary above). Man was created to have dominion over all things. The earth was created for MAN. The rest of Creation and mankind are NOT equal. The resources of the earth are given by God for man to USE, as wise stewards and not carelessly nor wastefully. It will be good to recall these things and compare them with the effects of sin and God's curse after the fall into sin. The Creation account in Genesis makes a clear distinction between man and animals.

Verse 29 indicates that Adam and Eve were vegetarians. After the Flood, the content of this verse is repeated but the animals are also included for food. Then, because animals would be used for food, God also gave them a fear of man (Genesis 9:2ff).

The creation of man in Genesis chapter one, reports the creation of Adam and Eve in a somewhat abbreviated form. The highlights of the Creation are noted: the pre-Creation discussion by God ("Let us make man in our image..."), the actual Creation, the command to multiply and subdue the earth. The creation of Adam and Eve is not separated in chapter 1. God simply refers to "them" in the plural (cf: Genesis 1:28).

The account of Adam and Eve's creation in chapter 2 is not separate from the sixth day (cf. 1:27). Moses by inspiration of the Holy Ghost simply goes into more detail in chapter 2 which he did not cover in chapter 1.

God began by creating Adam. First, God formed a man out of dirt. At this point he was merely earth. However, once God breathed "the breath of life" into that earthen form, then Adam became a living being.

Eve's creation is equally miraculous. First, God said it was not good for man to be alone but that He would make for him a comparable/suitable helper for him. God showed Adam all the animals to demonstrate to Adam that he was different from them and that his companion would not come from among them. Adam gave names to all the animals (which demonstrates his wisdom) and found no one for himself. Then God took a part ("rib" includes more than just the bone. It is also the flesh. In other words, God took a "piece" out of Adam's side) of Adam and from it He created Eve. Then God presented her to Adam and thereby established marriage.

Adam named his new counterpart "woman" for she was "taken out of man." In the Old Testament Hebrew, there is a play on words. The Hebrew "*ish*" = "man." The Hebrew "*ish-ah*" = "woman" and is the same word as "man" except with a feminine ending-literally: "a female man."

The nakedness of Adam and Eve was not noticed nor were they ashamed because there was no sin in the world. Where there is no sin there is no shame in uncovered bodies. This changed dramatically as we will see in the next lesson.

Day 7

Chapter 2:1-3

Everything was created in six days and on the seventh day God ceased His Creation. God's "resting" is not rest due to fatigue. Rather "He rested" means "He stopped." After six days, God's Creation was complete, therefore, He stopped creating. God then set the seventh day aside (sanctified) as a day of rest. Many generations later, God's sanctification of the seventh day became the basis for the Sabbath Day in the Old Testament Law (cf. Exodus 20:8ff).

The Sabbath Day is part of the Old Testament Ceremonial Law and is no longer binding because Jesus, the True Sabbath Rest has come and has given us eternal rest (cf: Colossians 2:16-17; Hebrews chapters 9-11). However,

the Sabbath Day principle of rest for the body and spiritual nourishment is still valid and important. Therefore we should ". .. not despise preaching and His Word but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it." (Luther's explanation to the third commandment).

Additional Scripture:

Exodus 20:11; Psalm 90:1-2,10 (demonstrates the sharp contrast between God-Creator-and man-creation); Psalm 104; Romans chapter 1(describes worshiping the creation rather than Creator-a common sin in our day); Romans 1:20 (we learn much about God by studying His Creation); Romans 4:17; Hebrews 3:4; 11:3.

Preservation: *Psalm 145:15-16; Matthew 6:26-30*

Resources:

Bible History Commentary, Franzmann - pp. 12ff
Bible History References, Rupprecht - volume 1 p. 1ff
The People's Bible - Genesis, Jeske pp. 9ff
Sydow's Catechism - Questions 116-128

STUDENT PRAYER

Dear God, thank You for Your amazing Creation! Teach me to remember how You created all things so that when I see all the wonderful things in the world, I will remember that You are the one who gives them to me. Thank you for making me and taking care of me each day. Amen.

PRESENTATION

This lesson is one with almost limitless possibilities because the wonder of God's creation is so great. The importance of this lesson is becoming greater with each passing year. As students are more and more inundated with the world's evolutionary philosophy, they will need more and more clear direction from God's Word. If this foundation is missing, they may easily become trapped in a theistic evolution, a mixture of truth and falsehood that compromises the glory of God and greatly endangers their faith.

While we stand in awe of our Creator, we can stand in equal awe of Him as our PRESERVER. After leading your students to awe and thanksgiving to God for His wonderful creation, then also lead them to realize that this same Great Creator takes care of each one of them day by day. Impress on the children that with just the POWER of His WORD, God was able to create all things. That same POWERFUL WORD is what preserves and cares for them. That same POWERFUL WORD is what also saves them for it is God's Word about Jesus that brings them to faith and gives salvation.

Strive to impress the uniqueness of man's creation upon the students. Stress that God created Adam and Eve in His own image which is what sets them apart. The means by which God created man is also different (dust, rib vs. only His Word), but the Creation in God's image far exceeds the means of creation in importance.

The presentation of Law and Gospel to the students in this lesson is not something that will be easily done without looking ahead to the next lesson (a lesson which very much centers on Law and Gospel). At Creation, sin did not yet exist. In the students' present-day world, sin is prominent. The contrast between these two worlds will provide an open door for a presentation of the "core Gospel truths" that should be a part of each lesson.

Having led the students to stand in complete awe and amazement of their present world, remind them that what we know today is corrupted by sin and incredibly less amazing than God’s original Creation which was perfect. This comparison will also serve well to highlight the seriousness of sin and the wondrous glory of our God.

There are so many things in the world that testify to the wonders of God’s Creation—a piece of fruit, a leaf, a blade of grass with its veins, etc. Consider bringing an example of God’s Creation and use it as a discussion point in class.

Have students learn what God created on each day.

Ask students to think of something in Creation that testifies to God’s POWER, to His WISDOM, and to His LOVE, and then discuss these attributes of God in the context of their choices.

Frequently Asked Questions

QUESTION: In Genesis 2:19, we read, “...out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air...” How does this coincide with the earlier account in chapter 1?

ANSWER: Turn to Genesis 1:11. Notice that it was the power of God’s Word that created the plants but He did it through the earth. “*Let the earth bring forth grass , the herb...*”. Now turn to Genesis 1:24. Notice that again, although His Word created the animals, God used the earth as the source for them, “...*Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to its kind.*”

The resultant picture we are given is that the animals, like the plants, came forth out of the earth at the command of God’s Word. Genesis 2:19 could be translated (and better understood) as “*Out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field...*” Together with the preceding we know that God “formed them out of the ground” by commanding the earth to bring them forth.

QUESTION: When were the angels created?

ANSWER: The angels are spiritual beings whom God created to serve Him and His people (Hebrews 1:14). Although God doesn’t tell us exactly when He created them, we can be certain that it was within the six days of Creation since He tells us that within those days EVERYTHING was made that was made (Exodus 20:11, Colossians 1:16). At some time between the seventh day and the Fall into Sin, some of the angels rebelled against God and became the Devil and his evil angels.

APPLICATIONS

- **SEE CREATION:** Challenge your students to “keep their eyes open” in their everyday life for the wonders of God’s Creation. We so often pass right by the wonders God still provides, even in our sin-tainted universe.
- **SPACE:** The more we learn about the universe, the further our space probes go, the more we can be amazed at the sheer size of God’s Creation.
- **EVOLUTION:** Discuss evolution and use the Creation account to demonstrate the falsehoods of evolution. Lead the children to be able to recognize evolution in what they see and hear. Example: Whenever a tour guide or book says: “this is 3 million years old,” etc. This is VERY important because students may be taught to “be against” evolution and not know that the “facts” they are learning are really evolution. In discussing evolution vs. Creation it is important that the children not be left with the understanding that science and God’s Word are opposed to one another. The theory of evolution is not true science. The study of science testifies to the glory and wisdom of God. Science is a wonderful thing when observed and studied in the light of God’s Word.

- **HANDS-ON:** Perhaps plant a bean/pea seed in a clear glass/jar and watch its progress. Be amazed that water added to a seed causes a whole plant to spring forth—part of God’s reproduction Creation....cut an apple apart to show the little “safety pockets” in which the seeds are protected and discuss how the fruit would protect and feed the seeds as they grow and also feed us—just as God designed.
- **DEATH/LIFE:** Whenever we witness a death/funeral we are, in a way, seeing Creation in reverse. At Creation, God breathed “life” into an earthen form. That earthen form was nothing without the breath of life. When someone dies, the breath that God breathed into man leaves the body and what is left is, nothing (“dust you are and to dust you shall return” Genesis 3:19). On Judgment Day, God will rejoin each person’s “breath of life” with his body. Believers will then live forever in heaven and unbelievers will be forever in the misery of hell.
- **MAMMALS/MAN:** Man is scientifically categorized with mammals. There are obvious biological similarities. However, God’s Creation account so clearly puts man in a completely different category from the animals, that it seems best to uphold this difference in our teaching and application as well.
- **MARRIAGE:** What was created on the sixth day? The standard answer is: “Land animals and man.” We could also add “marriage.” When God created Eve and presented her to Adam, He created marriage and established the relationship between husband and wife in a marriage. Although the scope of this lesson does not allow for an extended discussion of marriage, it is important for children to trace marriage and what God says about it back to Creation.
- **CHRISTIAN ENVIRONMENTALISM:** In view of the modern world’s emphasis on preservation of the earth, it would be valuable to give the students a Christian viewpoint toward environmentalism. An extreme preservationist view (mother-earth, the animals are our brothers and sisters, etc) springs forth out of evolutionary thought and is completely unscriptural. A view that would automatically forbid use of the world’s resources is also unscriptural since God gave the earth and its resources to man for his use. **HOWEVER**, as wise stewards of God’s gifts, no child of God will want to use the earth and its resources in a foolish, destructive, or wasteful way.

PASSAGES

The First Article and Luther’s Explanation

Lower

Genesis 1:1 - “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

Psalms 36:6 - “O Lord, You preserve man and beast.”

Psalms 139:14 - “I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.”

Middle (any of the above and...)

Genesis 8:22 - “While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease.”

Psalms 37:25 - “I have been young, and now am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his descendants begging bread.”

Psalms 139:13-14 - “For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother’s womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well.”

Psalms 145:15-16 - “The eyes of all look expectantly to You and You give them their food in due season. You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.”

Hebrews 11:3 - “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.”

Upper (any of the above and...)

Genesis 1:27-28 - "So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it..."

Ephesians 4:24 - "...and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and true holiness."

Colossians 3:10 - "...and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him..."

HYMNS:

All Praise to God, Who Reigns Above - TLH #19

Oh, that I Had a Thousand Voices - TLH #30

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty - #TLH #39

We Sing the Almighty Power of God - TLH #43

Beautiful Savior - TLH #657

How Great Thou Art - CLC Worship Supplement (2000) #744

Appendix:

There is a wealth of fine writing on the subject of Creation/evolution. Two samples are presented below. Both selections effectively demonstrate the marvel of God's Creation and the greatness of His power.

There Is No God?

Condensed from MIAMI HERALD

*Jim Bishop**

There is no God. All of the wonders around us are accidental. No almighty hand made a thousand-billion stars. They made themselves. No power keeps them on their steady course. The earth spins itself to keep the oceans from falling off toward the sun. Infants teach themselves to cry when they are hungry or hurt. A small flower invented itself so that we could extract digitalis for sick hearts.

The earth gave itself day and night, tilted itself so that we get seasons. Without the magnetic poles man would be unable to navigate the trackless oceans of water and air, but they just grew there.

How about the sugar thermostat in the pancreas? It maintains a level of sugar in the blood sufficient for energy. Without it, all of us would fall into a coma and die.

Why does snow sit on mountaintops waiting for the warm spring sun to melt it at just the right time for the young crops on farms below to drink? A very lovely accident.

The human heart will beat for 70 or 80 years without faltering. How does it get sufficient rest between beats? A kidney will filter poison from the blood, and leave good things alone. How does it know one from the other?

Who gave the human tongue flexibility to form words, and a brain to understand them, but denied these gifts to all other animals?

Who showed a womb how to take the love of two persons and keep splitting a tiny ovum until, in time, a baby would have the proper number of fingers, eyes and ears and hair in the right places, and come into the world when it is strong enough to sustain life?

There is no God?

**Jim Bishop, popular author of 21 books, including "The Day Christ Died" and "The Day Kennedy was Shot," died in 1987. This column, written in the 1960's was a favorite of his wife, Kelly.*

The Doctrine of Creation

Excerpted from "*The Abiding Word*," pp. 14ff, CPH, 1946

Theodore Laetsch

All of God's creatures are wonderful, especially man. What an amazing creation is our eye! It dilates and contracts according to the needs of vision. It is a world of tender nerves and muscles, which receive millions of light rays and pictures and tell our soul how the outside world looks. The ear is a musical instrument such as no human art can produce. In it are 4,300 delicate rods, which vibrate with every sound as the strings of a harp, through which our mind perceives the wonders of sound and, above all, hears the greatest wonder, the Word of God. In a short time the stomach changes food so that it can be assimilated by the body. The blood is pumped by the heart into the remotest parts of the body. In a normal adult, the heart contracts and expands about 70 times a minute, 100,800 times a day, 36,792,000 times in a year. The lungs work just as unceasingly: through thousands of cells they inhale and exhale. What marvelous instruments are the organs of speech, mouth, throat, tongue, teeth! Thought and speech are an incomprehensible miracle; so are understanding, knowledge, memory, consciousness.

All plants animals and men are made up of millions of little cells, which may be seen and studied under powerful microscopes. Each tiny, little cell is a marvelous creation of God, endowed with unbelievable properties and powers. Let me read to you a few lines from Theodore Graebner, *God and the Cosmos*, p. 65:

"...However, the amazement of the student increases when he considers that these chromosomes are the carriers or determiners of all hereditary traits or characters. Small as they are, they consist of still smaller bodies, called genes, these again built up out of molecules, and the molecules out of atoms. The genes of the egg (female) and sperm (male) cells combine into new patterns, and upon the composition of these patterns depends every character, whether physiological or mental. From the manner in which in the moment of conception these genes become distributed everything which distinguishes each of us individually from every other human being had its origin. Not only our racial characters, which make us members of the human species, but the individual characters, the color of the hair and the eyes, the length and shape of our fingernails, acuteness of sight or hearing, our ability to hold a musical note or to remember dates and names, our emotional natures, our intellectual preferences, our likes and dislikes, have been established through this organization of the inscrutable specks of protoplasm which were organized in this original cell, or ovum, from which each of us had his beginning, in a mass so small (1/125 of an inch) that it can be represented by a dot which you make on the margin of this page with a well-sharpened pencil.