

## Lesson 4

### Creation: God's Provision

**Introduction:** In the last two lessons, we have established that God prepared an eternal plan of redemption before time began. This is congruous with His nature, as first and foremost He is love. He is also all-powerful, all-wise, and outside of time. We also saw that before creation, God's desire was for relationship with His creation, and that pattern continued throughout time. Today, we will look at the creation of the world and how God's nature and heart can be seen in it.

We know that the Holy Spirit inspired Moses to write the Pentateuch while Israel was in the wilderness and headed to inhabit the land of Canaan. In Canaan, they would be surrounded by people worshipping false gods. Therefore, it would be imperative for them to be convinced Who their God is, Yahweh, the Great I Am. The need for us as believers today to be absolutely convinced of Who God is and what He is like is no less important than it was for the Israelites going into Canaan. The Christian life is meant to be a relationship. Without a deep intimate knowledge of Him, we will inherently live the Christian life as a religion and not as a relationship. If we don't know God, we won't trust Him. If we can't trust Him, then we won't walk in and appropriate truth in our lives. Growing in the knowledge of God is THE foundation for the whole Christian life.

- **Read Genesis 1:1.**

The very first phrase of the very first verse of the whole Bible, gives us two very important truths about the attributes of God. First, is His Name.

- The Hebrew name for God in Genesis 1:1 is “*Elohim*.” The “*im*” ending is the plural form which means three or more and thereby making reference of the trinity.
- The name “*Elohim*” expresses that God is the mighty and glorious Creator who governs the universe in omnipotence, sovereignty, and faithfulness. Therefore, He is to be revered and feared (**Daniel 6:26-27**). This is how God has revealed Himself in the very first sentence of the Bible! Do you think He wants us to know Him?
- The importance of the doctrine of God’s “*aseity*.” This means independence and self-existence. It is His existence that originates from and has no source other than itself.

One commentator wrote, “*In our life of faith, we easily impoverish ourselves by embracing an idea of God that is too limited and small, and again the doctrine of God's aseity stands as a bulwark to stop this from happening. It is vital for spiritual health to believe that God is great, and grasping the truth of his aseity is the first step on the road to doing this.*”

**Discussion:** Remember, God’s “aseity,” or the fact that He is self-existent and not dependent upon anything.

1. How is this fact significant for us today in our Christian lives?

It establishes the reality of His sovereign will, which in turn should strengthen our confidence in the faithfulness of His promises. His will and His promises cannot be hindered, restricted, or prevented by anything EVER!!!!

2. Discuss some of the specific promises that are for us today as the children of God.

The very first sentence of the Word of God sets us immediately in the presence of Him Who is the infinite source of all true life and blessing. Notice that it all begins with the state of His existence. There is no argument for its proof, for God reveals Himself through His own revelatory acts and interactions with mankind.

His existence compared to our existence are exact opposites. We, His creation, exist in dependence, finiteness, and fragility; but God’s existence is eternal, independent, infinite, all-powerful and He is the sovereign giver and sustainer of all life. All things are dependent upon Him. He is dependent upon nothing.

God does not have it in Him to go out of existence, just as we do not have it in us to live forever. We age and die because it is our present nature to do that;

God continues forever unchanged because it is His eternal nature to do that. This is one of many contrasts between creature and Creator.

- **Read Genesis 1:1-5.**

**God is the Creator. The first day God created the heavens, the earth and light.**

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth without any preexisting material, but it was His WILL that these things should exist (“Let there be...”). God formed all things in order with an existence that depended on His will.

Some notes to consider here:

- There really is a whole lot more to the creation account than we can understand. We cannot create a single thing without using some already existing material, and we can’t fully understand how God can.
- To state that God creates out of nothing only confesses the mystery, it doesn’t explain it.
- Space and time are dimensions of the created order and God is not “in” either, nor is He bound by either.
- The world order was not self-created, nor is it self-sustaining. Only God is.
- The stability of the universe depends on constant divine upholding. Without it, every creature of every kind would cease to exist.

- **Read Acts 17:25, 28.**

We need to pray that God will open our eyes to begin to grasp the wonder and greatness that He has revealed about Himself through His creative acts. For only then can we sincerely and whole-heartedly praise Him as the Almighty Creator.

God is to be trusted as the sovereign Lord, with an eternal plan that covers all events and destinies without exception. He has power to redeem, re-create and renew. The more we grasp and view Him as the Almighty Sovereign Creator, the more we will trust Him in our own daily lives. (*Discuss the above paragraph.*)

For us today as Christians, this is where godliness begins, with God the sovereign Creator as the first focus of our thoughts.

“The earth was formless, void, and darkness covered it.” This phrase gives us the world’s condition when God created it. It was covered with water, covered in darkness, and had no life on it. It was without form because the water was not separated from the land, which would give it form, and this did not happen until day three.

It’s interesting to note, too, that this previous condition of the earth is an accurate physical depiction of our spiritual lives before coming to Christ. We were “spiritually darkened” and void of any relationship with God and hope. Our lives were spiritually without the life God. **1 John 1:5** says that “*God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.*”

## **God created light.**

It is no coincidence that before God creates anything, He includes the phrase “then God said...” He wants to make it crystal clear that He and ONLY HE is the all-wise, almighty, and LIVING God and that it was He who deliberately created all things by His own sovereign will and plan!

Again, Moses was writing Genesis to the Israelites just before they entered the Promised Land where they would be faced with many, many dead false gods. In this one act of creating light (not the sun, but light), God revealed His power, wisdom, knowledge, life, and love.

This physical act also acts as a picture of spiritual truth that God is also the source of all truth! For “light” is often used to symbolize truth in the scriptures.

Notice in verse 4 God states that the light was “good.” God is of such supreme moral excellence and holiness that what He created was correct in every detail. What He did was based on who He is! Look at **Psalm 18:30**.

In verse 5, then, we see the fact that God made the day and the night. God divided the light and darkness on the earth so that, while half of the partially formed earth was in darkness, the other half was bathed in light. This began the cycle of day and night which we experience every 24 hours. This cycle of “day and night” will continue on to the end of time, for God is faithful and He is the sustainer of all things.

- **Read Genesis 1:6-8.**

**The second day, God created the atmosphere.**

God created the firmament. The firmament in these verses refers to the atmospheric space surrounding the earth. What we can see is only a fraction of the vast atmosphere that surrounds it. By merely speaking, God created earth's atmosphere and it was perfect.

- **Read Jeremiah 10:12; Psalm 19:1.**

Another thing that really stands out in the creation account is the wisdom of the order in which God created all things. It was appropriate and logical for God to first create light followed by the atmosphere—two of the main things that all living things would need to survive.

- **Read Genesis 1:9-13.**

**The third day, God formed the dry land and created all plant life.**

On the third day, God caused some of the water that still covered the earth to recede and dry land was exposed for the first time. This was when the original oceans were formed. God commands and the waters and the oceans obey Him (**Job 28:23-28; 38:4-6, 8-11; Psalm 33:6-9; 74:12-17**).

Not only did God prove His power and sovereign control over water in the beginning, but He continued to do so throughout scripture.

- He used the flood to judge the earth during Noah's time.
- He turned water into blood to prove His power to Israel and Egypt when they were slaves in Egypt.
- He parted the Red Sea and provided water from a rock in the wilderness.
- In Elijah's day, He withheld rain for two years and then allowed rain again at the appointed time for His glory.
- Jesus turned water into wine and calmed the raging waves in a storm.

God has used water repeatedly to reveal His power and might to mankind. Also on the third day, God created ALL plant life. God created a great variety of plants, trees, and fruit with an incredible diversity of color shape and size. It is estimated that there are over 500 categories of fruit alone.

In doing an online search to get a number for how many different kinds of vegetables exist in the world and we got this quote: *“Currently, due to their sheer number there is no official list as to how many vegetables there are in the world. For instance, there are approximately 10,000 varieties of tomatoes alone.”*

Then you have a whole host of non-edible vegetation and vegetation that you can see and vegetation that you can't see. Each variety was created with the

ability to reproduce after its own kind. Apple seeds will only produce apple trees. They will never produce corn stalks. God has never once had to go back and upgrade or repair any part of the plant life that He created.

God existed before any plant life existed, so we know He didn't create these for Himself. God was preparing the earth for the human race.

He created a huge variety of plants that He knew we'd need to use for food. He also created a vast variety of plants and trees that He knew we'd need to depend upon for other things—heat, building homes, etc. Then there is another huge variety that He created for the simple reason that He knew that we'd enjoy the beauty and fragrance.

All that God created was good and perfect because He is good and perfect, and everything He does reflects Who He is and what He is like.

- **Read Genesis 1:14-19.**

**The fourth day, God created the sun, moon, and stars.**

Let's add some perspective to this. If we were traveling at the speed of light (186,000 miles per second), we could make seven trips around the world in one second. At that speed, it would take four years to get to the closest star and 59,000 years to get to the end of our galaxy and then another 750,000 years to get to the next galaxy.

The galaxy that we are in has more than 200 billion stars in it. One million of them are the size of the sun, which is just a medium-sized star.

Astronomers estimate that there are as many galaxies outside the Milky Way as there are stars in it. The Hubble Ultra Deep Field, taken in 2004, imaged 10,000 galaxies in a cone of space so slim you could cover it with a grain of sand held at arm's length. Integrated over the entire sky, that would mean there are more than 100 billion galaxies in the visible universe, many with more than 100 billion stars each.

According to **Psalm 147:4**, God calls them all by name. Keep in mind that not only has God created this immense universe, but He also created all of the laws and physics that govern the universe.

The sun, moon, and stars also continue to follow their orderly patterns that God created them to follow from this fourth day of creation. See **Psalm 104:19**.

- **Read Genesis 1:20-23.**

### **The fifth day, God created all marine life and birds.**

God created numerous kinds of aquatic creatures and birds of countless designs and shapes. The more man searches the ocean depths and the remote places of the earth, the more kinds of marine life and birds are discovered. Regarding the seas, a quote I found stated, "*Over one million known species of plants*

*and animals live there and scientists say there may be as many as nine million species we haven't discovered yet."*

God created each living thing so it could only reproduce "*according to its kind.*" The phrase "*according to its kind*" is repeated ten times in the first chapter of Genesis. The DNA of each organism was created and programmed by God so it can only guide in the reproduction of the same kind. Although great variations within each "kind" are possible, the evolution of new "kinds" is impossible.

Even the tiniest, most ordinary creatures are God's creation and are incredibly complex. Listen to this quote: "*Molecular biology has shown that even the simplest of all living systems on earth today, bacterial cells, are exceedingly complex. Although the tiniest bacterial cells are incredibly small, weighing less than 10-12 grams, each is in effect a veritable micro-miniaturized factory containing thousands of exquisitely designed pieces of intricate molecular machinery, made up altogether of one hundred thousand million atoms. They are far more complicated than any machine built by man and absolutely without parallel in the living world.*"

Our God is ALL POWERFUL and He made everything by His own great understanding.

- **Read Genesis 1:24-25.**

## **The sixth day, God created the animals.**

God created an inconceivable number and variety of animals, and He created each kind with unique characteristics and with the capability of reproducing only other animals of its own species. For a little more perspective, note this: The animal kingdom is divided into about 30 phyla. The nine largest phyla contain the majority of species. One phylum, the arthropods, which includes insects and spiders, constitutes about 75 percent of all known animal species. More than 900,000 arthropods have been described, and according to some estimates there may be more than five million more. The largest group within the phylum of arthropods and the most diverse class in all kingdoms is insects. Over 750,000 have been described. Some suppose that there are perhaps as many as three million different species of insects in the world. The most diverse family of insects are beetles, with over 375,000 types identified.

Other large families of insects include butterflies and moths (more than 100,000 species), bees and wasps (more than 20,000 species), and ants (about 10,000 species).

With over 30,000 known species, spiders, which are not insects, constitute one of the large families of other kinds of arthropods.

Only two other phyla within the animal kingdom, the roundworms and the mollusks, are known to contain more than 100,000 species. All other phyla generally have far less.

**Discussion:** Before we move into the last thing that God created, mankind, let's discuss what is revealed about God's heart and character through the details of what He has created so far.

1. On the one hand, God created all that mankind would need in order to survive. What are some of those things?  
Air  
Warmth  
Water  
Food  
Daytime and nighttime
2. On the other hand, He also created far more than we would ever need in order to survive. Name some of those things.
  - Huge vast variety of everything that has life.
  - Huge vast variety of things we can eat.
  - Unfathomable distances in space.
  - Fragrance and the ability to smell.
  - Taste buds to be able to taste food.
  - A world of color and the ability to see color.
3. What do these facts reveal to us about the heart of God? Namely this, what He wants us to know without a shadow of doubt—that He wants us to know Him and enjoy His creation as an amazing manifestation of His love and care and that mankind would see ourselves truly as the “apple of God's eye.”
4. So, how are these truths important for us today? First and foremost, it begins to reveal the depth of God's love and heart for mankind. And

when you take the time to consider all that God put into this first creation for our pure enjoyment and then remind yourself of His promise in John 14 that He “goes to prepare a place for us,” it begins to create a detachment in our hearts for life in this fallen world and creates an even greater desire for His return and our being taken to be with Him.

### **God creates humans with purpose.**

- **Read Genesis 1:26-28.**

Last week, we looked at God’s creation of man and how it reveals His desire for relationship. We saw that in being created in God’s image, man was given a mind, will, and emotions to understand God, to approach Him freely, and to connect with God’s emotions.

Additionally, of all of God’s creation, man would have a unique position: He was to be God’s representative on earth. He was to be the caretaker of the earth, even with authority over the animals. Man would be able to carry out this role, for he was created with a mind, will, and emotions.

This again testifies to the wisdom and orderliness of God. Just as He created everything that man would be dependent upon before creating man, so He also created man with faculties he would need to carry out what God wanted him to do.

We have seen in this lesson that even before Man was placed in the garden, God had already created a perfect and habitable venue for man to live and for God to carry out His plan of redemption. He created a world with the beauty of stars, the safety of land, and a variety of plants and animals—all of which were created to reflect God and cause man joy. Man was created with the faculties to relate to His creator—a mind, will, and emotions. God provides everything, as He did in the garden.

*To go deeper into this topic, read through Lessons 4 and 5 in the full Knowing God curriculum.*