

formed out of the dust of the ground and woman was formed out of man's rib. Once created, God breathed His life into man so that man became a living being. Man was then given dominion over all the creatures. It is clear that when God created man He did so intentionally and suddenly. The creation of man, therefore, was not a random act of chance, but was the climax of God's creation and finished his creation of the visible world.

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."

8. WHAT DO WE BELIEVE ABOUT THE ROLE OF SCIENCE AND THE RELIGION OF EVOLUTION?

We support the role of science in better understanding how the created world around us functions. Science, though valuable, is limited to the visible world. We recognize that true science deals with concrete facts that are observable, measurable and repeatable. Evolution, however, falls outside the realm of true science as it ventures into theories of origins, attempting to define the existence of this world by purely natural means. We reject the basic tenets of evolution, believing it to be a humanistic teaching that assumes that God does not exist. The Bible, however, assumes the existence of God and describes that the existence of all creation is the divine plan of an Intelligent Designer.

Isaiah 40:25-26 "To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One. Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing."

Isaiah 45:12, 18 "It is I who made the earth and created mankind upon it. My own hands stretched out the heavens; I marshaled their starry hosts..." For this is what the Lord says—he who created the heavens, he is God; he who fashioned and made the earth, he founded it; he did not create it to be empty, but formed it to be inhabited—he says: 'I am the Lord, and there is no other.'"

9. WHAT IS THE OUTCOME OF ALL WE BELIEVE ABOUT GOD AS THE CREATOR OF ALL THINGS?

We believe that every man, woman and child was created for God's glory and that we have purpose and meaning. When God created the world, He considered it all very good. The world was perfect in beauty, without defect, suffering, death, or corruption. This all changed when both man and woman rebelled against God. In spite of our sin, however, the Creator of the universe still loves us and pursues a personal relationship with each one of us. This relationship with the God of glory is reconciled when we treasure Jesus Christ and trust Him as Lord and Savior. Only then are we redeemed from sin and free from all condemnation.

Isaiah 43:1 "But now, this is what the Lord says—he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: 'Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.'"

Isaiah 43:6-7 "Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth—everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

Ephesians 2:10 "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Revelation 4:11 "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."

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WHAT
DOES
THE
BIBLE
SAY
ABOUT...

Creation

*A Biblical Position Statement of Creation
by the Pastoral Staff of New Hope Community Church*



1. HOW DID THE VISIBLE WORLD COME INTO EXISTENCE?

God. In the beginning, before time or matter existed, there was God. The Bible teaches that God is eternal and that He created all things out of nothing, by the word of His power. The entire created universe and all that it contains did not come into existence by random chance, but was brought into being by the intentional will of a Sovereign God.

Hebrews 11:3 "By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible."

2. IS THE VISIBLE WORLD ALL THAT EXISTS?

No. The Bible speaks of both a visible world (seen) and an invisible world (unseen). The invisible world consists mainly of God, who though is invisible, is nonetheless intricately involved in His creation. The invisible world also consists of angels and demons and heaven and hell. Everything that is invisible was created by God, except God himself, who was neither created nor caused by anything (The Uncaused Cause). *Colossians 1:16 "For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him."*

3. HOW LONG DID IT TAKE FOR GOD TO CREATE THE WORLD?

Six days. The Bible says that God created the world in six days. We believe Genesis 1 speaks deliberately and plainly that the days of creation were indeed twenty-four hour cycles. This is supported by the use of individual numbers (First day, Second day, etc....), by the word 'day' itself (which contextually & most naturally means a twenty-four hour period), and by the repeated phrase '*There was evening and morning*'. Many have

attempted to make these 'days' of creation fit into 'ages' or 'millenniums' but such arguments are not *supported* by scripture. The whole universe was completed in the space of six literal days.

Genesis 2:1-3 "Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done."

4. WHY DID GOD REST ON THE SEVENTH DAY?

God rested so as to give humanity a pattern to follow for our weekly work. He did not rest because he was tired or needed a break (as if the Infinitely Powerful Creator would ever need a rest). The Bible points back to the created order of the universe as the weekly pattern we are to follow (work six days, rest one). *Exodus 20:11 "For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy." (Also 31:17)*

5. HOW OLD IS THE EARTH IN RELATION TO MAN?

The Bible does not put an age on the earth. However, the Bible is clear that man was created on the 'sixth day'. Since we believe these days were indeed literal twenty-four hour periods, we believe that man's existence on earth can be traced back to the beginning of creation. All attempts to speak of the earth as millions or billions of years old is derived from an evolutionary philosophy that presumes a slow 'evolutionary process' took place over long periods of time.

Genesis 2:4-7 "This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created. When the Lord God made the earth and the heavens—and no shrub of the field had yet appeared on the earth and no plant of the field had yet sprung up, for

the Lord God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no man to work the ground, but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground—the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being."

6. WHERE DID ALL THE DIFFERENT SPECIES OF ANIMALS COME FROM?

The Bible teaches that God made all different species of animals by the word of His power during the fifth and sixth days of creation. On these days, God created all the animals that filled the sky, the sea and the land. Once created, God commanded these animals to '*Be fruitful, multiply and fill the earth.*' The result was that each animal species procreated '*according to its kind.*' That is, dogs gave birth to more dogs. Birds gave birth to more birds. Monkeys gave birth to more monkeys. While we affirm that variation of genetics occurs within species (that is, all varieties of dogs can be traced back to a common dog ancestor) we categorically deny macroevolution, which teaches that there have been leaps from one animal species to another. We therefore believe that each animal species was uniquely created by God, who is infinitely powerful and creative.

Genesis 1:21, 25 "So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind... God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds."

7. HOW DID MEN AND WOMEN COME INTO EXISTENCE?

The Bible says that God created man and woman in His own image on the sixth day of creation. Man was