

KEN HAM

Daily



365 MUSINGS,
INSPIRATIONS,
ANSWERS

First printing: December 2024

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Master Books® is a division of the New Leaf Publishing Group, LLC.

ISBN: 978-1-68344-397-1

ISBN: 978-1-61458-923-5 (digital)

Library of Congress Number: 2024947247

Interior and Cover Design by Diana Bogardus

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This collection of 365 daily readings is thoughtfully organized into key categories that highlight different aspects of Christian living, guiding you to apply biblical wisdom in every area of your life.

Science: Discover the harmony between faith and science, with readings that delve into God's design of the universe, exploring the evidence of creation, natural order, and scientific apologetics.

Apologetics: Gain insights into defending your faith and logic and reason, equipped with daily reflections that strengthen your ability to articulate the truth of the Gospel in a secular world

Theology: Deepen your understanding of Christian doctrines through Biblical theology, as you are guided through key concepts such as the nature of God, salvation, and the authority of Scripture.

Family: Build a Christ-centered home with reflections on parenting, marriage, and family life, grounded in Biblical principles that nurture love, respect, and discipleship within your home

Church: Explore the vital role of the Church in the Christian life with an emphasis on community, worship, and mission, reminding believers of their purpose within the body of Christ.

Resources: Dive into practical resources, including recommended books, tools for study, and strategies for engaging culture, to enhance your spiritual growth and Biblical worldview.



Ken Ham is the Founder and CEO of Answer in Genesis and the visionary behind the highly-acclaimed Creation Museum and the world-renowned Ark Encounter.

Each year, Ken speaks to hundreds of thousands of children and adults on the topics addressed in these dailies. He has authored over 40 best-selling books and resources and is a thought leader, upholding the authority of the Bible from the very first verse.

As a husband, father of 5, and grandfather of 18, Ken has a heart for passing on a legacy of faith to the next generation as well as equipping this present generation to defend their faith and share the message of salvation.

A WORD TO READERS

FROM KEN HAM

There are many daily devotionals available for Christians, but I want to offer something different for Christian families. This resource is truly unique. The 365 readings in this publication address the cultural and spiritual issues of our time, combining apologetics with teaching on a biblical worldview and sound doctrine. Each reading equips Christians to defend the faith and be effective witnesses in an increasingly anti-Christian culture. We could describe it as a daily reading that is:

- scientific yet devotional
- apologetics-based
- grounded in a biblical worldview
- culturally relevant
- designed for the whole family.

I envision this resource being used for personal devotions, in classrooms by teachers, for Sunday or Bible school classes, and more. My ultimate hope, however, is that it will be used for family devotions. Each reading offers a wonderful opportunity for fathers to take the lead in disciplining themselves to guide their families in daily teaching. It's like delivering a mini-sermon each day, with all the preparation already done for you.

These daily readings are based on articles I've written over my fifty years of active apologetics ministry, with editing help and contributions from others at times. I pray this resource will be a blessing to you and your family.

EXPRESSIONS OF GRATITUDE

I want to especially thank Answers in Genesis speaker and writer Avery Foley for her work in the initial editing of these daily readings, and the staff at Master Books for working so hard to get this publication produced in record time! I also want to extend my gratitude to everyone who contributed to these articles in various ways over the past fifty years.

Why Are We Seeing Intolerance and Hate Exhibited Increasingly Against Christians?

In recent times, we've experienced increased accusations against Christians that they are intolerant, use hate speech, and are unloving. This occurs particularly regarding issues surrounding the LGBTQ worldview involving gender issues, gay "marriage," abortion, etc. But what is really going on? Consider these verses before we analyze what is happening in our culture:

For behold, your enemies make an uproar; those who hate you have raised their heads (Psalm 83:2). Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters (Matthew 12:30).

We live in a time where we've seen a dramatic change in the dominant worldview in our culture. In the past, the Judeo-Christian ethic permeated the culture as a result of how the nation started. Certainly, not all the founding fathers of America were Christians, but nonetheless, they by and large adopted a worldview based on the Bible. Even most non-Christians in generations past adopted a Christianized worldview, believing marriage was between a man and a woman, abortion was murder and wrong, and there were only two genders of humans, for examples.

But as each generation became more indoctrinated in atheistic evolutionary humanism that permeated the public school system and as many church leaders gave up the history in Genesis 1–11 and adopted evolutionary ideas, the younger generations basically abandoned the Bible as a foundation for their worldview. Many became more consistent with the foundation that man determines truth and built a worldview of moral relativism that now permeates the culture.

In a culture where moral relativism is the dominant worldview, this clashes with the worldview based on the absolutes founded in the Word of God. This is similar to what we read in Judges 21:25, *In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.*

When there was no king to tell them what to do, everyone did what was right in their own eyes. In other words, when there's no absolute authority, anything goes. However, when anything goes, there is something that doesn't, and that is the absolutes of Christianity. This is the clash we now see in our culture. Two worldviews in conflict — moral relativism conflicts with the absolutes of Christianity. But, because moral relativism is now the dominant worldview, those holding to the absolutes of Christianity are considered the enemy!

Let me explain: I've spoken with people holding the LGBTQ worldview who accuse Christians of being intolerant and filled with hate speech. They claim all they want is freedom for their views and that Christians are intolerant of them, as they don't want them to have such freedom. Actually, I would claim from all we've seen in recent times that ultimately many of those with the LGBTQ worldview don't just want freedom for their views, they want total compliance and acceptance of their views by everyone. And those who don't comply and accept are then persecuted.

But regardless of that, I've had the following types of conversations with them. I'll use KH for my statements and LGBTQ for the statements of the person I was talking to. The conversation went something like this:

LGBTQ: "We allow all views on marriage and gender. We only want freedom for all views, whereas you Christians are intolerant of this."

KH: "But you don't allow all views on these issues."

LGBTQ: "Yes, we do, but you won't tolerate people allowing all views, and you speak with hate against us."

KH: "But you are not allowing my view, which is built on God's Word that there's only one marriage – a man and a woman – and that there are only two genders – male and female – all based on God's Word."

LGBTQ: "But now you are intolerant of our views, as you are only holding to those views based on the Bible. And that's hate speech."

KH: "But you're not tolerant of my view, which states there is only one view, the view based on God's Word. And just because I hold a very different view to you isn't hate. You are interpreting my insistence on believing what God's Word states as hate. It is not hate."

We were at an impasse. Claiming to allow all views does not allow the view that there's only one right view, and that is God's! That clash is irreconcilable at the worldview level. The ultimate reason for this clash of worldviews is because there are two different foundations. One is founded on man's word and one on God's Word. Now, until the person with the foundation on man's word changes that foundation, they will not change their worldview. The only solution to this battle is for people to put their faith and trust in God's Word, receive the free gift of salvation, and build their worldview on what God has revealed to us.

In reality, those who claim they hold all views and thus are the supposed tolerant ones are the most intolerant of all, as they can't allow someone to have a worldview that states they are wrong. In fact, I've had such people say to me, "What gives you the right to claim you have the truth?" I answer, "But you claim you have the truth in claiming your position is the right one. So you're claiming you have the truth and I don't." There's that same clash again. When I explain to them that the God of the Bible is the absolute authority and determines what is absolute truth as He is our Creator, they have replied, "There is no such position as absolute truth." My response then is, "Are you absolutely sure about that?"

God's Word makes it clear one is either for or against Christ. There is no in-between. Those stating they allow all views are actually against what God's Word clearly states concerning how a person defines marriage, gender, etc. One can understand why this worldview clash is not going to be solved unless people change their foundation. The only answer is the truth of God's Word and the saving gospel. It's a spiritual solution that's needed.

Actually, I lay a lot of blame on much of the Church that has supported generations being educated in an anti-God education system; compromised God's Word in Genesis; and, in essence, allowed generations to have the wrong foundation of man's word instead of God's Word. A lukewarm Church, compromising Genesis with evolution and millions of years, has greatly contributed to the younger generations being captured by the world and permeated with a worldview of moral relativism.

You are a part of the battle that began in a garden 6,000 years ago between good and evil, light and darkness, and those who build their house on the rock and those who build their house on the sand.

Many times over the years, I've had a number of conversations with Christians who won't accept the days of creation as ordinary days and vehemently defend millions of years and other evolutionary beliefs. Often, the person talking to me has quoted various Christian academics, well-known theologians/Christian leaders, or certain church fathers, claiming that I should give up my literal Genesis position because these academics/famous Christians do not agree with me. My answer to them has been, "But what does God clearly state in His Word? I judge the people you quoted against God's Word, not the other way around."

I have certainly been scoffed at and mocked over the years because of my position. Now don't get me wrong. I respect scholarship. But regardless, we need to recognize that we could have 100 PhDs from Harvard University, but compared to what God knows, we would still know nearly nothing.

When I teach children about dinosaurs, creation, and evolution, I like to ask them these questions:

"Has any human being always been there?" They answer, "No."

"Has any scientist always been there?" They answer, "No."

"Does any human being know everything?" They answer, "No."

"Who is the only One who has always been there?" They shout out, "God."

"Who is the only One who knows everything?" They shout out, "God."

I then ask: "Who is the One we should always trust first? God or the scientist?" They call out, "God."

And I could add, "Whom should we always trust first: God, the scientist, the theologian, the teacher, the pastor, the professor?" And the answer will always be "God."

In a way, that sounds rather simplistic. In fact, I've had people who oppose my position claim that I have too simplistic a belief to just take Genesis 1–11 as it is written. Now when someone claims it's too simplistic, I believe this is showing a problem we all have to battle with because it's a part of our nature, the sinful nature we have, because we are descendants of Adam. The problem is pride. God's Word has a lot to say about pride:

When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom (Proverbs 11:2).

Do you see a man who is wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him (Proverbs 26:12).

And God's Word tells how to gain wisdom and knowledge:

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge (Proverbs 1:7).

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 9:10).

I would rather stand before the Lord and say that I'm guilty of simplistically believing what His Word states in Genesis than trust the word of fallible humans and reinterpret God's Word.

I'm reminded about this so-called "simplistic" approach when I read what Jesus said about children:

Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 18:3–4).

It is so much easier for children who have not had years of indoctrination from the world to believe God's Word as written. Reading Genesis for them is just like reading a history book. Well, it is history, and history

as God had it recorded for us. Sadly, the more educated people become, many find it harder to believe God's Word as written in Genesis. And it's not because Genesis is literal history, but I believe it's because of pride. And a reason for that is we all have an underlying problem. It doesn't matter who we are, we all have sinful hearts.

[F]or all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).

The origin of sin is found in Genesis 3 when Adam and Eve were tempted by the devil to disobey God. Now consider two elements of the temptation that help us understand our sin nature:

He said to the woman, "Did God actually say ...?" (Genesis 3:1).

Note that the first attack by the devil was on the Word of God to get Adam and Eve to doubt God's Word so that doubt would lead to unbelief.

For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil (Genesis 3:5).

The second part of the temptation was really to offer them to be their own god. We know Adam took the fruit and disobeyed God and brought sin and the judgment of death into the world. God's Word states:

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come (Romans 5:12–14). So we have that sin nature. And Genesis 3:1 and 3:5 sum up that nature.

Our propensity will be to doubt the Word of God, as we would rather trust the word of man. I see that over and over again with Christian leaders/academics who would rather trust man's word (beliefs) about millions of years and evolution instead of God's Word as it's clearly stated in Genesis 1–11.

Also, we have this propensity to be our own god. We want to decide truth for ourselves. We see ourselves as being proud of what we know. We think we can reason correctly by ourselves, and so we have that problem of intellectual pride wanting intellectual respectability.

I believe this is why there is so much compromise in the Church when it comes to God's Word in Genesis. Our heart is such that we would rather trust man's word than God's Word, and so we have a problem with intellectual pride, and thus we cave to peer pressure. We must guard against this. However, none of us like being called anti-intellectual or anti-academic. And we will be called that if we believe in six literal days of creation and a young earth and universe.

But I often think about those in Hebrews 11 and the Christian martyrs of the past. They were sawn in half, thrown to lions, burned alive, lived in caves, were destitute, and suffered many atrocities. And yet, so many Christians today cave because they are belittled by secular academics for believing the "simplistic" account of creation, the Fall, the Flood, and the Tower of Babel as related in Scripture.

I wonder how many in the Church today would have stood with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego – would you?

Who Made God?

I have many secularists mock me as a Christian for believing in an eternal God. They've asked me the question, "So who made God?" They then claim it doesn't make sense to believe in an eternal God.

I do give them an answer, but then I ask them about what they believe.

So, what is the answer to the question of who made God? The Bible makes it clear that God exists in eternity. He has always existed. He didn't have a beginning. There are many verses of Scripture that attest to the fact that God is everlasting, eternal:

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable (Isaiah 40:28).

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God (Psalm 90:2).

To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen (1 Timothy 1:17).

The eternal God is your dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms (Deuteronomy 33:27).

At a conference once, a young boy about 10 years of age came up and asked me, "Sir, if God created us, who created God?" How do you answer that question for a young child?

I then said to him, "If someone made God, then you would have to have a bigger God." The boy replied, "Yes, sir." I said, "But now, you have a problem: who made the bigger God? You would then need a bigger, bigger God who made the bigger God who made God." I then said, "Now, you have a problem." The boy said, "I know." I then went on, "Who made the bigger, bigger God? Now, you would need a bigger, bigger, bigger God who made the bigger, bigger God who made the bigger God who made God." The young boy understood. We could keep going back with bigger and bigger and bigger and bigger forever and then have to keep going. The only thing that makes sense is that you would have to have the biggest God of all, the infinite, eternal God of the Bible. The only one true God who has always existed. He had no beginning.

Now that is difficult, really impossible, for us to understand because we are created, finite beings. The space, mass, and time universe we live in was created. We think in terms of everything having a beginning because we are finite beings who have a beginning. This means there will always be a faith aspect to understanding who God is. We can't scientifically prove God exists because we don't have all information, only God does. That's why God's Word states, *And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him (Hebrews 11:6).*

However, it's important to understand this is not blind faith. It's a faith that makes sense of what we observe in this world, and observational science in many ways confirms this faith over and over again. The history recorded in the Bible makes sense of the evidence we observe in the present in biology, geology, astronomy, and so on.

Note that when you begin reading the first book of the Bible, it states, "In the beginning, God." In other words, God's Word starts with God. He exists. He is Creator. God's Word doesn't set out to prove God exists; it states God exists! As He states over and over again in Scripture, "I am."

I explain all that to secularists, including the faith aspect, when they ask me about who made God, but then I ask them questions.

After my debate with Bill Nye in 2014,¹ we took questions that were submitted by audience members. One of the questions came from a young boy who asked, "Where did matter come from?" Bill Nye responded, "I don't know, it's a great mystery." I answered, "There is a book [the Bible] that tells us where matter came from."

Atheists may mock Christians for believing in an eternal God, but what do they believe? Where did matter come from? Why does anything exist? Where did energy come from? Why does time exist? Why does space exist? Is matter eternal? Did matter suddenly come from nowhere for no reason? They have no answers! They can have all sorts of opinions and beliefs, but the bottom line is that they have no definitive answer at all.

I remember atheist Richard Dawkins claiming the possibility that life was seeded on earth by aliens from outer space. Obviously, atheists can't explain how life on earth could arise from matter by chance random processes, so one of their ways around this is to claim life came from outer space. All they did was shift the origin of life on earth to another planet. But then we could ask where the aliens from another planet that seeded life on earth originated. Well, maybe other aliens seeded life on that planet to become aliens to seed life on earth. But then where did the aliens that seeded life on that other planet come from? Were there other aliens that seeded life on that planet so aliens could arise to seed life on another planet so aliens could arise and seed life on earth? I think atheists would be happy to believe in eternal aliens but not an eternal God. How do atheists explain the laws of nature that are immaterial? And why do these laws stay the same and not evolve?

It's the atheists who have a blind faith. They believe that space, mass, and time somehow eternally existed or came into existence for some reason, and somehow, matter gave rise to life against everything we observe and know about the laws of nature.

As I've said many times, atheism is a religion, a belief system. There is no nonreligious position. Atheists have a faith, but it's a blind faith that lacks credulity. Christians have faith, but it's an objective faith that makes sense of life and the universe and a faith that observational science confirms.

The first man, the head of the human race, rebelled against God bringing sin and death into the world. But God loved man so much, He provided a way of salvation for man so his sin could be forgiven and be able to spend eternity with the eternal God.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).

Where do you put your faith? In eternal matter? In eternal aliens?

Make sure your faith is in the eternal God who created all things and created the first man and woman.

Who Invented the Rainbow?

You can break up white light into its rainbow of colors using a prism to disperse the light rays. So, the rainbow is actually a result of the properties of light (refraction and dispersion) that God created on day one of creation week, when He said, *Let there be light* (Genesis 1:3).

He obviously created the entire electromagnetic spectrum, of which visible light is just a part. Now our eyes are designed to see seven colors with specific wavelengths divided out of visible light — red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet. Of course, there are many other visible colors made by mixing various combinations of these colors — such as pink, which can be made with the right mix of red and blue wavelengths. And if we consider all frequencies, there are as many colors (invisible to us) as the stars in the universe. But the true rainbow has seven colors.

God invented the rainbow. Who owns the rainbow? God! As God invented everything that enables a rainbow to exist, God obviously owns the rainbow. God owns everything. *Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it* (Deuteronomy 10:14).

Who gave the rainbow a special meaning? After the global Flood of Noah's day about 4,300 years ago, God made a promise. Pay close attention to what He says about ownership of the "[rain]bow":

"I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh" (Genesis 9:11–15).

Note God said, "my bow." He owns it. The One who created light and its properties designated that from that time onward, the rainbow, "my bow" (resulting from light's created properties of refraction and dispersion), would serve as a reminder that God would never again judge the earth with a global Flood.

So the One who created light — and who created our eyes so we could see the colors that make up visible light — declared that the rainbow would have a special meaning after the Flood. God said, "I have set my bow in the cloud." Yes, God owns the rainbow and gave it special meaning about 4,300 years ago when He spoke to Noah after the Flood.

Anytime we see the rainbow and its seven colors, we should be reminded that:

1. God judged the wickedness of man at the time of Noah — and the evidence of that judgment is seen over the whole earth. Most of the fossil record is the graveyard of the global Flood of Noah's day.
2. God had Noah build an Ark of salvation, and it had one door. Noah and his family went through this door into the Ark to be saved. Jesus said, *I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved* (John 10:9). Noah's ark is a picture of Jesus, of salvation. In judgment, God provides salvation as a gift for those who will receive it.

3. There will never be another global Flood as a judgment, but there is another judgment coming when God will judge with fire and make a new heavens and earth. It's also a reminder that man can't destroy the earth — God will at the time He has appointed. But in the meantime, *While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease* (Genesis 8:22).
4. God has provided an ark of salvation for those who will receive it so we can spend eternity with our Creator and not suffer the consequences of our sin of rebellion by being cast into hell for eternity. Just as there was one door on the Ark, there is only one door by which we can go to heaven.

We need to worship the One who invented the rainbow, and every time we see it be reminded of its true message. However, be warned. The devil is the great liar and deceiver.

And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him (Revelation 12:9).

You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies (John 8:44).

The devil takes whatever God has ordained and perverts it so that it is totally corrupted from what was first intended. For example, he perverts:

Marriage	corrupting this from the true created marriage of one man and woman to two men or two women or other perversions.
Sex	corrupting the created, rightful place for sex within marriage for one man and one woman to whatever is right in one's own eyes.
Gender	corrupting this from the created two genders – male and female – to however one wants to define gender.
Dominion	corrupting man's created dominion over the creation to the creation having dominion over man, as seen in the modern climate change religion.
Rainbow	corrupting this from the meaning of the seven-color rainbow given by God after the Flood to be associated with the anti-biblical LGBTQ worldview and other perversions.

Sadly, numerous churches and church leaders have adopted the devil's perversion of the rainbow and support the sinful lifestyles of those who reject true marriage as God created (one man and one woman) and reject God's created genders for humans (only two, male and female).

We must stand boldly against the devil's perversion of what God created and ordained:

I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints (Jude 3).

God gives us in His Word the true meaning of the rainbow.

Where Do You Draw the Line Between What Is Vital and What Is Not?

Often when I post on the vital importance of taking Genesis 1–11 as literal history, a number of Christians say the most important thing is the gospel, not what one believes about Genesis. They claim that whether or not Genesis is history is not a vital issue. They say it's not what is called a first-tier issue. Now, certainly, the gospel is the most important message in the universe, but there is a vital issue concerning how one takes Genesis that must be understood, nonetheless.

In Christian circles, a system exists, developed by theologians, that divides doctrines and other scriptural matters into first-tier, second-tier, and third-tier levels. This man-made categorization considers “first-tier” issues to be either “essential doctrines” or doctrines that are required for salvation or both.

I once heard a Christian leader's podcast where he declared that topics such as the days of creation and the age of the earth (and evolution) were not “first-order” issues. He essentially said that Christians could believe in millions of years and even theistic evolution (though he saw problems with that view) as long as they hold to the essentials of Scripture concerning doctrine and salvation. He does imply that there are people who hold to a literal Genesis (six literal days, young earth, etc.) and claim they use their views as a “litmus test” for whether one is a “real” Christian or not.

Now Romans 10:9 states: *[I]f you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*

Through the years, I have always emphasized in my teaching that salvation is not conditioned upon believing in six literal creation days or a young earth. Nowhere does God's Word state you have to believe such things to be saved. There are Christians who believe in millions of years and Christians who accept evolution. If they profess Christ as their Savior, I would not question their salvation in any way. So, I do not believe that what someone believes about the age of the earth or days of creation is a litmus test for whether they are a real Christian or not! Does it follow, then, that the days of creation, the age of the earth, and whether God used evolution are not important and thus are not first-tier issues?

Now, this is the problem with man-made systems imposed on Scripture. It's not as simple as the use of these systems would suggest. We have to understand the limitations of such man-made systems. So let me ask this instead: “Is biblical authority a first-tier issue?”

Let's consider the following. Does the Bible state you have to believe the following to be saved?

- Jesus walked on water.
- Jesus fed thousands as a miracle.
- Jesus healed the blind, deaf, and mute.
- The Israelites' shoes and clothes didn't wear out in the desert.
- Jonah was in a fish for three days.
- Jesus was born of a virgin.

The list could go on and on. The answer to each question is “no” — the Bible doesn’t say a person has to believe those accounts to be saved. So does that mean the list doesn’t matter then? Of course not, as these accounts are plainly taught in Scripture when you take the text as written. Is it important to believe in the list? To reject them is to undermine biblical authority. It ultimately opens the door to reject anything in Scripture.

So where do you draw the line between what’s vital (first tier) and what is not? Well, consider this verse: *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness* (2 Timothy 3:16).

Biblical authority is indeed a first-order (first-tier) issue.

What would be a litmus test to determine if someone is undermining biblical authority? Well, one way is to see if the person is working from the actual words of the text (exegesis) or if the person is taking ideas outside of Scripture and bringing them into the text and interpreting the words (eisegesis).

I’ve said so many times that it’s true that in the Church, people have different views of eschatology, modes of baptism, speaking in tongues, the Sabbath day, etc. But all these issues involve people arguing primarily from Scripture to justify their positions, not basing their ideas on influences outside Scripture.

However, when it comes to Genesis, all the different views within the Church, such as day-age theory, framework hypothesis, theistic evolution, local flood, and so on, have one thing in common. Every one of these positions involves taking man’s belief from outside the Bible, regarding millions of years (based on the religion of naturalism), and trying to fit old ages into Scripture. Many of these views involve adding biological evolution and astronomical evolution into Scripture. This approach uses eisegesis, not exegesis.

I assert that those who do not hold to a literal Genesis (i.e., six literal days, young earth, Adam made from dust and Eve from his side, global Flood, etc.) do so because they have been influenced by what the world is teaching regarding origins. This view permeates seminaries and Bible colleges, which produce most of our pastors. It is an attempt to add ideas into Scripture and force an interpretation on Genesis that undermines biblical authority. I believe this is a major contributing factor to the generational loss from the Church.

Now, how do I respond to Christian leaders who hold such a second-tier position on Genesis and biblical authority? Well, to quote the famous reformer Martin Luther:

“The ‘Days’ of Creation Were Ordinary Days in Length. We must understand that these days were actual days (*veros dies*), contrary to the opinion of the holy fathers. Whenever we observe that the opinions of the fathers disagree with Scripture, we reverently bear with them and acknowledge them to be our elders. Nevertheless, we do not depart from the authority of Scripture for their sake.”²

I ask that you pray for Christian leaders who don’t see Genesis and biblical authority as a vital issue. Pray that their hearts and minds would be opened so they can see how the authority of Scripture (especially its gospel message) is a “first-order” or “first-tier” issue. By not taking Genesis as it was written (as literal history), Christian leaders are undermining the authority of God’s Word.

Taking the Bible naturally, as written, according to the literature and its context, is of great importance.

**Man’s Fictional Account of History
vs. God’s True Account of History**

When I debated Bill Nye in 2014, Bill saw the debate as one of science versus the Bible. But it’s not science versus the Bible! That’s why one of the first things I did in the debate was to define terms.

In today’s world, we often hear statements like “Science disproves creation” or “Science proves evolution.” Whenever we hear such claims, the first thing we should ask is, “What do you mean by science?” When people talk to me about science and the Bible, I always start the conversation by asking them to define the word “science.” Most look at me with blank faces. Others will give all sorts of different explanations. It’s obvious that most people use the word “science,” but they have a nebulous understanding of what it means.

The word “science” comes from the Latin *scientia*, which means “knowledge.” When most people think of the word science, they tend to equate it with technology, yet secularists also equate the word science with molecules-to-man evolution and millions of years.

To help sort out the confusion, there needs to be an understanding that we can divide science into two categories:

Operational (or Observational) Science.	Historical Science.
<p>This refers to knowledge gained by direct observation (using the five senses) and based on repeatable testing. Such “science” (knowledge) has enabled scientists to build modern technology like airplanes and rocket ships. Whether one is a creationist or an evolutionist, we all use the same operational science. Thus, both evolutionists and creationists can be honored for their observational science. Creationists love observational science. Often, I hear atheists claim that creationists can’t be real scientists. Not only is that a ridiculous statement, but some of the most brilliant scientists in our history were creationists, such as Isaac Newton, Johannes Kepler, Michael Faraday, and many others.</p>	<p>This refers to knowledge about the past – in essence, history. This type of science cannot be observed directly or based on repeated testing, so we need other ways of finding knowledge. The Genesis account of origins gives us knowledge about the past, revealed by an infallible witness – God. Those who believe in Darwinian evolution claim to have knowledge concerning the past as well, but this knowledge is based upon the beliefs of fallible humans who did not witness the supposed evolutionary history. Genesis is the true account of historical science, whereas evolution is a fictional, historical science.</p>

The Bible is really God’s book of historical science, as it’s primarily a book of history. And where it touches on biology, geology, astronomy, anthropology, etc., it is totally accurate.

Thus, the battle between creation and evolution (the Genesis account versus man’s account of origins) is really a battle over historical science. The role of operational (or observational) science is that it can be used to confirm or refute one’s historical science.

Observational science (in geology, biology, astronomy, anthropology, etc.) confirms the account of origins in Genesis and refutes the evolutionary account. (Many of these confirmations are available on our website, AnswersInGenesis.org.)

Thus, when an atheist claims the origins battle is one of science versus the Bible, they are incorrect. The origins battle is one of man's historical science versus God's historical science. It's a battle of man's fictional account of history versus God's true account of history.

When listening to arguments that supposedly support evolution, you have to learn how to separate observational science and historical science. Here is one example to get you thinking in this way: if you see a claim that sedimentary rock strata containing fossils are millions of years old, then you need to sort out what is observational versus historical science. The statement that rocks are sedimentary rocks is one of observational science. Both creationists and evolutionists agree on what is directly observed.

But the claim that the rocks are millions of years old falls under historical science. It is not observational but rather an interpretation of the past. Biblical creationists would not agree with this interpretation but instead interpret the fossils as a deposit from the Flood of Noah's day or some post-Flood catastrophe that occurred only thousands of years ago.

Thus, observational science cannot disprove the Bible. We agree on the observational science but totally disagree on the historical science. The problem is not with the operational science but with the mistaken interpretation of unobserved history.

We need to understand that all facts are interpreted, and they are interpreted based on one's worldview. And one's worldview has a foundation, either God's Word or man's word. I find most people don't really understand that all the facts are interpreted. That's why evolutionists will often say to me that it's a fact that rocks are billions of years old, or it's a fact that life arose by chance. They didn't see those rocks forming. They didn't see life arise on earth. What they are stating are not facts but interpretations based on man's word, and that has many fallible assumptions associated with it.

O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you. Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called "knowledge" (1 Timothy 6:20).

The next time someone starts discussing issues of origins and science, ask them to define what they mean by "science." Before you can even discuss the topic, you all need to have the same understanding of that word, or you won't get anywhere. The same is true of the word "evolution." When someone is discussing evolution, ask them what they mean by that term. Some will say apelike creatures to man, others will say change. Unless one has the same definition of terms, discussions don't get anywhere.

Don't be led astray by man's false history/false knowledge.

What Was God Doing All That Time Before Creation?

One reason some people have given me for rejecting a young universe is that they think it somehow limits God. After all, what was He doing all that time before creation? But this question reflects a basic misunderstanding of God and time.

Because of my stand on a young universe, a man approached me and said, “But it makes no sense to believe in a young universe. After all, what was God doing all that time before He created?”

I answered, “What time do you mean?”

The person answered, “Well, it doesn’t make sense to say that God has always existed, and yet He didn’t create the universe until just 6,000 years ago.” Apparently, he was worried that God once had a lot of time on His hands with nothing to do.

I then went on to explain that because God has always existed, then it is meaningless to ask, “What was God doing all that time before He created?” No matter how far you were to go back in time, you would still have an infinite amount of time before He created! Even if the universe were billions or trillions or quadrillions of years old, you could still ask the same question.

I then answered, “But you are missing the fact that there was no time before God created.” Time is actually a created entity. The first verse of the Bible reads: *In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth* (Genesis 1:1).

A study of this verse reveals that God created time, space, and matter on the first day of creation week. No one of these can have a meaningful existence without the others. God created the space-mass-time universe. Space and matter must exist in time, and time requires space and matter. Time is only meaningful if physical entities exist and events transpire during time. “In the beginning” is when time began! There was no time before time was created!

When I’m teaching children, I like to explain it this way. There was no “before” God created. There was not even “nothing”! There was God existing in eternity. This is something humans, as finite created beings, can never really understand. That’s why the Bible makes it clear there is always a “faith” aspect to our understanding of God. Now, biblical faith is not against reason, but such things go way beyond our finite understanding.

And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him (Hebrews 11:6).

In Psalm 90:2, we read, *Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.*

So, what was “before” creation? God existing from everlasting to everlasting — God existing in eternity. Do you remember what God said to Moses when he asked God who he should say sent him to lead His people out of Egypt’s oppression?

God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM.’ And he said, ‘Say this to the people of Israel: ‘I AM has sent me to you’” (Exodus 3:14).

God is the great “I AM.” He exists in eternity. He was not created.

In Revelation 1:8, we read, “*I am the Alpha and the Omega,*” says the Lord God, “*who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.*”

Isaiah 43:10 records these words from God: “*You are my witnesses,*” declares the LORD, “*and my servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no God was formed, nor shall there be after me.*”

In other words, it’s a mistake to talk about what God was doing “before creation” because the concept of time (before, during, and after) did not come to be until day one of creation week. God exists — He is — He is the eternal self-existent One. He is outside of time.

The Bible makes it clear that God’s existence is completely separate from the history of this universe, which began in Genesis 1:1. In other words, there is no such thing as “prehistoric.” History began when it was first recorded — the first verse of Genesis. Now when we understand this and then also understand that the whole of creation, including Genesis 1:1, was accomplished in six days, we can begin to calculate how long ago God created the world.

Exodus 20:11 makes it clear that the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1) and everything else (all that is listed in Genesis 1) were created in six days: *For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.* Based on the way the word *day* is used in Genesis 1 (qualified by number, morning, evening, etc.), creation had to be six ordinary (approximately 24-hour) days. Many technical and popular articles show that the context requires this meaning.

Then the Bible lists very specific genealogies of the Messiah’s line in Genesis 5 and Genesis 11. We are told that Adam was 130 years old when he begat Seth. When Seth was 105 years old, he begat Enosh — and so these lists continue. When one adds up all the dates and other time references throughout Scripture, it is clear that “In the beginning” was about 6,000 years ago.

Now some Christian leaders have claimed that the Bible doesn’t give an absolute date for creation, so we can’t know how old the creation really is. However, the Bible does give us something much better than a date — a very specific history that allows us not only to determine the age of the universe but also to know all the essential details about God’s plan of redemption from the beginning of time, including the line of the promised Messiah.

One final point: Nowhere in the Bible do we find any suggestion of millions or billions of years. Belief in millions of years is really part of secular man’s religion, which attempts to explain life without God, instead of believing the true account of origins in Genesis that begins “In the beginning.” Our ability to trust God’s promise of salvation relies upon our ability to trust everything He says about history, from beginning to end. Thankfully, we serve a God we can trust in every detail. Though He is beyond space and time, He humbled Himself to become a man and die on the Cross for our sins. He also has given us a record of this history in His Word so that we can know it’s really true.

If we can’t trust His claims about the past, how can we trust His promises about the future?

What Should We Believe About “Interracial” Marriage?

One of the most-asked questions I’ve received when I talk about the origin of the so-called “races” is what I believe about what many call interracial marriage. When anyone asks me that question, I respond by saying, “Biologically, there is no such thing as interracial marriage.”

When I speak on the race issue, I first of all go to God’s Word to understand what God clearly teaches about the human race. We learn there was only one man to start with:

God made one man at the beginning: *[T]hen the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature* (Genesis 2:7).

Thus it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit (1 Corinthians 15:45).

Then we learn there was only one woman to begin with:

So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man (Genesis 2:21–22).

The man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living (Genesis 3:20).

All human beings descended from Adam and Eve. This means there is only one race of humans biologically: *And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place* (Acts 17:26).

Yes, all humans belong to one biological race descended from the first man and woman.

In 2000, the Human Genome Project that mapped the sequence of the human genome released their findings to the world and stated: “Dr. Venter (head of the Celera Genomics Corporation, Rockville, MD) and scientists at the National Institutes of Health recently announced that they had put together a draft of the entire sequence of the human genome, and the researchers unanimously declared, there is only one race—the human race.”³

Exactly what one would expect based on the Bible’s revealed human history — there is only one human race.

This means all humans belong to one human family. We are all related to each other, and all have the same two ancestors from 6,000 years ago: Adam and Eve. There is only one race biologically according to Scripture and confirmed by observational science. This means there is no such thing as “interracial marriage” from a perspective of biology.

However, there is an issue in regard to interracial marriage spiritually. Consider this principle given in Scripture for us that also applies to marriage:

Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? (2 Corinthians 6:14).

Applied to marriage, this principle means a Christian should never knowingly marry a non-Christian. Remember, one of the primary importances of marriage is to produce godly offspring. Sadly, many marriages end up in trouble because this principle of Christians only marrying Christians wasn't adhered to. Also, such spiritually mixed marriages can result in a godly legacy not being passed on to the next generation.

Some Christian leaders claim God teaches the claimed "races" of people be kept separate because he told the Israelites not to marry into other groups of people. For instance, God told the Israelites not to marry the Canaanites. But Rahab, a Canaanite who helped the Israelite spies at Jericho, is in the lineage leading to the God-man Jesus in Matthew 1 and is also listed in Hebrews 11 as a person of great faith.

It's obvious Rahab stopped being a Canaanite spiritually (rejecting the Canaanite pagan religion) and became an Israelite spiritually (believing and trusting in the one true God) and thus was free to marry an Israelite. This clearly shows there is no such thing as interracial marriage biologically. The interracial marriage the Bible speaks against is the marriage between the two spiritual races — the godly "race" and the ungodly "race." Whom a Christian should marry has nothing to do with biology but the spiritual state of one's heart.

When you then apply this, if two Christians get married and one has a light shade of skin and one a dark shade (all humans are the same basic color just different shades), this is not a biracial couple. This is a one-race couple! This also means there are no biracial children, as all of us belong to one race.

Christians should be using terminology consistent with God's Word and science to help people understand the truth concerning *homo sapiens*.

I urge people to not use the term "races" but to use the term "people groups" when referring to humans from different cultures. We also need to stop using terms like "biracial," as all humans belong to one race.

Because all humans belong to one race — all descendants of Adam — this means all humans are sinners, and all are in need of trusting Christ for salvation. That's why Christians need to proclaim the truth of the gospel to everyone, to all tribes and nations.

Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people (Revelation 14:6).

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands (Revelation 7:9).

What a difference it would make if every person started looking at everyone else as one of their relatives, a member of our extended family!

What Should Christians Think About Critical Race Theory (CRT)?

As Christians, we need to ensure we look at everything through biblical glasses. We need to make sure we're using a truly Christian worldview starting with the foundation of God's Word to build our thinking in every area.

Instead of looking at CRT and then trying to fit it with the Bible, we need to ask, "Does CRT start with the foundation of God's Word or man's word?" It does not start with God's Word, which means there's only one other foundation: man's word.

This means CRT will not be in accord with a Christian worldview, which means it will not be a correct one. So we need to ask, "In what ways is it not Christian then?"

God's Word says we're identified as individuals made in God's image, equal in value, individually accountable to God.

CRT divides humans into two identity groups: oppressed and oppressors (essentially based on skin shade). In short, CRT says "whites" are guilty oppressors and "blacks" (non-whites) are the innocent "oppressed." Note, this is assigned guilt (or innocence) based solely on a person's shade of skin. CRT is racist and guilty of the sin of partiality.

Scripture says we are to show no partiality: *My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while you say to the poor man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet," have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?* (James 2:1-4).

CRT has an emphasis on judging people by their outside appearances. But the Bible teaches us to *not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment* (John 7:24).

And for right judgment, it has to be a judgment of their heart, their spiritual state. As God teaches us, *For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks* (Matthew 12:34) and *The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks* (Luke 6:45).

This is why God's Word records what happened when Samuel came to anoint the king and thought it was going to be David's brother: *But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart"* (1 Samuel 16:7).

CRT divides people into those who are black and those who are white. And although there is much more behind this, it still relates to skin color. Yet all humans are the same basic color, brown, because of the main pigment for skin color, melanin. There are really no black or white people, but shades of brown from dark to light.

CRT says only the oppressors are guilty. The Bible says we are all sinners and all guilty before a perfect and holy God.

CRT, in essence, seeks vengeance — reparations. But God's Word commands us to *Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you* (Matthew 5:44) and *forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors* (Matthew 6:12).

CRT says revolution and redistribution are the solution. God's Word tells us the only true solution is changed hearts through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

CRT and the Christian worldview are in total conflict. Sadly, there are even church leaders who have adopted aspects of CRT to mesh it with God's Word. That's no different than those who mesh evolution/millions of years with Genesis.

In an eternal sense, the Bible divides people into two groups too: the saved and the unsaved, which is the focus of God's justice and should be the focus of Christians as well.

What is the Bible?

Why do I ask that question? I have found a lot of people in the Church look on the Bible as just a guidebook to life and/or a book of spiritual and moral matters.

But the Bible is not just a book one adds to their thinking. The Bible has over 3,000 claims to be the Word of God. We are told that God knows everything, being infinite in knowledge and wisdom.

[F]or whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything (1 John 3:20).

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure (Psalm 147:5).

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable (Isaiah 40:28).

The Bible is a revelation from God to man, from the One who knows all things. This means the Bible gives the key information God has revealed to us to enable us to have the right foundation to build the right way of thinking about everything. Without that key information, how would we as fallible human beings know how to understand anything?

Here's the problem for man. No matter how much we know, there's an infinite amount more to know. This means no matter how much we know, we don't know how much we do know or don't know in relation to whatever there is to know. That means we just don't know much at all.

That's the lesson God taught Job. When Job was going to argue with God concerning what had happened to him, God asked Job a series of questions to show him that he didn't know much at all compared to God. That's why after God had enabled Job to understand how finite his understanding was, Job said:

I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. "Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?" Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. "Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you make it known to me." I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes (Job 42:2-6).

Job recognized, as we all need to recognize, that we know next to nothing compared to God. How arrogant of humans to think they know better than God when they determine man's views of origins must be correct, and therefore, we have to reinterpret God's Word in Genesis to tell God what is supposedly true about the origin and history of life and the universe.

No, God's Word is a revelation from God, who doesn't lie, who knows everything. This means all our thinking in every area has to be founded on God's Word. We must use God's Word to judge what man is saying and not the other way around.

I remember my father telling me when looking at the notes in the Scofield Reference Bible about the supposed "gap theory" that we needed to always understand the notes were not inspired like the Word of God. He told me that God's Word should always be looked on as the commentary on the notes and not the other way

around because only God knows everything, and it's God's Word we can totally trust. In other words, we should judge the notes by what God's Word states. And when we do — the gap theory fails! The notes were fallible; the text of Scripture is infallible.

Think about this in regard to forensic scientists trying to solve a murder. They may find someone's fingerprints and even blood type at the scene. The circumstantial evidence can overwhelmingly point to a particular person being the murderer. That person could be found guilty and put in jail. But these scientists didn't have all evidence. What happens if some evidence is found later that would throw a whole different light on the murder scene and that the murder was actually committed by someone else? This has really happened more than once in real life. There have been people found guilty of a crime based on circumstantial evidence, only to be found to be innocent later on when additional evidence comes along.

People may think that the evolutionists' view of history makes sense of the evidence of the present. But they don't know everything there is to know, so they don't know for sure they have the correct interpretation of the evidence. But God's Word is the Word of the One who knows everything and understands all the evidence. That's why we need to trust what God states in Genesis concerning origins and use what God reveals to judge the ideas of man — not the other way around, as has happened so much in the Church.

Sadly, many church leaders have exalted man's ideas above God's Word when they compromise man's evolutionary/millions of years beliefs with the Bible. In a way, those who do this are really looking at man, not God, as knowing everything. It's really a worship of fallible man.

That's why over and over again God's Word warns us to not trust in man's word, but trust in God's Word:

Thus says the LORD: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the LORD" (Jeremiah 17:5).

It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in princes (Psalm 118:9).

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths (Proverbs 3:5–6).

It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man. It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in princes (Psalm 118:8–9).

I must admit, when it comes to beliefs about origins, I'm immediately suspicious of views held by the majority of scientists because man knows nothing compared to God, and man has a sinful heart that does not want to believe God's Word.

I just can't understand (except it's a result of their sin nature) why so many Christians want to trust man's beliefs about evolution and millions of years instead of God's clear Word in Genesis. I would rather stand guilty before the Lord for believing His Word as written than for putting my trust in fallible man's word.

This trust in man's word has been catastrophic for the modern Church because of the devastating consequences in the coming generations doubting and ultimately rejecting God's Word.

As I often quote, "Let God be true though every one were a liar" (Romans 3:4).

What Is a Woman?

What is a woman? In 2022, a documentary hosted by conservative commentator Matt Walsh, host of *The Matt Walsh Show* podcast and columnist for *The Daily Wire*, was released.

This was an eye-opening documentary detailing the anti-God agenda regarding gender identity that is destroying many lives, including those of young children.

What the documentary didn't cover, though, was the answer to the question, "What is a woman?" from the One who created and designed women — our Creator God. The movie also didn't give the solution to the gender issue, which is the truth of God's Word and the saving gospel. (Now so much could be said about this documentary and this question, but I'm just going to highlight this one particular aspect.)

What do we learn from God's Word regarding the answer to the question, "What is a woman?"

Genesis gives an overview of the creation week, culminating in the creation of the first two human beings on day six: *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them* (Genesis 1:27).

We learn that God created only two genders of humans: male and female. And we know from the study of genetics that men have an XY pair of sex chromosomes and women have an XX pair. But God's Word tells us a lot about men and women and their differences.

God gives the details of why and how he created the first woman (female) in Genesis 2.

We learn that God created the first woman to be a helper for the first man, Adam: *Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him"* (Genesis 2:18).

So God made the first woman as Adam's wife. She was made from Adam's side. We then read in Genesis 3:20: *The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living*. So other than the first man, all people would be descendants of this first man and first woman.

God told the man and the woman to be fruitful and multiply, and both were to lead in having dominion over the creation: *And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth"* (Genesis 1:28).

Are men and women equal? They are both equal in value, both sinners, both can receive the free gift of salvation, and both are commanded to live lives honoring to the Lord. So just like men, women need to be born again, to abide in Christ, and trust God's Word as the absolute authority in all areas.

However, God gave men and women different roles. Adam was created first, so he was given a headship role in marriage. Adam was given the instruction not to eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. That's why Adam gets the blame for sin, not Eve, as in Romans 5:12: *Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned*.

But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God (1 Corinthians 11:3).

The man is given the role of pouring out sacrificial love on his wife: *Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word (Ephesians 5:25–26).*

Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered (1 Peter 3:7).

Marriage is a spiritual picture of Christ and the Church. The Church is to submit to Christ, as seen in teaching about the woman's role: *Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior (Ephesians 5:22–23).* And the principle given in Ephesians 5:21 is a reminder for men and women in the Church to place themselves under each other's authority out of respect for Christ: *[S]ubmitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

Now because we no longer live in a perfect world, there will no longer be perfect relationships, and no longer perfect obedience to the roles God gave. We need to be warned about what can happen because of our sin nature. *To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you" (Genesis 3:16).*

Because of sin, now rules will be distorted. Our sin nature will try to master us. Because Adam sinned and Eve was deceived, now women will have pain in childbirth. Also, if a woman lets her sin nature master her, she will want to usurp the headship role of the man. The man will want to corrupt his headship role and lord it despotically over the woman, instead of sacrificially loving her. That's why the Apostle Paul reminds us this way in Colossians 3:18–19: *Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.*

God's Word instructs women this way: *Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear—but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious (1 Peter 3:3–4).* And Proverbs 31:30 describes a godly woman: *Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.*

Every woman should aspire to be described like this: *Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: "Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all" (Proverbs 31:25–29).*

We can't fully answer the question "what is a woman" apart from the authority of God's Word.

What Happens to People Who Die but Have Never Heard the Gospel?

One of the questions Christians have debated through the ages is, “What happens to people who die but have never heard the gospel?” The same question is asked about young children. Skeptics have often used such questions to denigrate Christianity and stump Christians.

Now we are not going to have all the answers. But in building our thinking on God’s Word, we should be able to have at least a big-picture answer, even if we don’t have all the details. God hasn’t revealed everything to us! We will always have an infinite amount more to know.

Now in regard to children, personally, I believe those children are a separate category for which the Bible doesn’t really say much but does hint at the answer with David’s comment when his son died, *I shall go to him, but he will not return to me* (2 Samuel 12:23).

In regard to both categories, we should always remember what Abraham said to God, *Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?* (Genesis 18:25). And, yes, there are times we just have to admit we don’t know for sure, and we do need to leave it to God.

However, the Bible does make it clear that *there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved* (Acts 4:12). Salvation is only possible through trusting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

But what if people haven’t heard? God’s Word teaches that God has made it evident to all that He is the Creator, *For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse* (Romans 1:19–20).

We are told that all humans have a conscience, as *They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts* (Romans 2:15).

All humans know God exists. And if they want truth, God will give it to them: *[I]f you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God* (Proverbs 2:4–5).

In 1 Kings 10:1, we read that the Queen of Sheba came seeking. *Now when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the LORD, she came to test him with hard questions.* She is just one example of someone in the Bible who sought truth, and God gave it to her. It would seem from Matthew 12 when talking about the religious leaders who rejected him, Jesus refers to the Queen of Sheba as an example of someone who was pagan but recognized the truth of God.

The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here (Matthew 12:42).

Every human is without excuse. If they want light, God will give them light. That’s God’s sovereignty. But then there’s our responsibility: *How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to*

believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" (Romans 10:14–15).

Responsibility and sovereignty work together. We must do everything humanly possible to reach as many people as possible with the truth of God's Word and the saving gospel. At the same time, we know our sovereign God will direct our paths, will open and shut doors, and will ensure those who want the light will receive the light.

An example of this is found in Acts:

And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them (Acts 16:7–10).

Paul was going to a particular place to proclaim the gospel, but God shut the door and redirected him to others who needed and wanted the light.

We just can't comprehend God's ways. As we are told, *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD (Isaiah 55:8).*

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths (Proverbs 3:5–6).

We should always do all we can to obey the Great Commission given in Matthew 28, with the understanding that God will direct our paths.

What Do These Stones Mean?

Millions of people, including many Christian families, visit the Grand Canyon in America each year. As they stand on the edge of this stunning canyon, children and young people will ask their parents, “How did this happen? What formed all those rock layers and the canyon?” Now the signs and the park rangers will tell them the layers of sedimentary strata (some with lots of fossils) were laid down slowly over millions of years. They will then tell the story that the Colorado River eroded the canyon over millions of years.

In essence, the question asked was, “What do these stones mean?” Sadly, most hear a story based on the belief in (the religion of) evolutionary geology. But how many fathers answer the question by saying, “This canyon is a relic of a past catastrophic event, the event of Noah’s Flood. The layers were laid down during the Flood, and then at the end of the Flood, God raised up the land surface, forming mountains (Psalm 104) and, in this area, formed a dam that held back leftover waters from the flood. Then the dam was broken, and the water gouged out the canyon to allow the river (called the Colorado River) to flow through it. The sediment was washed downstream into massive deposits called surge deposits. It’s all a reminder of the judgment God brought on the earth because of the wickedness of man. It should remind us that God’s Word is true, God judges wickedness because of our sin, and we all need to receive the free gift of salvation, as all humans are sinners.”

Over and over again, children have not been given the correct answers by their fathers, even Christian fathers, when they have asked questions about the origin of the universe and life, as so many of all ages have been indoctrinated by the world’s pagan evolutionary views.

One of my favorite passages in the Bible is in Joshua 4, where we read the account of the Israelites miraculously crossing the Jordan River. God told Joshua to get the people to have 12 men gather 12 stones from the river and build a memorial so that:

When your children ask their fathers in times to come, “What do these stones mean?” then you shall let your children know, “Israel passed over this Jordan on dry ground.” For the LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan for you until you passed over, as the LORD your God did to the Red Sea, which he dried up for us until we passed over, so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the LORD is mighty, that you may fear the LORD your God forever (Joshua 4:21–24).

What a reminder! Make sure you tell this younger generation about the Lord and His Word so they will know who the true God is. And let this also be a witness to the world concerning the one true God.

When we opened the Ark Encounter attraction in 2016, the board members laid 12 stones next to the massive ship. I explained to the 8,000 in attendance that this life-sized Ark is our modern version of the 12 stones — to remind coming generations that God’s Word is true and that the saving gospel in that Word is true. We built the Ark and the Creation Museum as our 12 stones, so to speak, to help parents pass on the truth of God’s Word and the saving gospel to the coming generations.

We read one of the saddest passages in the Bible in Judges about when Joshua died, and then all that generation with Joshua died: *And there arose another generation after them who did not know the LORD or the work*

that he had done for Israel. And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals (Judges 2:10–11).

The children who were to ask about the meaning of these 12 stones rebelled and worshipped false gods! What happened? When we read Scripture, we find the fathers did not pass on the spiritual legacy to the next generation. This should be a warning to us today.

Psalm 78 instructs fathers to train their children to know the true God:

*... [H]e commanded our fathers to teach to their children,
that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn,
and arise and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God
and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments (Psalm 78:5–7).*

And then we read:

*[A]nd that they should not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation,
a generation whose heart was not steadfast, whose spirit was not faithful to God (Psalm 78:8).*

It's obvious these fathers of old did not obey the Lord and did not train up their children to fear the Lord as they should have. As a result, they lost the next generation after Joshua.

In essence, this is happening in the Church today. Statistics back in the early 2000s made it clear that two-thirds of young people in the United States were leaving the Church by college age (with very few returning).

Pew Research in 2010 clearly showed church attendance for millennials was down to 18%, and by 2021, Generation Z church attendance was down to less than 9%!⁴

Research we have done at Answers in Genesis over the years shows clearly that parents and the Church have failed to raise generations who know what they believe, why they believe what they do, and how to defend the Christian faith.

Just like in the days after Joshua, we are now seeing the consequences of this lack of training as the secularization of generations has increased and an anti-Christian sentiment has grown in the culture.

I challenge fathers to commit to doing what God has commanded us to do in the spiritual training of our children. After all, each child is a human being who will live forever and ever in heaven or hell, which should convict each one of us concerning the time and resources we invest into each child.

Fathers need to be teaching their children to defend the Christian faith and give them answers to the evolutionary attacks of our day! They need to be teaching Genesis 1–11 as literal history, as it is the foundation of the rest of the Bible, of all doctrine, of the Christian worldview, and of everything. They need to be teaching against compromising God's Word in Genesis, as is happening in much of the Church.

[T]he father makes known to the children your faithfulness (Isaiah 38:19).

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the LORD (Ephesians 6:4).

Let's remember what God commands concerning our responsibilities to our children.

What Can You Take to Heaven with You?

You can't take your car, your house, your bank account, or any other material item. So, it's not what you can take to heaven with you, it's whom!

Whom can you take to heaven with you? You can take your children, your friends, and your human family!

The point is, God's Son became the God-man to pay the penalty for our sin and provide the free gift of salvation to human beings.

Let me ask fathers a question. What is most important for your children? Is it their sports program? Is it their job in life? Is it the material goods they own? What is the most important thing for your children?

Consider this passage from Scripture:

But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ (Philippians 3:7-8).

The most important thing for any person is that they've trusted Christ for salvation. There is nothing more important than this in the whole universe. It is vital. It determines one's eternity.

There is nothing more important than your children knowing Christ. There is nothing more important for eternity. Eternity is forever, and ever, and ever, and ever, and ever, and ... forever.

And Jeremiah reminds us that what is most important for all of us is that we know the Lord:

Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD" (Jeremiah 9:23-24).

Now we all need to understand that no matter how we train our children, we can't guarantee their salvation. After all, *The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not suffer for the iniquity of the father, nor the father suffer for the iniquity of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself (Ezekiel 18:20).*

However, at the same time, parents, and particularly the father as the spiritual head of the family, are to do all they can to train their children the way God instructs us to through His Word. There is always that balance between responsibility and sovereignty. We are to do all we can to train our children in the ways of the Lord. We must be diligent and teach them as the Scripture instructs us to. We are to pour in that biblical salt of truth and equip them with answers to defend the Christian faith. We must teach them to build a truly Christian worldview. We also must make sure they understand the gospel and the vital importance of receiving the free gift of salvation. And we pray God will open their hearts to the truth and save them. But we can't do the saving. It's God who does the saving. But our responsibility and God's sovereignty go hand in hand.

Our five children all have college degrees. We selected God-honoring colleges for them. And even though I'm thrilled they all have graduate degrees and one even a postgraduate degree, I would rather our children be ditchdiggers and go to heaven than some famous academic or wealthy person and go to hell. That's the bottom line.

Remember, our children are made in the image of God. They each have a soul that will live forever in heaven or hell. That should convict each one of us concerning how much diligence we put into training them as we should.

Wouldn't it be great if what Paul said to Timothy could be said of each of our children?

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus (2 Timothy 3:14–15).

I praise the Lord my parents taught me God's Word from as far back as I can remember. They always took us to church and were highly involved in evangelistic outreaches to children. I remember my mother kneeling with us as she taught us to pray. I remember my father leading devotions at the breakfast table. And I'll never forget what they taught me.

My mother and father drummed into us, "God first, others second, and yourself last," and "It's only what is done for Jesus that lasts."

My parents were very involved with the church, always volunteering to help with various needs. And my father would also be teaching us the answers to liberal theology to make sure we would not be led astray by false teaching. He also filled in many times as the preacher when the pastor was away. We heard him teach God's Word authoritatively. And we heard people thank him for such great teaching that ministered to them.

And even though there was no guarantee of salvation, all six of their children received the free gift of salvation. And all our five children are Christians, and the four who have married have godly spouses. Now, all our children are raising their children by teaching the truth of God's Word and the saving gospel. What a blessing to see this generational impact.

So, fathers, hear God's Word:

Tell your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children to another generation (Joel 1:3).

And count the blessings:

The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice; he who fathers a wise son will be glad in him (Proverbs 23:24).

Remember: "It's only what is done for Jesus that lasts."