

## Principles Of The Faith 6

Creation & Providence

### God Created The Universe Out Of Nothing

- ▶ Gen 1:1; Ps. 33:6,9; John 1:3; Col 1:16, Rev. 4:11
- ▶ Acts 14:15, 17:24,25; Isa. 45:18; Rev 10:6
- ▶ Heb 11:3 (NASB or NIV trans.) & Rom 4:17
- ▶ There was a time when Creation did not exist (Ps. 90:2)
- ▶ God brought Creation into existence through His divine Word or command
- ▶ There was no pre-existing universe of space/matter; this universe was created *ex nihilo* (out of nothing).
- ▶ The universe was solely created by the will and purpose of God (Rev 4:11) and did not “accidentally” come into existence.

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### God Created The Spiritual Universe

- ▶ This creation involved the invisible spiritual things (the Heavens) and the visible material things (the earth) and also the structure, order and authority (thrones, dominions) Colossians 1:16, Ps. 148:2-5
- ▶ Angels and other heavenly beings were created by God.
- ▶ God did not just create the heavens but “all that is in them” – the angels, tabernacle, altar etc.
- ▶ Rev 10:6, Acts 4:24, Neh. 9:6; Ps. 103:21, 148:2

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### The Special Creation of Adam and Eve

- ▶ Genesis 1:26-28, chapter 2, 1 Corinthians 11:8,9
- ▶ Created by a special and deliberate act of God.
- ▶ Not by random chance or natural selection
- ▶ Adam is formed from the “adamah” (ground / dust) not from another creature
- ▶ Eve (woman) is formed directly out of man and does not “evolve” from any animal form.
- ▶ Man is “breathed into” by God and receives God’s life and is made in God’s image with God’s moral attributes
- ▶ Humankind was always meant to be Spirit-indwelt, an image of God and a temple of the Holy Spirit which is why the Son of God could become incarnate as Jesus.

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## Creation – Distinct from God

- ▶ Creation is both distinct from God and dependent on God: Job 12:10, Acts 17:25,28, Col. 1:17; Heb 1:3, Eph 4:6
- ▶ Materialism: Matter is all there is and all that matters
- ▶ Pantheism: The universe is God or is part of God, God and the Universe are virtually synonymous
- ▶ Panentheism – God interpenetrates Creation but extends infinitely beyond it as well.
- ▶ Dualism: God and the Universe exist side by side as two different ultimate forces. God is the good, the material universe is evil. (Greek thought)
- ▶ Deism: God made Creation then stopped intervening in it, like a Watchmaker who makes a watch, winds it up then lets it run on its own.

## Created For God's Glory & Pleasure

- ▶ Gen 1:4,10,12,18,21,31, Is. 43:7; Rev 4:11; Jer 10:12,16
- ▶ The Creation was made for God's glory and pleasure
- ▶ The Creation is good and very good
- ▶ The Creation is not inherently evil
- ▶ The Creation is to be enjoyed with thanksgiving  
I Tim 4:1-5, 6:9-10,17,18

## Creation & Evolution 1

- ▶ The Bible is clear that Creation is a deliberate and good act of God not an accidental or random process.
- ▶ The Bible is clear that the Creation has fallen from a good state to a less good state (not the other way around)
- ▶ The Bible is clear that God created individual specific "kinds" which seem to be at the "family/genus" level (Kingdom-Phylum-Class-Order-Family-Genus-Species)
- ▶ Humans did not come from any lower species
- ▶ God did not just create time/matter and leave the rest to chance, He is intimately involved with every detail of His Creation and "every sparrow"

## Creation & Evolution 2

- ▶ Creation does not imply superstition or "magic"
- ▶ Creation implies a rational, ordered and lawful God who is in control of all things
- ▶ Creation attests to the fact that a high level of order requires work and energy, and the input of "information" in a purposeful and intelligent way.
- ▶ Atheistic evolution ( no God, just matter evolving) is both against Scripture and against all statistical probability
- ▶ Unguided evolution should produce many more ugly and defective outcomes than beautiful and effective outcomes yet we do not see that in nature.

### Creation & Evolution 3

- ▶ There are many views on the “time periods” in Genesis such as the day/age theory, the gap theory, 6 literal 24 hr days theory and others.
- ▶ The word “yom” (day) can mean a longer than 24 hr period of time e.g years, but not billions of years
- ▶ However long the 6 days are they are definite times in which God purposefully created the Universe according to His word, they do not allow for the random assembly of creation
- ▶ There are significant problems with many radiation-based and fossil-based dating methods.



### Indications of a Fairly Recent Creation

- ▶ No fully human civilization appears before 10,000 BC
- ▶ There are no human written records before about 5000 B.C
- ▶ If humans had been around for a very long time we would all be genetically very similar due to inter-marriage
- ▶ The hominid remains in Africa are nothing like what we would consider to be a human being or what the Bible records as being a human being with advanced language skills
- ▶ The length of time claimed for evolution would mean that certain processes e.g erosion if worked for that length of time would have eradicated the earth.
- ▶ Life seems recent but the Earth seems ancient which is consistent with the Flood



### God's Providence

- ▶ God is continually involved with all created things in such a way that He:
  - 1) keeps them existing and maintains the properties with which He created them
  - 2) cooperates with created things in every action, directing their distinctive properties to cause them to act as they do
  - 3) directs them to fulfill His purposes
- ▶ The book of Jonah places great emphasis on God's providence (decrees, calling, storms, whales, plants, worms) and free will (Jonah, God, the sailors, the King of Nineveh, the repentance of the people of Nineveh).



### Preservation

- ▶ God keeps all created things existing and maintains the properties with which He created them
- ▶ Job 34; 14-15, Ps 104:29, Heb 1:3, Col 1;17, 2 Peter 3:7, 10-12; Neh 9:6
- ▶ God's natural laws are God's way of ensuring that Creation operates in a stable, rational, and orderly way so that life can exist and God's glory can be manifest to His creatures
- ▶ God's natural laws do not operate apart from God but remain in force because He has set them up to do so.



## Concurrence

- ▶ God cooperates with created things in every action directing their distinctive properties to cause them to act as they do.
- ▶ Inanimate: Ps 135:6,7 Ps 104:4, Job 37:6-13, 38:22-30
- ▶ Animals: Matt 6:26, Ps 104:27-29, Job 38:39-41
- ▶ "Chance Events": Prov 16:33
- ▶ Affairs of Nations: Jon 12:23, Ps. 22:28, Acts 17:26, 14:16; Daniel 4:34-35
- ▶ All Aspects of Our Lives: Ps. 75:6-7; Jer 10:23, Ps. 139:16
- ▶ God works and we work, God sometimes gives us 'limited free will' – free will within His set boundaries so His ultimate purposes are accomplished no matter what we do. Our choices are real and we will be held accountable for them.



## Evil

- ▶ The word evil has two meanings: adverse circumstances that are 'not good' and moral wickedness.
- ▶ God brings about "evil" as in adverse circumstances but does not bring about "evil" as in God Himself being morally evil.
- ▶ A government does not "allow" evil (it has laws against it) but evil still happens within the kingdom because people exercise free will. God as King forbids and judges evil when it occurs
- ▶ God can bring about evil by being good. For instance the goodness of Jesus inevitably brought about the Cross (an evil act by wicked men). In a fallen world a good act can result in an evil reaction, which God then judges (e.g. Moses' miracles result in Pharaoh hardening his heart)



## Evil - 2

- ▶ In God's justice God causes evil to occur to those who choose evil but this is just and good.
- ▶ If Creation is to have a high degree of freedom (which is good) then it must contain the possibility of this freedom being abused.
- ▶ God works, over time, to sustain and strengthen those who choose good and to punish and destroy those who choose evil so as to eventually weed out and eliminate evil from Creation.
- ▶ God gives those currently making wrong choices a mechanism to repent and make right choices.
- ▶ Creation is given every possibility of making right choices and is encouraged to do so but will be held accountable for wrong choices.
- ▶ God is so powerful that He can use our wrong choices for His glory and God knows who will make wrong choices but He does not ever force anyone to make a wrong choice. (He tempts no man).



## Government

- ▶ God has a purpose in all that He does in the world and He providentially governs or directs all things to fulfill His purposes.
- ▶ Ps 103:19, Daniel 4:35, Daniel 7, Rom 11:36, 1 Cor 15:27, Eph. 1:11
- ▶ God exercises His will at various levels, just as a parent closely directs a small child but gives more freedom to an older child.
- ▶ God's government is personal not mechanical or philosophical and is consistent with the good of His Creation and His ultimate plans and glory.

