



Provided by the Church of the Lutheran Confession - Board of Missions

**An Introduction to Lutheran Doctrine
and the Church of the Lutheran Confession
Lesson 3.1 – Man: His Creation**

III. Man: His Creation and Fall

We believe, as the Bible teaches, that mankind is a unique creation. People are not products of an evolutionary process of millions of years.

God created all things in heaven and earth during six twenty-four hour days by the power of His almighty Word. By that same Word He continues to uphold and sustain all things.

Exodus 20:11: For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

Man was created in the image of God (holy and righteous), but he lost that image through the fall into sin. Since the fall, he is by nature and from conception without spiritual goodness. Man is spiritually blind and dead, an enemy of God, and doomed to eternal damnation. In his lost condition he can do nothing to save himself.

Genesis 1:27: So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Genesis, Chapter 3 (Adam's Fall)

Genesis 8:21b: "... although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth."

Psalms 14:2-3: The LORD looks down from heaven unto the children of men, to see if there are who understand, who seek God. They have all turned aside. They have together become corrupt; there is none who does good, no, not one.

Psalms 51:5: Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.

Ephesians 2:3: ...we all... were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

Romans 8:7: Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.

Comments:

Today many people who claim to be Christians no longer believe what God reveals to us in the first book of the Old Testament. Genesis teaches us that the almighty and all-wise God created all things in six ordinary, regular days. God Himself was not created. In the beginning He was already there, and therefore Psalm 90:2 says: **"Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God."**

We say that the days of Genesis 1 are ordinary twenty-four-hour days because the text clearly says: **"So the evening and the morning were the first day."** (Genesis 1:5). Or literally: "It became evening; it became morning – the first day". The other days are described in the same way. In addition, when God Himself spoke from Mt. Sinai in Exodus 20, He declared that He had made all things in six days, and for this reason He wanted His people, the Israelites, to work for six days and then rest on the seventh day.

It is also clear from Genesis 1 and 2 that God created all the various kinds of animals and plants during those six days. In His wisdom God arranged for the reproduction and development of these various kinds for all future time. There is no evolution or development from one kind to another, such as evolution from plant to animal, or from bird to fish, or from animal to man. There is reproduction and development within the various kinds, but not from one kind to another.

Humankind, in particular, is different from every other created thing. Humankind was made “**in the image of God**”, both male and female. Colossians 3:10 and Ephesians 4:24 show us that this means that Adam and Eve were created in holiness and righteousness, in perfect harmony with God and each other and all the rest of creation. There was no sin or imperfection in the world God originally created. When God finished His work of creating, He said that what He had created was “**very good**” (Genesis 1:31).

References in both the Old and the New Testaments support what God revealed about creation in Genesis 1 and 2. Jesus Himself plainly accepted the Genesis account as factual history, for He said to some who opposed Him: “**Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning made them male and female?**” (Matthew 19:4)

In spite of the Bible’s clear teaching about creation, the people of this world who claim to be wise have chosen a view that contradicts God’s revelation and their own God-given reason. From our own experience and from the historical records, we know that animals do not become human beings, and that nothing comes into being by itself without a maker. “**For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God**” (Hebrews 3:4). The very existence of the world and all the things in it demands the existence of an almighty and all-wise God who created it. The apostle Paul wrote to the Christians in Rome: “**Since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse**” (Romans 1:20).

But even as Adam and Eve tried to hide from God after their great sin and disobedience, human beings today have tried to suppress the knowledge they should have about God on the basis of their reason. They have tried to believe and act as if there were no God. “**Professing to be wise, they became fools**” (Romans 1:22) and they have accepted the totally unscientific and unreasonable theory of evolution, which claims that all things came from nothing in the beginning over vast eras of time (billions of years), and that man came into existence as a result of a gradual development from the animal world. There is no proof for such a theory, and all the so-called evidence for such evolution can be explained very well within the limits of what the Bible teaches about creation, the fall of man, the worldwide flood, and subsequent world history. There is no conflict between what the Bible teaches and true science, based on observation and experimentation, rather than unprovable theories.

Questions

1. Who created the world and everything in the world?
2. How do we know this?
3. Why can we be sure that the “days” of Genesis 1 are ordinary days?
4. What is meant by the “kinds” mentioned in Genesis 1?
5. How did God arrange for continuing development of creation?
6. Is it possible for one kind to develop into another? Explain your answer.
7. What is unique about humankind and only humankind?
8. Why should every human being believe in creation?
9. Why do many people prefer to believe in evolution rather than creation?
10. How do we know that Jesus Himself believed in creation?
11. What is the difference between science and the theory of evolution?