

Lesson 5 - Creation in General

1. Human beings can know God through the creation and so know the Lord through His creation.
 - a. WLC 2 How doth it appear that there is a God? A. The very light of nature in man, and the works of God, declare plainly that there is a God; but his word and Spirit only, do sufficiently and effectually reveal him unto men for their salvation.
 - b. WCF 1.1 - Although the light of nature, and the works of creation and providence do so far manifest the goodness, wisdom, and power of God, as to leave men unexcusable . . .
 - c. WCF 4.1 - It pleased God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, for the manifestation of the glory of His eternal power, wisdom, and goodness . . .
2. How can we know the Creator through the creation?
 - a. Go outdoors and lift up your eyes to observe the immeasurable dimensions of the universe.
 - b. Observe heaven's beautiful countenance.
 - c. Observe the infinite variety of colors, smells, tastes, voices, and shapes of birds, fishes, animals, insects, leaves, and grasses in the field.
 - d. Observe the infinite chain of second causes. Hos. 2:21-22 – I will hear the heavens, and they shall hear the earth, and the earth shall hear the corn, and the wine, and the oil; and they shall hear Jezreel.” Think of the innumerable people involved in bringing to you the things that you have. But who sets all this in motion?
 - e. Observe the mountain peaks and the trees – they point you upward.
 - f. Know that God is. “In this we may observe the unsearchable goodness of God, a view which will cause us to lose ourselves in amazement.”
 - g. We will see the glory of God. That's one way we glorify Him.
3. The Sabbath Day as unique day of reflection on this. We observe the Sabbath “better to keep all the rest of the commandments, and to continue a thankful remembrance of the two great benefits of creation and redemption, which contain a short abridgment of religion (WLC 121).”
4. That there is a Creator.
 - a. Phillip E. Johnson, *Darwin on Trial*, “Being a scientist is not necessarily an advantage when dealing with a very broad topic like evolution, which cuts across many scientific disciplines and also involves issues of philosophy. Practicing scientists are of necessity highly specialized, and a scientist outside his field of expertise is just another layman.”
 - b. The Design inference & the common jump.
 - c. The cell.
<https://www.amazon.com/Unlocking-Mystery-Life-Michael-Behe/dp/Bo04VYVMP8/>
 - d. The earth, fine tuning. Designed for Discovery.
<https://www.amazon.com/Privileged-Planet-John-Rhys-Davies/dp/Bo04ZVR5OO/>

- e. Haven't watched this yet, but it might be worth checking out:
https://www.amazon.com/gp/video/detail/BooRMTW77Q/ref=atv_dp_b07_det_c_UTPsmN_1_1
 - f. This one is one I plan to watch:
https://www.amazon.com/gp/video/detail/Bo7FN8JJDS/ref=atv_dp_bo0_det_c_UTPsmN_1_1
5. How He created -- by the Word of His Power. WLC 15 - The work of creation is that wherein God did in the beginning, by the word of his power, make of nothing the world, and all things therein, for himself, within the space of six days, and all very good.
 - a. By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth. . . . For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm (Psalm 33:6, 9).
 - b. God said, let there be . . .
 - c. Only God can create. He bridges the infinite gap between being and non-being. God who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did (Romans 4:17).
 6. The space of six days
 - a. Obviously, this is controversial.
 - b. Some questions in the text. The sun wasn't created until the 4th day.
 - c. Long recognized that perhaps could be speaking in a metaphorical day (Augustine said it was actually instantaneous).
 - d. Probably best to take it literally as history because of the narrative form of the text, the alternating light and day, and the pattern of the week that it establishes.
 - e. This obviously calls into question the age of the earth. Many good Christians have been willing to see this as poetic imagery. What do you think? Nonetheless, they affirm that God is the actual Creator of all things. They also affirm that Adam is a real human being and that God created humans uniquely.
 7. All very good
 - a. A crucial point. Creation as such is good. We should value the creation and the creation order because God does.
 - b. 2 Timothy 4:4-5 - "For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, 5 because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer." We enjoy God as we enjoy the creation and give Him thanks. We should enjoy the experience of it.
 - c. Col. 3:23-24: Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.