

## Exploring Christianity Part 6: What is Creation and the Fall?

This morning we are “Exploring Christianity” for the sixth time... So far we’ve asked the questions:

- What is the Bible?
- Who is the Father?
- Who is the Son?
- Who is the Spirit?
- What is the Trinity?

This morning we’re asking, “What is Creation and the Fall?”

Genesis 1-3 is our key text for this morning. Chapter 1-2 is Creation and chapter 3 is the Fall.

If you didn’t read that before you came this morning, read those three chapters this afternoon.

### INTRODUCTION

A pastor was taking a series on creation. After the service a young boy called James tells his parents he has to go and talk to the pastor right away. “OK” they said, so they went to the door and the pastor greeted the family. "Pastor," James says, "I heard you say today that our bodies came from the dust & when we die our bodies go back to dust." "Yes, I'm glad you were listening" said the Pastor, "Why do you say that?". Johnny replied, "I need you to come over to our house right away and look under my bed 'cause there's someone either coming' or going'!"

### **GENESIS 1-2 CREATION**

God has always been and will always be.

Whatever you believe about the beginning, be it, a big bang or creation, you have to exercise faith...

If you believe in a big bang either you believe that somehow matter always existed, or you believe that matter at some point, appeared from nowhere...because matter was required for the big bang.

I simply choose to believe that **God** has always been, and that God spoke creation into being, out of nothing... (ex nihilo)

Either way...God or the Big Bang...we all have to have faith in something...and I put it to you this morning that God created the universe in all of its beautiful conformity...

...when was the last time you saw an explosion cause any kind of conformity? It's always chaos.

The Bible is truth, and it tells us that God created everything, in six days, and I believe it was in six literal days.

The genre of the literature that we read at the creation account is the law...it's in the Torah, and I believe therefore, that everything we find in the first five books of the Bible should be taken at face value...in the most literal sense.

On the first day

- Day 1 – Heavens and the earth, day and night Day 2 - the waters and the sky and sea
- Day 3 - the land, seas and vegetation
- Day 4 - The sun, moon and stars – that was an incredible day Day 5 - The sea creatures and the birds
- Day 6 - The animals each according to their kinds and of course us...mankind...as the pinnacle of his creation....

...the Bible tells us that you and I are the jewels in the crown

#### **READ**

*[26] ...God said (Gen 1:26), "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." [27] So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. [28] God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground. " [29] Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. [30] And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground---everything that has the breath of life in it---I give every green plant for food. " And it was so. [31] God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning--- the sixth day.*

Augustine of Hippo once said - Men go abroad to wonder at the heights of mountains, the huge waves of the sea, the long course of the rivers, the vast compass of the ocean, the circular motions of the stars, but they pass by themselves and don't even notice.

You are amazing...

I'm sure you've all seen this before – you might recognize some of your relatives...

...it's Darwinian evolution – a theory taught as fact in many schools.

...this is apparently humankind's journey from ape to man.

This is not amazing...

If you're at school or college and you are being taught this, ask are your teacher or professor to give you one piece of observable evidence (required for scientific consensus) for Darwinian evolution, **change of kind**...

they can't do it...not one of them can do it...because there is none...only adaptation within kind, not change of kind.

And there is no consensus among scientists on the matter of evolution.

There are many non-Christian scientists who do not hold to an evolutionary position:

**Quote:**

"Looking at the evidence one is forced to conclude "there is no clear-cut scientific picture of human evolution."

**Quote:**

"I think we're still doing a great deal of guessing. There is no clear-cut pathway from ape to human being."

Billions has been spent in search for the answer to the mystery of the origin of the universe – the search for the so-called "God particle" in the Higgs Boson supercollider in Europe - scientists shooting two beams of protons at each other round 27 kilometers of circular tunnels at over **670million mph** (the speed of light)

When the protons smash together the enormous energies involved cause them to break into an array of more fundamental particles. These may then break further into yet more particles....so they end up with... **(PAUSE)** ...particles.... very small, very expensive particles – the project costing \$13.25 billion dollars.

The mystery of the origin of the universe continues...

... but I have the answer

... In the beginning God...

... created the heavens and the earth.

And part of that creation, was us...mankind...the star of the show...

God (the plural God that we learnt about last week) carefully, lovingly and perfectly created us .

The first man (Adam) he formed him out of dust of the ground and he breathed life into his nostrils... (Ch 2 v 7)

From man, came woman, as God created Eve from one of Adam's ribs (Gen 2:21) ...bone of his bones, flesh of his flesh...a man and a woman created by God, to be one flesh, together for life.

For more on this listen to my sermon from a few weeks ago from Mark 6. So, what is so special about us?

Here's what... We are...

### **Made in the image of God**

What does this mean?

Whatever it means is really important because it's the thing that differentiates us from all of creation.

If being created in the image of God means we are unique, therefore everything about mankind that is unique can be attributed to the image of God, for example:

- We are able to REASON
- We feel EMOTION in a unique way
- We are SELF- CONCIOUS - Animals are conscious, but they're not self-conscious. Once someone has self-consciousness, ethics and morality come into play:
- We understand MORALITY ...though less so as our culture rejects the notion of absolute truth.
- We have the ability to PERSONALLY RELATE.
- Uniquely, we have the ability to personally relate to our creator God.
- We have the capacity to know him, and to know Christ Jesus, and to know the Holy Spirit.
- I am able to know Him, to love Him, to obey Him, to worship Him, and I have the capacity to reject Him and turn my back on Him.

One more thing that differentiates us.... we are ETERNAL beings.

Everything else in all creation will perish spoil and fade.

The stars will fall, the sun will go out,  
the moon will shine no more.

The whole universe will roll up like a scroll.

The whole of creation will melt with fervent heat.

The earth will pass away. [Revelation 21:1-4](#), [1 John 2:15-17](#) It will be burned up. [2 Peter 3:10-13](#)  
Every green thing,

every occupant of the sea,

every bird of the sky and

every animal that walks the land...

...but not so mankind.

The Bible tells us that when our bodies die, our souls go on to live forever...

And where that “forever” is, will be determined by one thing...what you do with Jesus. Who is Jesus? What did he do? Why do I need him?

With out Genesis 3 we wouldn't have answers to those questions.

So, let's take a look at the account of the fall in Genesis 3, and then end by answering some of those questions about Jesus.

### **THE FALL – GENESIS 3**

Genesis 3 is the sad account of the fall...where everything changed. Everything created in perfection, became imperfect...in an instant. Man destroyed the perfection that God had created for him.

Sin and pain and sickness and trials and struggles and death became realities for the first time.

Satan, (who we know is crafty) in the form of a serpent, deceived Eve, and she took the fruit from the tree which God commanded her not to eat.

“Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”

No he didn't – he said they could eat from any tree...just not from one tree, the tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil.

Eve corrected the serpent adding that God had said if they touch the forbidden tree, they would die. Satan replied:

"You will not surely die...for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Eve takes the fruit...and she eats it. She hands it to Adam, and eats also.

And in an instant, the cataclysmic fall of the world and everything in it, from the perfection of chapter 1 & 2, to life as we know it today, takes place.

God had provided so much for them...but they wanted to be greater, better, more powerful, they wanted to be like God...no, more than that...they wanted to be God.

### **APPLICATION**

Not much has changed.

...people want to be masters of their own lives today...

...they want to be their own god ...

...they think that's where happiness can be found...when they do what they want, when they want, when they have freedom to be who they want...

...but it's just **hypothetical happiness**...because that doesn't make you happy...with a happiness that truly satisfies and lasts...

...there's only one thing that can bring true happiness, and that is being in a right relationship with the God who created all things, including you.

After the sin had been committed, they realized what they had done...

...up until that time, they had only had good experiences of God. They shared paradise with Him,

He walked in the very same garden as they lived in – God spoke directly to Adam and spent time with him (v15-17, 19, 21-22)

... there was no fear when they were in His presence...

... but that all changed...now they're afraid of Him.

... they are hiding from God among the trees of the garden. For the first time they experience the feeling of shame.

### **APPLICATION**

And ever since this event – all people have experienced the feeling of shame... and more than that... guilt, hopelessness, and worry and anxiety...

...it's all the result of sin.

Sin is devastating.

When Adam and Eve sinned God responded decisively and immediately to this disobedience. Firstly he turned to the serpent...

## The Serpent

The serpent is to be the most cursed of all animals. 'It will crawl on its belly' – how degrading.

... and still the snake crawls today. Then judgment on the woman comes... v16

Eve and all women after her, would now suffer increased pain in giving birth to children.

## To Adam God said v17...

*Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you 'You must not eat of it' ...*

*...cursed is the ground because of you.*

Before the fall, the ground was a satisfying and fruitful resource for humans to work with and feed from – weedless, pain free and enjoyable...a pleasure.

Now it grows weeds, thorns and thistles.

Agriculture became painful and exhausting (v19), *by the sweat of your brow* you will eat your food.

As well as finding that the work he was created to do had become difficult and painful, Adam is also told, most devastatingly, that one day, now he will die, and his body will return to the dust from which it came (v19) ...

...this is by far the most severe and devastating punishment passed on to man...

...the good news is, one day the perfection of Genesis 1 and 2 will be restored, everything will be renewed! It will be called heaven.

But for now...clothing them, God banished Adam and Eve from the garden (v23) and he ensures that it will be impossible for humanity to eat from the tree of life (v24) as he posts a cherubim with a flaming sword which flashed back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

Man has now become like God...not God, but like God in this way...he now knows "good and evil". And with knowledge like that man must not live forever.

God was right...they died that day...spiritually speaking...and their bodies would die physically in the future. Why did the all-knowing God, create a world that was destined to fall?

Where do we learn most about God, his love, his gentleness, his mercy, and his glory and majesty and love and mercy, and forgiveness, and patience, and wrath...where do we see God in his fullness?

At the cross.

What cross?

The cross of Jesus Christ.

So, now we return to those questions.

1. Who is this Jesus?  
He's the Son of God, fully man and fully God.
2. What did he do?  
He came into his creation and he came to die for those he created.
3. So what? Why do I need him?  
Because it's only through his undeserved death in my place, and resurrection that the devastating effects of the fall could be reversed.

It's only through him that my relationship with my creator can be restored, and I can have a place in heaven

More about this next week as we consider the atonement. But for now, let me say this...

Jesus came to take your sin upon himself so that by his wounds you can be healed – while we were still sinners Christ died for us!

This is love not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins!

...and without Genesis 3 – none of this would have been necessary!!

Genesis 3 had to happen in order for us to know and see how much God loves us. Gen. 3 had to happen in order for us to know and see how merciful our God is...Gen. 3 had to happen in order for us to know and see how just our God is...

Gen. 3 featured in the plan of God before day one of creation because God wanted us to **know him**.

Genesis 3:15 confirms this for us...

*"He will crush your head and you will strike his heel"*

What does this mean?



Imagine a group of people gathered around, and into the middle of them, comes this snake – a venomous snake – it comes right at them. And one man in this group stamps on him. He stamps on the head of this snake he crushed the head and saves all those around him. But the snake has bitten him, the poison enters his bloodstream, and he dies.

That's the picture, and what God is saying is (and this is amazing)

One day this snake which represents evil is going to be destroyed - sin and death itself will be destroyed – but in the process the one who defeats this snake and the sin and evil that he represents, will get a fatal wound.

And that's exactly what happened. The one who defeated Satan...his name is Jesus.

He died, so that we could be free from sin and its impact on us. Restored to the Father, our creator and part of the coming renewed creation called heaven.

Without Genesis 3 there would be no Calvary. So, there you have it.

God always was and will always be

He created everything, perfectly, in six days...

...man messed it up

God gave us way to be part of perfection mark two, when everything is renewed including our mortal bodies...in his Son Jesus who dies for you and for me...

...repent of your sin, trust him now, and come back next week to hear more about what Jesus has done for you as we consider the atonement.