

2. About Creation

Previously...

In the first lesson, we had a broad overview of what the Bible is and how it came to be. We saw that the Bible is actually a record of the contracts that Yahweh made. Even though Yahweh worked with 40 men over a period of 1,500 years to put His words into writing, He claims to be the ultimate author of the entire Bible.



Today, we intend to start reading from the Bible to see exactly what Yahweh shared with all people.

READING THE BIBLE TOGETHER

We will start by reading from Genesis, the first book in the Old Testament and following the biblical record of history, work our way to the New Testament to Revelation, the last book that Yahweh shared.



We will read straight from the Bible text so you can engage directly with the God's Word. We will read aloud the Bible text and each of you can follow along with your copies so you can see what is being read.

Then between lessons, you can read the Bible's text for yourself to get a better sense of what is going on in the narrative.

What to expect from this series

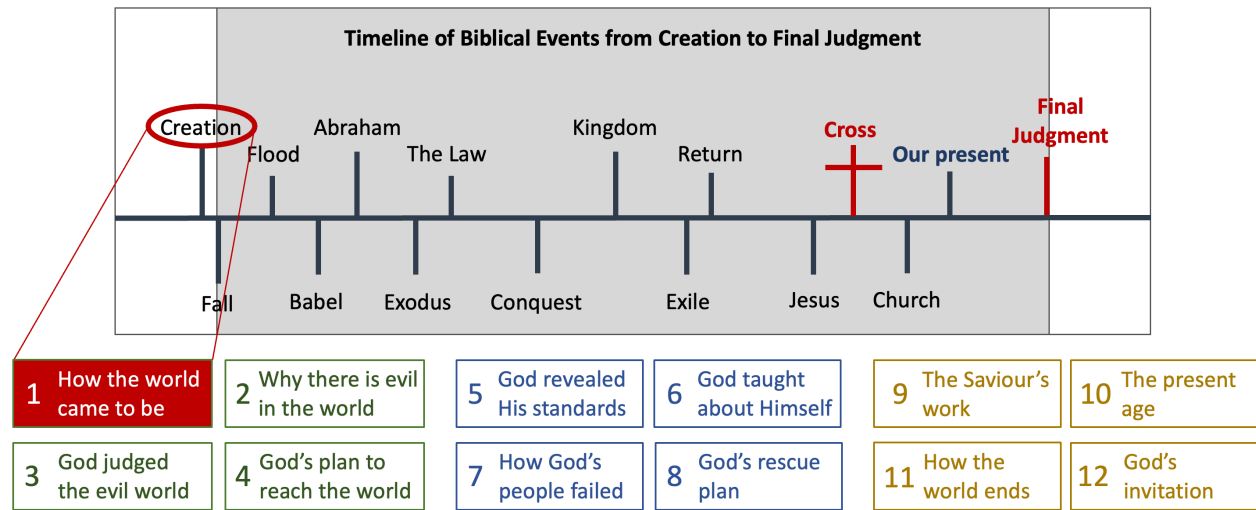
There is a lot of information in the Bible and we'll only be able to cover the main message.

We hope that the presentation is clear and will help you understand God's message to the people of the world.

After that, you can decide what you will do with the message of the Bible. Our response to the Bible is entirely up to each of us.

However, the Bible’s message does require a response. We can either believe what the Bible says about how life began, the purpose and destiny of mankind, and what happens after this life, or we can choose to reject the message of the Bible.

To begin, we will start on the left with the creation event and work our way to our present time and then into the future to the event known as the Final Judgment.



As we work our way through the Bible, you will notice that we will read and understand the text in a straightforward, historical way. We will read the Bible in the same way we would read a newspaper or history report.

The Bible does use word pictures, metaphors, analogies, symbols and idioms, but we will rely on the context to tell us when we encounter those. Otherwise, we will read the text as a record of actual historical events, in the same way that the original readers of the Bible would have understood it. Recall that the Bible is mainly the record of contracts and the record of the behaviour of people involved in the contracts. That is why it’s read in a straightforward way.

CREATION

We’re going to begin our journey at the beginning of the Bible with the first event called Creation. Let’s turn to the first book of the Bible which is called Genesis.

Genesis is from a Greek word and it means “Origins”.

Let’s turn to Genesis 1:1 (Genesis Chapter One Verse One) and follow in your Bible as the leader reads out the entire chapter all the way till the start of Genesis 2.

**Let's turn to our Bibles and read Genesis 1:1–2:3.**

(The leader reads aloud. For reference, the verses are also here.)

Genesis 1:1–2:3

¹ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

³ Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good. Then he separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light “day” and the darkness “night.”

And evening passed and morning came, marking the first day.

⁶ Then God said, “Let there be a space between the waters, to separate the waters of the heavens from the waters of the earth.” ⁷ And that is what happened. God made this space to separate the waters of the earth from the waters of the heavens. ⁸ God called the space “sky.”

And evening passed and morning came, marking the second day.

⁹ Then God said, “Let the waters beneath the sky flow together into one place, so dry ground may appear.” And that is what happened. ¹⁰ God called the dry ground “land” and the waters “seas.” And God saw that it was good. ¹¹ Then God said, “Let the land sprout with vegetation—every sort of seed-bearing plant, and trees that grow seed-bearing fruit. These seeds will then produce the kinds of plants and trees from which they came.” And that is what happened. ¹² The land produced vegetation—all sorts of seed-bearing plants, and trees with seed-bearing fruit. Their seeds produced plants and trees of the same kind. And God saw that it was good.

¹³ And evening passed and morning came, marking the third day.

¹⁴ Then God said, “Let lights appear in the sky to separate the day from the night. Let them be signs to mark the seasons, days, and years. ¹⁵ Let these lights in the sky shine down on the earth.” And that is what happened. ¹⁶ God made two great lights—the larger one to govern the day, and the smaller one to govern the night. He also made the stars. ¹⁷ God set these lights in the sky to light the earth, ¹⁸ to govern the day and night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

¹⁹ And evening passed and morning came, marking the fourth day.

²⁰ Then God said, “Let the waters swarm with fish and other life. Let the skies be filled with birds of every kind.” ²¹ So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that scurries and swarms in the water, and every sort of bird—each producing offspring of the same kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² Then God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply. Let the fish fill the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth.”

²³ And evening passed and morning came, marking the fifth day.

²⁴ Then God said, “Let the earth produce every sort of animal, each producing offspring of the same kind—livestock, small animals that scurry along the ground, and wild animals.” And that is what happened. ²⁵ God made all sorts of wild animals, livestock, and small animals, each able to produce offspring of the same kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.”

²⁷ So God created human beings in his own image.
In the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

²⁸ Then God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground.”

²⁹ Then God said, “Look! I have given you every seed-bearing plant throughout the earth and all the fruit trees for your food. ³⁰ And I have given every green plant as food for all the wild animals, the birds in the sky, and the small animals that scurry along the ground—everything that has life.” And that is what happened.

³¹ Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!
And evening passed and morning came, marking the sixth day.

¹ So the creation of the heavens and the earth and everything in them was completed.

² On the seventh day God had finished his work of creation, so he rested from all his work.

³ And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day when he rested from all his work of creation.

Notice that when we read aloud, we didn’t read out the verse numbers. We just skipped over them. They are there just for reference, to help us find the verses we need. Notice also how this initial account of the Bible spans more than one chapter. So we see that while the chapter numbers help to divide up the text so it’s easier to find, the chapter breaks do not always end in complete thoughts.











God created just by speaking

What we just read is the creation event. Before this only God Himself existed. There was no universe, no space, no matter or energy. Time did not even exist. Only God Himself was around. He exists outside of time and space. This is His eternal quality. He was not created but has always existed. That’s how the Bible presents Him.

Notice how God created. He did it simply by speaking. He didn’t need any material or tools. He used language alone to create. His creative work was sudden, done in six days. And then it was completed. We can see that He has to be very powerful to be able to create the universe from nothing. We call God all-powerful.

God created in an orderly pattern. On the first day, He created time using light and darkness to make day and night. Also notice how He made domains and then He filled the domains.

Six-Day Pattern

First 3 Days: Domains	Second 3 days: Occupants
  Domain of light and darkness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sun for day • Moon and stars for night  
  Domain of sea and atmosphere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fish for sea • Birds for atmosphere  
 Domain of land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animals for land • Man to rule fish, birds, animals  

For example, on the first day He created the domain of light and darkness and then on the fourth day He filled it with the sun, moon and stars.

On the second day He created the domain of sea and atmosphere and on the fifth day He filled it with fish and birds.

On the third day He created the domain of land and on the sixth day He filled it with animals and finally mankind.

We see how carefully God created everything. What was His purpose? Here's a way to understand what He was doing:

When we are expecting a new baby, we prepare the baby's bedroom, the baby's clothes, bottles, towels and toys. In the same way, God was preparing everything for His most important creation—man.

In chapter 1, we read the overview of what God did in the first week of creation. Then in chapter 2, God records the specific details on how He created man and woman.



Let's turn to our Bibles and read Genesis 2:4–25.

(The leader reads aloud. For reference, the verses are also here.)

Genesis 2:4–25

⁴ This is the account of the creation of the heavens and the earth.

When the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, ⁵ neither wild plants nor grains were growing on the earth. For the LORD God had not yet sent rain to water the earth, and there were no people to cultivate the soil. ⁶ Instead, springs came up from the ground and

watered all the land. ⁷ Then the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man's nostrils, and the man became a living person.

⁸ Then the LORD God planted a garden in Eden in the east, and there he placed the man he had made. ⁹ The LORD God made all sorts of trees grow up from the ground—trees that were beautiful and that produced delicious fruit. In the middle of the garden he placed the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁰ A river flowed from the land of Eden, watering the garden and then dividing into four branches. ¹¹ The first branch, called the Pishon, flowed around the entire land of Havilah, where gold is found. ¹² The gold of that land is exceptionally pure; aromatic resin and onyx stone are also found there. ¹³ The second branch, called the Gihon, flowed around the entire land of Cush. ¹⁴ The third branch, called the Tigris, flowed east of the land of Asshur. The fourth branch is called the Euphrates.

¹⁵ The LORD God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it. ¹⁶ But the LORD God warned him, "You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden— ¹⁷ except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die."

¹⁸ Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him." ¹⁹ So the LORD God formed from the ground all the wild animals and all the birds of the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would call them, and the man chose a name for each one. ²⁰ He gave names to all the livestock, all the birds of the sky, and all the wild animals. But still there was no helper just right for him.

²¹ So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. While the man slept, the LORD God took out one of the man's ribs and closed up the opening. ²² Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib, and he brought her to the man.

²³ "At last!" the man exclaimed.

"This one is bone from my bone,
and flesh from my flesh!
She will be called 'woman,'
because she was taken from 'man.'"

²⁴ This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.

²⁵ Now the man and his wife were both naked, but they felt no shame.

The Creator-God Yahweh

You might have noticed earlier on when we read this passage that God is called "LORD God" with the LORD in small caps.

For example, take a look at Genesis 2:4 in your Bible.

(The leader reads aloud the verse.)

Genesis 2:4

This is the account of the creation of the heavens and the earth. When the LORD God made the earth and the heavens,

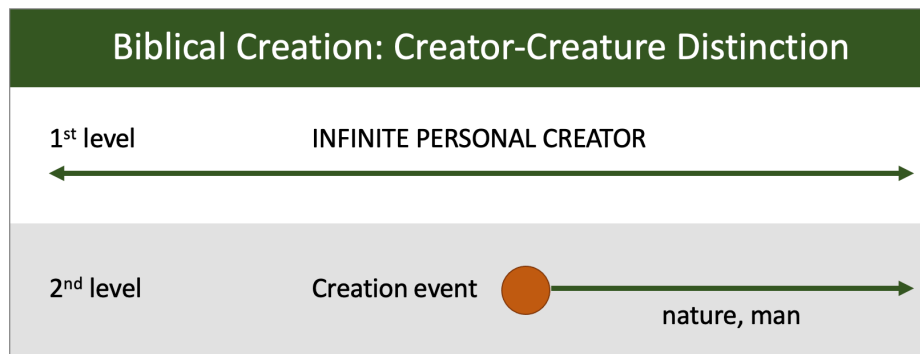
The name “LORD” is God’s personal name that is introduced here.

In the original Hebrew, this name is spelt YHWH. It is the personal name of the Creator-God. The most common way to pronounce this name is “Yahweh”. And in Hebrew, it is a form of the words “I AM”. It states that the Creator-God is self-existent and has always been present. He is the One who has always existed and it is He who causes all other things to exist.

When the Jews read out the Bible, out of reverence for God’s personal name, they prefer not to say His name out loud and instead they say “Lord”. So English Bible translators have respected this preference but they wanted to signal to the reader that the word in the Bible is actually God’s name, so they have spelt it with the small capitals: LORD. So it’s correct to say “Yahweh” whenever you see “LORD”. God’s personal name appears over 6,000 times in the Bible.

Creator-creature distinction

We need to take note of something significant in God’s creating the universe and all the things that fill it. What God created is separate from Himself. In other words, what He made is not part of Him. This is the Creator-creature distinction.



This means there are two separate levels of being that never cross over.

1. At the first level, there is God, who is an infinite, personal Creator.
2. At the second level, there is created man and nature.

Because God is separate and distinct from what He has created, He is not in any way dependent on man or nature for anything. He is wholly self-contained. In fact, everything God created is dependent upon Him.

The unique design of mankind

Earlier we read about Yahweh creating all the animals: notice how He spoke and then they all came into being.

Genesis 1:20–25

²⁰ Then God said, “Let the waters swarm with fish and other life. Let the skies be filled with birds of every kind.” ²¹ So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that scurries and swarms in the water, and every sort of bird—each producing offspring of the same kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² Then God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply. Let the fish fill the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth.”

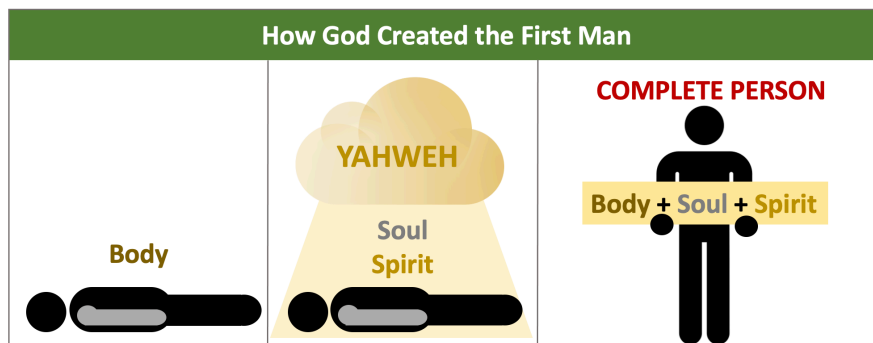
²³ And evening passed and morning came, marking the fifth day.

²⁴ Then God said, “Let the earth produce every sort of animal, each producing offspring of the same kind—livestock, small animals that scurry along the ground, and wild animals.” And that is what happened. ²⁵ God made all sorts of wild animals, livestock, and small animals, each able to produce offspring of the same kind. And God saw that it was good.

But God created mankind very differently.

Genesis 2:7

Then the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man’s nostrils, and the man became a living person.



With the first man, Yahweh personally formed a **physical human body** for him out of materials from the earth.

And then God breathed His own breath into him and made him a living being.

- God gave man a **human soul**, the immaterial side of a person.
- And God also gave him a **human spirit**. It is the human spirit that allowed the man to communicate with God, respond to God and have a relationship with God.

Why does Yahweh treat mankind so differently compared with the animals? It is because mankind is very special to Him.

The Bible tells us that of everything that God created, only mankind, both man and woman, is made in His own image.

Genesis 1:27

So God created human beings in his own image.
In the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

What does it mean to be created in God's image? Simply put, it means that mankind, both man and woman, shares some of God's attributes. But, in mankind, these attributes are finite or limited when compared with God's.

Creator-Creature Distinction					
1 st level CREATOR (Yahweh)	Infinite	All-loving	All-knowing	All-Powerful	Holy
2 nd level creature (man)	finite	limited in love	incomplete, imperfect knowledge and understanding	limited in ability	conscience must be tied to the Creator-God

The Creator-God is infinite in all His attributes. He is never limited. He never runs out of love, knowledge, power and righteousness. There is never a point when He runs out of any of these attributes. They are all part of who He is.

This means that when He acts and speaks, His actions and words are always consistent with His character. In other words, His actions are always good and righteous; and when He speaks, He speaks only truth. He never does evil and He never lies.

When the Bible says that God created mankind in His image, it means that mankind has these attributes but in a limited or finite way. Mankind can love, can gain knowledge, and can learn to be righteous. But because mankind is finite, people have the ability to gain these attributes only to a limited degree.

And just as God can make choices, God also created mankind to have free will, to be able to make choices. This means, for example, that mankind can choose to be loving or not.

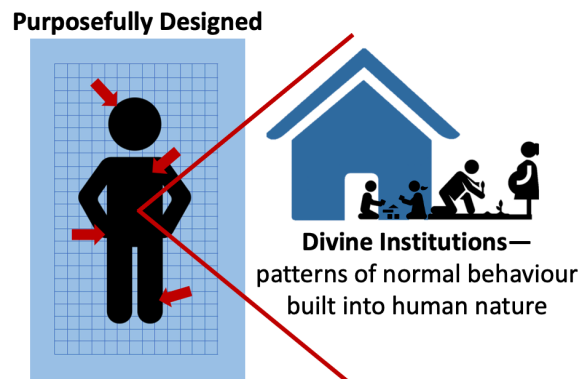
Mankind was not created like a computer program or a robot with no choice but to be loving all the time. Instead, humans can make choices, and humans are personally responsible for the choices they make. They are accountable to God their Creator for the choices they make.

In these ways, mankind has been given finite amounts of God's infinite attributes.

THE DIVINE INSTITUTIONS

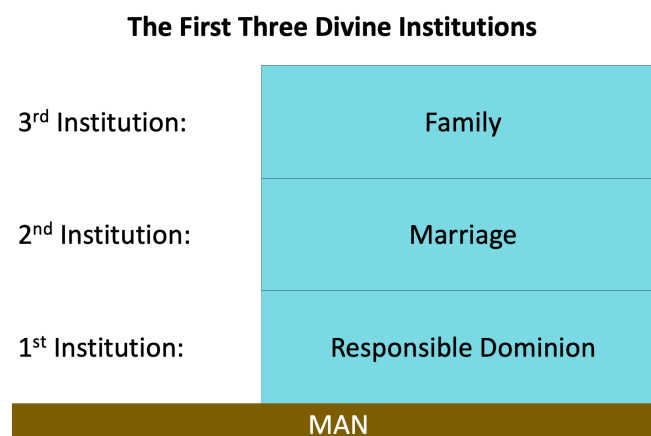
There is more to know about how God designed mankind. Because He is a God of order, when He designed mankind, He purposefully designed our physical features, our minds, emotions and capacity for relationships. But He did more.

He also built into mankind's nature the patterns of behaviour to enable us to live well. These patterns of behaviour are the normal way that God intended for people to live. We call these divine institutions.



Why are they called “divine institutions”? Because this is how the Creator-God designed mankind. They are not suggestions or simply nice ideas. Rather, they are inbuilt into mankind's design.

And what are these divine institutions? There are three. The first is **responsible dominion**, the second is **marriage** and the third is **family**. These divine institutions are essential for human society to function well and thrive.



First Divine Institution: Responsible Dominion

Let's look again at two sets of verses.

Genesis 1:27–28

²⁷ So God created human beings in his own image.
In the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

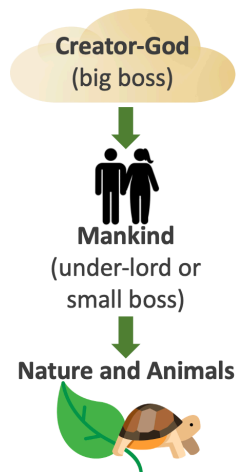
²⁸ Then God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground.”

Genesis 2:15

The LORD God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it.

We see that God's instructions to man and woman were to multiply, fill the earth and govern it.

Mankind was supposed to rule the earth and take care of it but not based on their own ideas. They were to look to God for guidance. Mankind was to have a close relationship with God and God would guide them on how to responsibly rule the earth.



This means God appointed mankind to take care of the earth as God's representatives. Part of mankind's role included making more images of God, that is, having children who would spread out and live all over the earth. And in this way, they would take care of the whole earth.



This responsibility is something God has built into mankind. In other words, mankind was designed with a purpose. We were designed for productive, creative and joyful work.

Second Divine Institution: Marriage

Genesis 2:18–24

¹⁸ Then the LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him.” ¹⁹ So the LORD God formed from the ground all the wild animals and all the birds of the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would call them, and the man chose a name for each one. ²⁰ He gave names to all the livestock, all the birds of the sky, and all the wild animals. But still there was no helper just right for him.

²¹ So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. While the man slept, the LORD God took out one of the man’s ribs and closed up the opening. ²² Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib, and he brought her to the man.

²³ “At last!” the man exclaimed.

“This one is bone from my bone,
and flesh from my flesh!
She will be called ‘woman,’
because she was taken from ‘man.’”

²⁴ This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.

In naming the animals, the first man realised that unlike the pairs of animals that God brought to him, he was alone. God did this deliberately to show the man that he was without a mate. Once the man realised this, God then said He would create a suitable helper that was just right for him.

So God created woman as man’s helper. Notice how He did it. Rather than forming woman from more dirt, He put the man into a deep sleep, took a rib from him and formed a woman from the rib.

God created woman specifically for man. She was literally a part of him. She was his equal. God’s definition of a helper that was “just right” for man was a woman. He could have created any other creature for man but God chose to create woman.

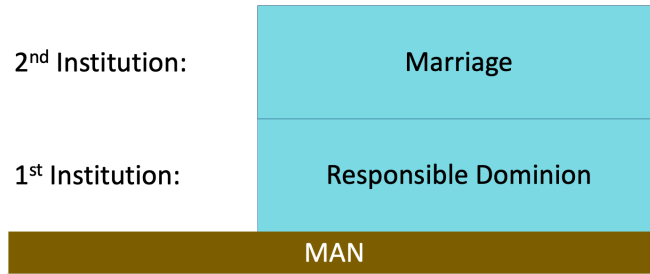
“JUST RIGHT” = Woman



Both the man and woman were created in the image of God and created as equals. But He created them with built-in differences that worked together or complemented each other. For example, God designed them physically different so that together, they could have children. Woman was “just right” for man because only with her could man produce children. In God’s design, man and woman together as a team were to care and rule over creation.

The Bible says that the man and woman were united into “one flesh”. Coming together as one flesh is marriage. Marriage, then, was God’s design. It was not created by mankind but by God.

Marriage is the second divine institution. It is a pattern of behaviour that God put into mankind. God knew that man could not have children or take care of the earth on his own and he would need help. That’s why God created woman and marriage.



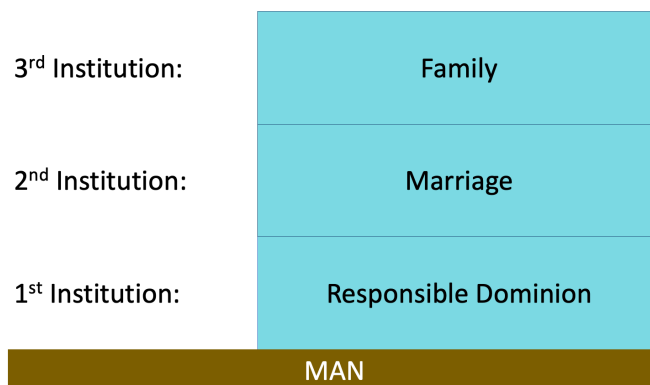
Third Divine Institution: Family

Man and woman coming together could procreate and have children. God gave man and woman the ability to reproduce more images of God, that is, more people.

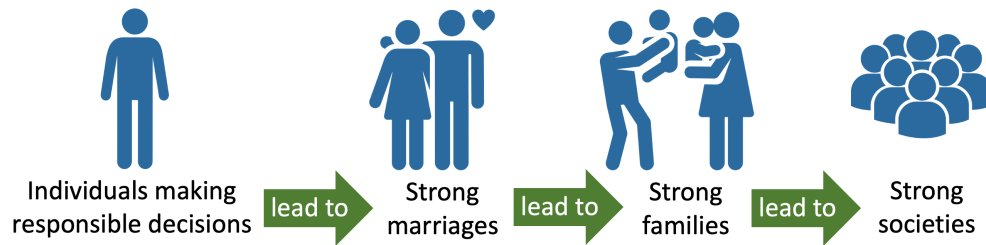
God told them to fill the earth with people. Marriage then was also to produce families, which would help man and woman fill the earth with more people to care for creation. So family is the third divine institution.



The First Three Divine Institutions



All these three divine institutions are patterns of behaviour that God has built into mankind. They are how God designed mankind to live well.



This is God’s design for strong, well-functioning societies. While not every person will be able to be in a marriage or be able to have children, God’s overall design for mankind as a whole was to build strong marriages that would lead to strong families. This would lead to strong societies, and that would lead to responsible care of creation.

God said it was “very good”

Genesis 1:31–2:2

³¹ Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!
And evening passed and morning came, marking the sixth day.

¹ So the creation of the heavens and the earth and everything in them was completed. ² On the seventh day God had finished his work of creation, so he rested from all his work.

At the end of God’s supernatural creation work over six days, He looked around and said it was very good. And then He rested on the seventh day to enjoy all that He had created.

What happened?

The world that we live in today is very different from the world we have just learnt about. Most of us would not say this world is “very good”. There is so much pain, suffering, disease and tragedy. What happened? We will study what the Bible says in the next lesson.



Bible reading for review
Genesis 1:1–2:25.

Note on the boxes attached to the end of each lesson

At the end of some lessons there are boxes where topics relevant to the lesson are discussed. These are optional content. It is not necessary to cover them to get the main overview of the Bible. However, they have been included for those who might be interested.

The Bible says that the Creator-God created the world in six days and in studying the history recorded in the Bible, we can estimate that the earth is about six thousand years old. But much of the science taught today disagrees with this. How are we to understand this?

Many Christians read the Bible like a normal book reporting on actual historical events. They read it in the same way they would read a newspaper or a history report. When they read the Bible this way, they understand that God created the world in six regular 24-hour days. And when they add up the dates and years mentioned in the Bible, they come to the conclusion that the earth is approximately six thousand years old.

But popular science today insists that the world is far older than this. Why the difference? Here is where we need to discuss what science is.

Sometimes, the word “science” is used to refer to everything that happens in the natural world. However, we need to know that there is a difference between “operational or observational science” and “historical science”.

Observational science is where we can conduct experiments today to confirm theories or hypotheses. We can repeat experiments to verify what others have discovered about the world



For example, in the 1600s, Galileo proposed that all objects fall to the ground at the same rate, regardless of their mass.

He set up an experiment to show that different balls (blue and red in the diagram) rolling down an inclined plane had constant acceleration. The acceleration was dependent only on the angle of the plane (the lighter and darker slopes in the diagram) and not the mass of the ball. Today, we can conduct the same experiment to prove his hypothesis right. This is how science works.



Historical science is a whole lot more tricky. This is because we are looking into the past, and do not have access to all the information needed to actually get a good answer. Nor can we conduct a test to confirm or disprove a theory.

Here is an example.

THE CANDLE EXPERIMENT

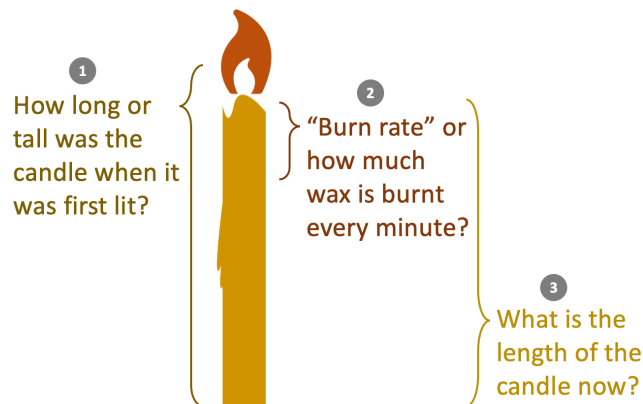
Imagine you opened a door and walked into a room. On the table in the middle of the room, you see a candle burning. Then your friend comes in and asks when the candle was lit.

Would you be able to tell him? There are two methods to get an answer.

Method 1: Collect the right pieces of data and then do some calculations.

If you had the correct information, you could find out when the candle was lit by calculating how long it has been burning. You need the following data:

1. the length of the candle before it was lit
2. the burn rate, or how much wax is burnt every minute
3. the length of the candle now.



Here's the equation:

$$\text{How long has the candle been burning?} = \left(\text{Length of whole candle} - \text{Length of candle now} \right) \div \text{"Burn rate" or how much wax is burnt every minute}$$

But if you could not get one of these three pieces of data, this method would not work.

The second piece of data, the burn rate, is particularly problematic.

To have an accurate burn rate, you would need to record how much of the candle was burnt every single minute from the start (when the candle was first lit) to the present moment. This is because any variation in conditions would change the burn rate.

For example, if there had been a breeze going through the room for 30 minutes, that would have made the candle burn faster for that time period! If you had not been around for those 30 minutes, you would never have known that the burn rate had increased.

And who knows what other conditions might have been present to change the candle's burn rate. The only way to obtain an accurate burn rate would be to take an average of all the different rates during the whole period of the candle burning and not just one sample burn rate.

Method 2: Ask the person who actually lit the candle what time he did it.

This is the most accurate way as he is the one who lit the candle. Or you could also ask an eyewitness what time the candle was lit.

DATING THE AGE OF THE EARTH

Let's take these two methods and apply it to finding out how old the earth is. We'll start with Method 1.

Method 1: Collect the right pieces of data and then do some calculations.

As with figuring out when the candle was first lit, historical science is also tricky. When trying to estimate the age of the earth, scientists face the problem of not having the data needed to calculate when the earth first began. They don't know:

- What the earth was like when it was first created ("the length of the whole candle").
- All the historical change processes that have taken place on the earth since it began ("the burn rate").

No one has the historical data of all the change processes of the earth since it first began. We cannot simply use the "burn rate" (that is, the scientific data) we can measure today because we do not know all the variations to the historical "burn rate", so to speak.

With critical pieces of data missing, we can't use Method 1 to calculate the earth's age.

Example: Mount St. Helens

Here's an example of using assumptions about the "burn rate" to estimate the age of rocks. Mount St. Helens in Washington, USA, erupted with great force in May 1980.¹ Not only was much of the surrounding landscape destroyed, but up till 1986, ongoing lava flows created new rock formations. So we know when these new rocks were formed: 1986.



In 1996, a large sample of this new rock was sent to a laboratory to be dated using the potassium-argon method. This method makes assumptions about the rate at which potassium atoms in rock radioactively decay into argon atoms (the "burn rate"). The rock sample was just ten years old but the laboratory results dated it to be 350,000 years old!

This example demonstrates that making incorrect assumptions about historical science results in incorrect conclusions.²

An additional challenge: a mature earth

And here's an additional challenge to using "scientific data" to date the age of the earth. God did not create the first man and woman as babies and then wait for them to grow up. No, the Bible tells us that God created them as adults. In fact, God created the earth as a mature earth.

At the end of Day 6 as God was looking around, He said that it was very good. He was looking at the completed creation, not a half-done one, nor a "baby" creation. Creation was sudden and quick. And then God turned off the creation process.

If we could be at Day 6 of Creation and take photos and videos of the garden of Eden, we would see a grown man (whose name was Adam) and woman (whose name was Eve) amid lush vegetation and full-grown animals. If we were to then show these photos and videos to a friend from today, what would our friend say about Adam's age or the age of the garden?

This could be a possible conversation:

Friend: "I'm guessing that Adam looks maybe 25 years old? And those trees! They are so huge and tall. They must be at least a hundred years old."

If you told Adam what your friend said, what would his response be?

Adam: "No, I'm just a few hours old. And God told me He had just created the earth. I'm certainly not 25 years old and that tree is not a hundred years old."

In other words, because of the supernatural way God created the earth, one cannot tell just by looking how old creation actually is. It looks older than it really is.

Method 2: Ask the person who actually lit the candle what time he did it.

If we want to find out the age of the earth with this method, we need to seek either eyewitnesses to the beginning of the earth or ask the One who created the earth. Were there any human eyewitnesses to the event of creation? No. This is what the Creator-God told a man named Job.

Job 38:1–4

¹ Then the LORD answered Job from the whirlwind:

² "Who is this that questions my wisdom
with such ignorant words?"

³ Brace yourself like a man,
because I have some questions for you,
and you must answer them.

⁴ “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?
Tell me, if you know so much.

Job wasn’t present when God created the world. No human was. God only created the first people, Adam and Eve, on Day 6.

So we have no human eyewitnesses but we do have the testimony, or account, of the One who created the earth—Yahweh Himself. God records for us in Genesis 1 that He personally created the earth from nothing. In fact, He created the universe just by speaking. God said He created the universe in just six days.

SCIENCE IS BASED ON WORLDVIEWS

This is why there is a difference in accounts of how old the world is and how the world came to be.

Method 2 gives us the testimony of the Creator-God.

Method 1 gives us the “historical science” conclusions of scientists. However, we need to understand that historical science must be built on some assumptions. And many scientists build their assumptions on what they already believe: that there is no God. And so, they take Him out of the picture entirely. Their underlying beliefs, or assumptions, affect their science.

Biblical Creator-Creature Distinction	Non-Biblical Worldview
1 st level CREATOR: Sustains Everything	1st level CREATOR <i>No such thing</i>
2 nd level creature: nature, man	2nd level creature: nature, man <i>sustains itself naturally</i>

Endnotes

¹ The photograph “MSH82 St Helens Plume from Harrys Ridge 05-19-82” by Lyn Topinka, United States Geological Survey. 1982. Public domain work. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:MSH82_st_helens_plume_from_harrys_ridge_05-19-82.jpg (Accessed 6 May 2021.)

² Dr. Andrew A. Snelling, Dr. Joe Francis, and Tom Hennigan, “Lasting Lessons from Mount St. Helens,” Answers in Genesis, no date. <https://answersingenesis.org/geology/mount-st-helens/lasting-lessons-mount-st-helens/>. (Accessed May 6, 2021.)