

Creation

The Biblical Basis

We Will Consider:

- I. The Creation of the Universe
- II. The Nature of the Universe
- III. The Creation of Living Things
- IV. The Creation of Mankind
- V. The Purpose of Mankind

I. The Creation of the Universe

“In the beginning God
created the heavens
and the earth.”

Genesis 1:1

God Created...
Ex Nihilo ~ from nothing



I. Creation of the Universe

A. The Origin of Matter

B. Created from Nothing

C. Created *by* God
(not *out* of God)

A. The Origin of Matter

- God is invisible

”whom no one has seen or can see.”

1 Tim. 6:16

- God is immaterial

”God is Spirit.”

John 4:24

The Origin of Matter

- The Universe is Visible

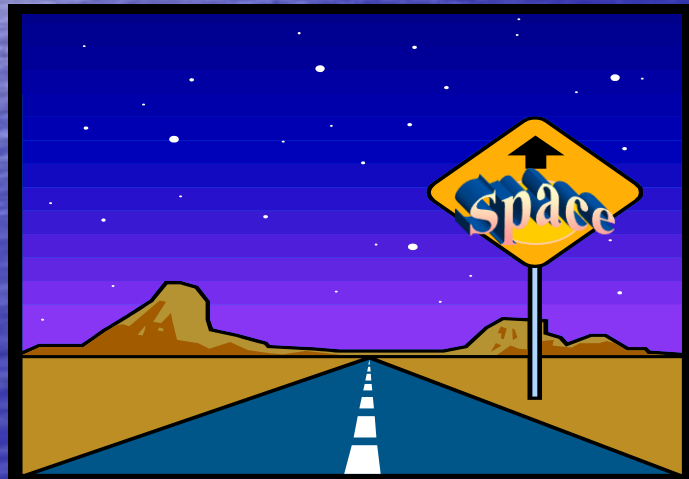


- The Universe is Tangible

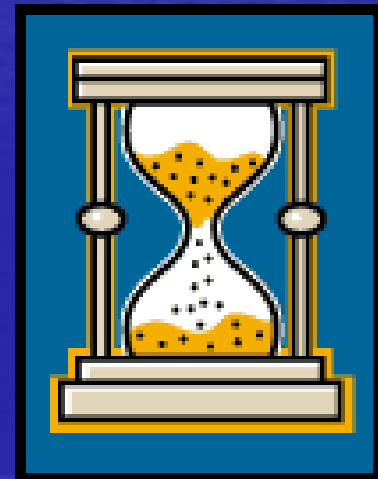


The Origin of Matter

- The Universe has space (whereness)



- The Universe has time (whenness)



I. The Creation of the Universe

A. The Origin of Matter

B. Created from Nothing

B. Created from Nothing

God spoke....

And the entire universe
came into existence
by God's will

Created from Nothing

“By the Word of the Lord were the heavens made,... For he spoke and it came to be.” Ps.

33:6

“Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.”

Jn. 1:3

I. Creation of the Universe

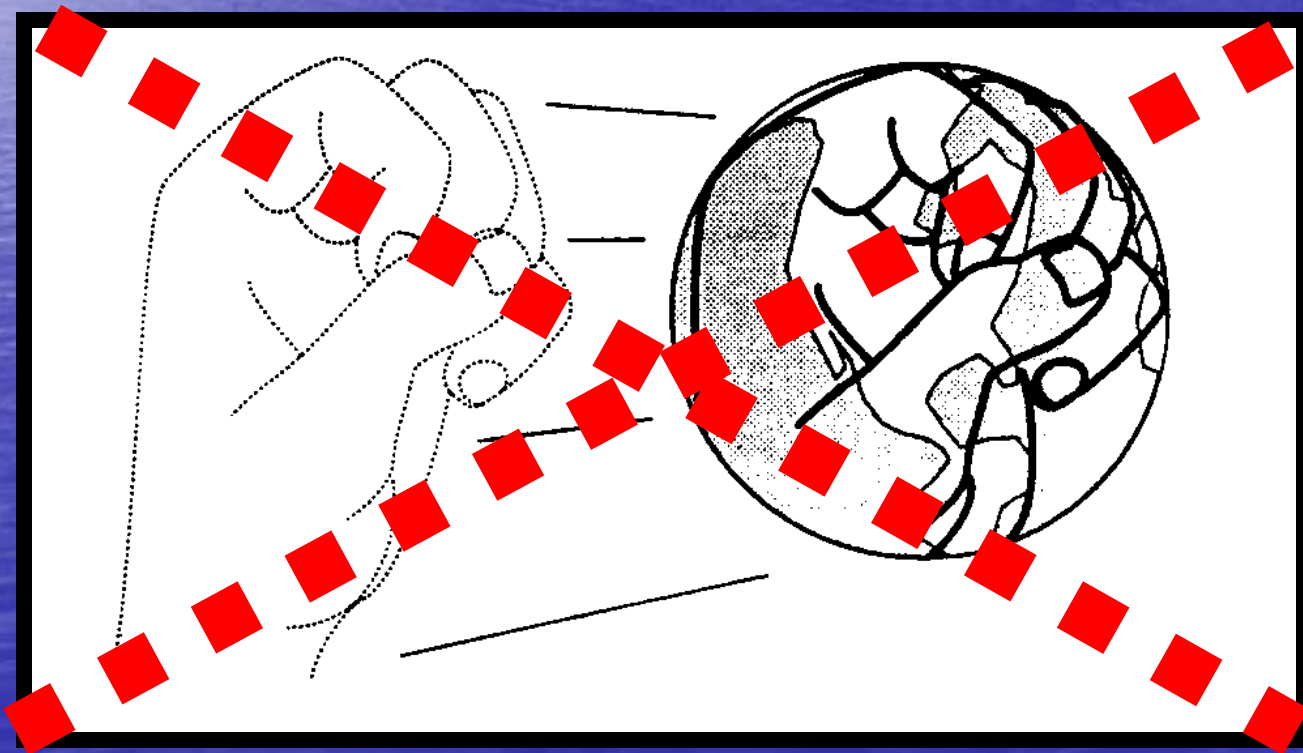
A. The Origin of Matter

B. Created from Nothing

C. Created *by* God
(not *out* of God)

C. Created *by* God (not *out of* God)

- The universe is NOT God's *body*
- The universe is NOT made of 'God-stuff'



Created *by* God
(not *out* of God)

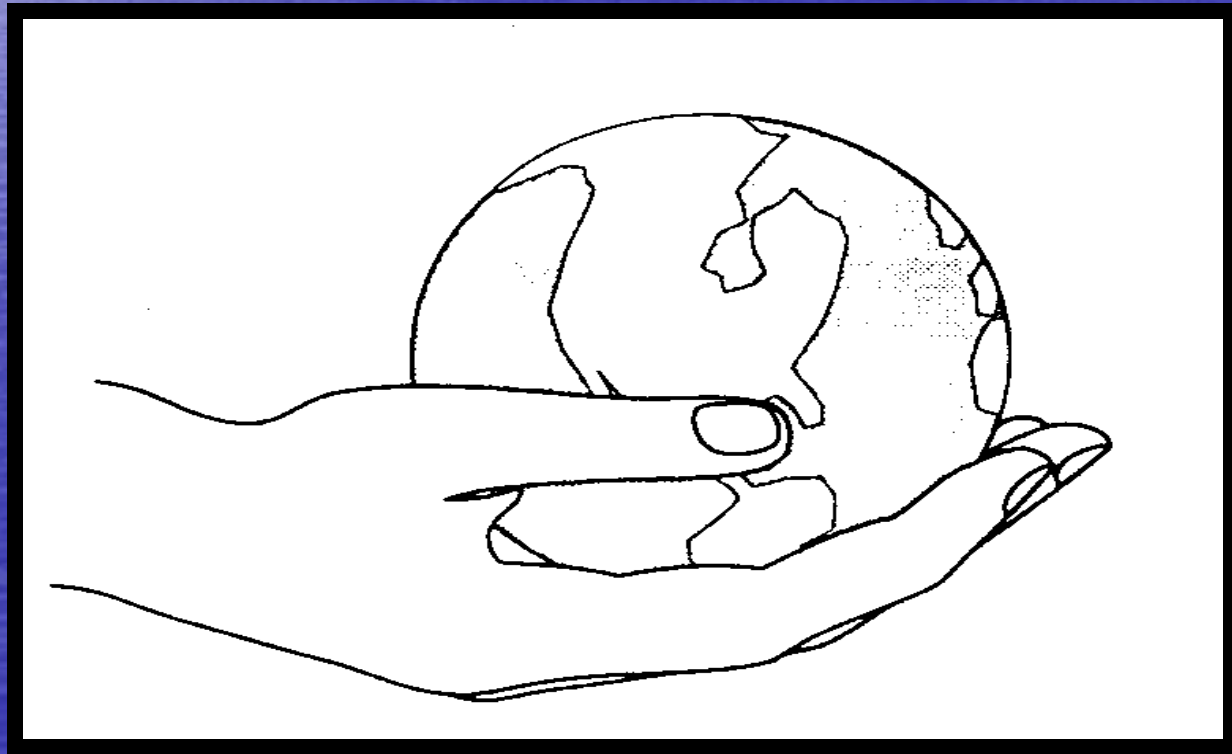
Because of this...

“You shall not make for yourself a graven image or any likeness of anything in heaven above, or that is in the earth below.”

Ex. 20:4

Created *by* God (not *out* of God)

- The universe is the handiwork of God
- The universe declares God's glory



Created *by* God
(not *out* of God)

“The heavens declare the glory
of God and the skies proclaim
the work of his hands.”

P s. 19:1

But how can...

- The Invisible create the visible?
- The Immaterial produce all matter?
- The Incorporeal make all corporeal things?

Response:

If an atheist can believe *finite* matter
produced a mind that could
contemplate *infinity*,

Then

A theist can believe *Infinite* Mind
produced *finite* matter.

Response:

If a *material* mind can produce
immaterial things such as literature
and art

Then

An *immaterial* God can be manifested
in *material* things such as a universe.

Response:

Creation (finite) must by its very *nature* be different than its Creator (infinite).

For

Just as a painting is visible and it's creator's mind is not,

So the creation (the universe) is visible, but it's Creator (God) is not.

“For by him all things were
created...visible and invisible.”
Col. 1:15

II. The Nature of Creation

II. The Nature of the Universe

- A. It is Contingent
- B. It is Finite
- C. It is Temporal
- D. It is Spatial
- E. It is Good

A. Creation is Contingent

Even though the world exists...



Nevertheless

It is possible that it could NOT exist.

Creation is Contingent

God is the *Originating* cause and the *Conserving* cause of the universe

ORIGINATING CAUSALITY

Cause of beginning
Cause of coming to be
Cause of becoming
Cause of coming together
Cause of origin

CONSERVING CAUSALITY

Cause of sustaining
Cause of continuing to be
Cause of being
Cause of holding together
Cause of operation

Creation is Contingent



“[God] sustains all things by his powerful word.”

Heb. 1:3

“He is before all things and in him all things hold together.”

Col 1:17

B. Creation is Finite

- Only God is infinite and unlimited and uncaused
- There cannot be two infinities...
Because an infinite includes ALL

Creation is Finite

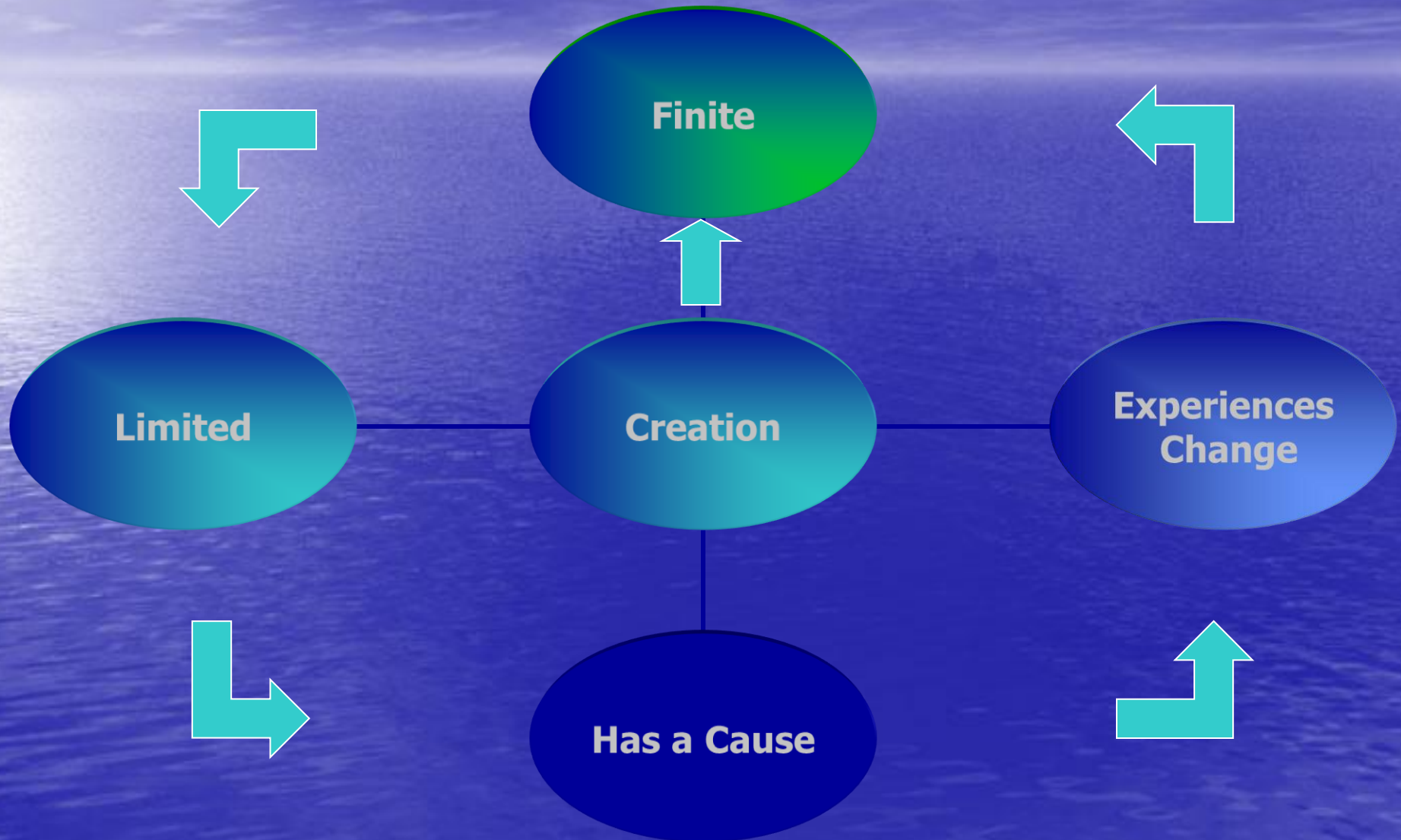
Since only God is infinite and unlimited,



Everything else must, by default, be finite and limited.



Material Creation is Finite



Creation is Finite

Since Creation is Finite

- A finite thing cannot always exist, therefore it must have a beginning.
 - Since a finite thing has a beginning, it is limited;
 - Since a finite thing came to exist (at its beginning), it must have a cause for that existence.

Creation is Finite

Since Creation is Finite

- A finite thing cannot always exist, therefore it must have a beginning.
 - Since a finite thing cannot always exist, it must undergo change.
 - Creatures undergo actual change
 - Creatures have the potential to change

Only God cannot change!

Creation is Finite

I the Lord do not change.

Mal. 3:6

[The heavens and the earth] will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But you remain the same, and your years will never end.

Ps. 102:26-27

C. Creation is Temporal



- All created things experience TIME.
- TIME is a measurement based on change.
- TIME is a limited measurement.
(It measures certain limited segments)

C. Creation is Temporal



- TIME is linear.
(It can only move in one direction.)
- As material beings, we are limited by time.
(We cannot jump backward to the past, or advance forward to the future.)

D. Creation is Spatial



- All created things are limited by space.
- Bodily, we cannot be *here* and *there* at the same time.

Creation is Spatial

- God, who is Infinite Spirit, has no bodily limits
- God is not IN space
- God is omnipresent

As the Psalmist said:

Whither shall I go from thy Spirit?

Or whither shall I flee from thy
presence? If I ascend to heaven,
thou art there! If I make my bed in
Sheol, thou art there!

Ps. 139:8

E. Creation is Good

God saw everything that he had made, and behold it was very good.

Gen. 1:31

Creation is Good

- Everything God made is good
 - Unique teaching in philosophy & religion
 - Gnostics – matter is evil
 - Plotinus – matter is the least good of all
 - Plato – matter is like chaos & not good
 - Eastern religions – matter is only illusion
 - Christian Science – matter is an error of mortal mind

III. The Creation of Living Things

III. The Creation of Living Things

A. The Origin of Life

B. The Nature of Life

1. The Unity of All Life
2. The Diversity of All Life
3. The Fecundity of All Life
4. The Stability of All Life
5. Dominion Over All Life

A. The Origin of Life

God created...every living thing that moves....

Gen. 1:21

He himself gives to all men life and breath and everything.

Acts 17:25

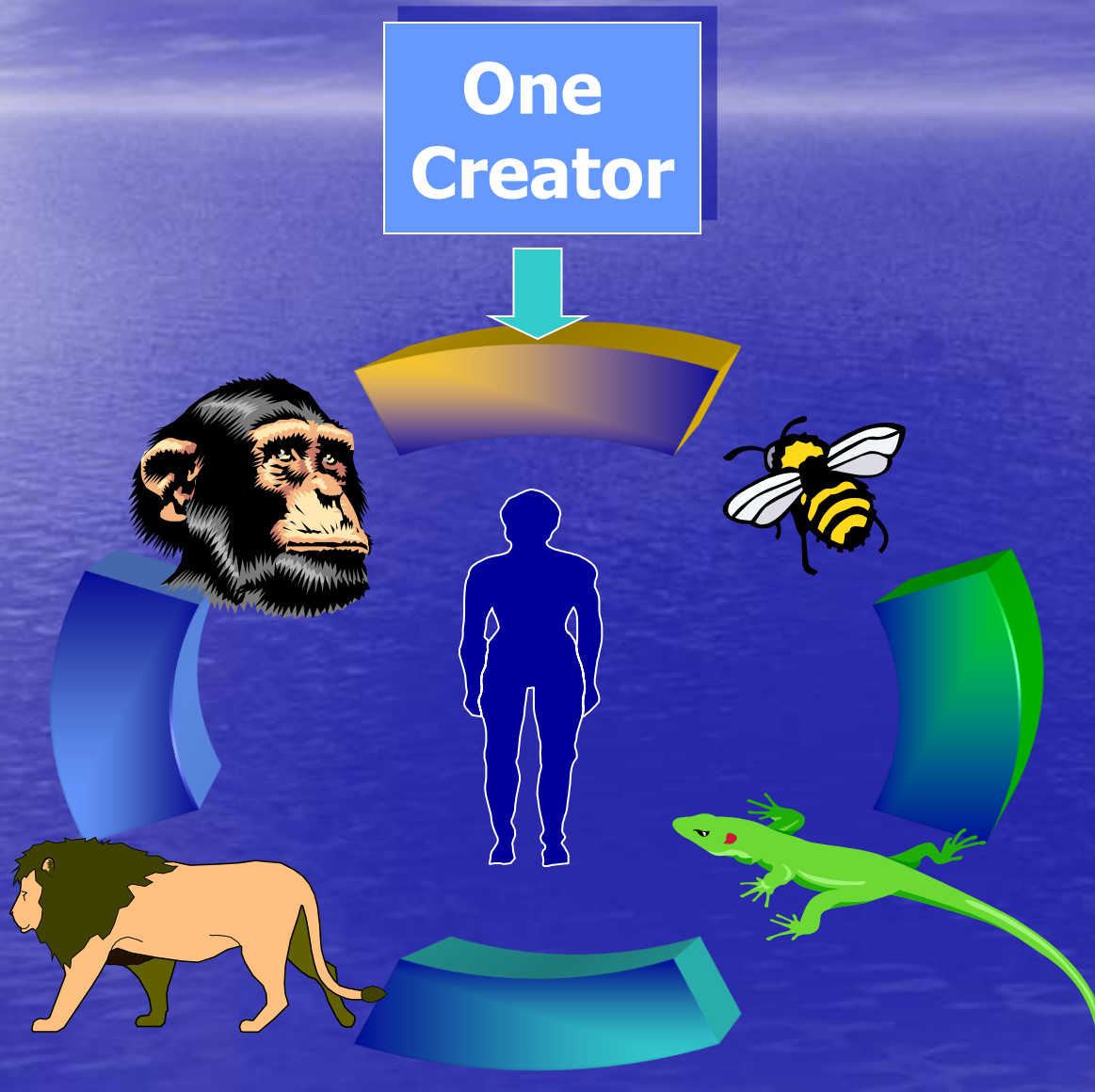
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Jn. 1:3

B. The Nature of Life

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1. The Unity of Life

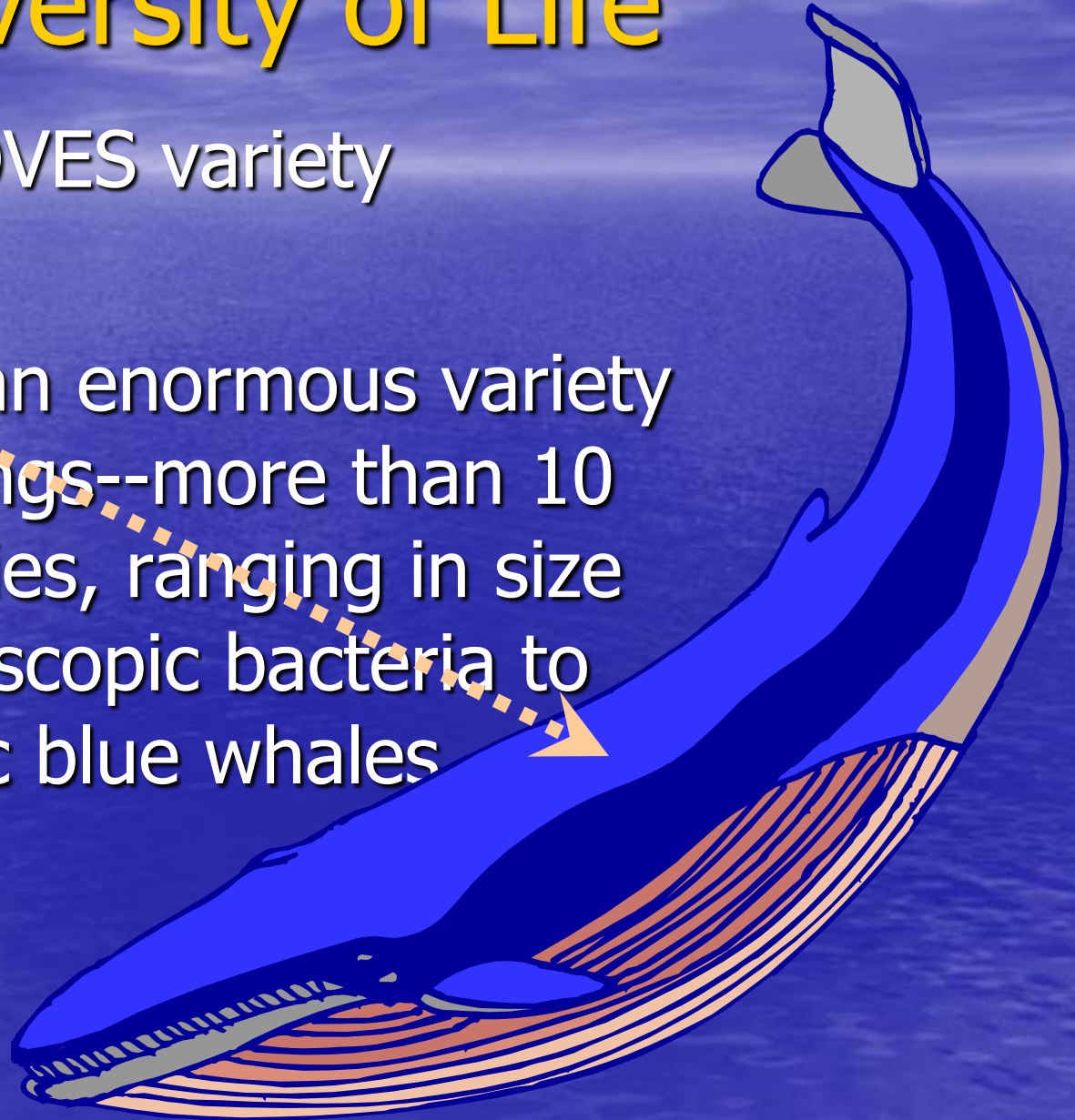


2. The Diversity of Life



God LOVES variety

The earth has an enormous variety of living things--more than 10 million species, ranging in size from microscopic bacteria to gigantic blue whales



3. The Fecundity of Life

- God commanded life to multiply
- The land reproduces itself naturally
- Man and animals have strong God-ordained desires to multiply.



4. The Stability of Life

- God ordained each life form to reproduce according to its kind
- In this way, God provided for the continuance of each life form
- This continuation has remained consistent and stable since the very beginning to the present



5. Dominion over Life

God made mankind in his image and
ordained them to have dominion over
His creation

Rule over the fish of the sea and the
birds of the air and over every living
creature that moves on the ground

Gen. 1:28

IV. The Creation of Mankind

IV. The Creation of Mankind

A. Origin of Mankind

B. Nature of Mankind

1. Human Dignity

- a. Intellectual Likeness

- b. Moral Likeness

- c. Volitional Likeness

2. Human Unity

3. Human Community

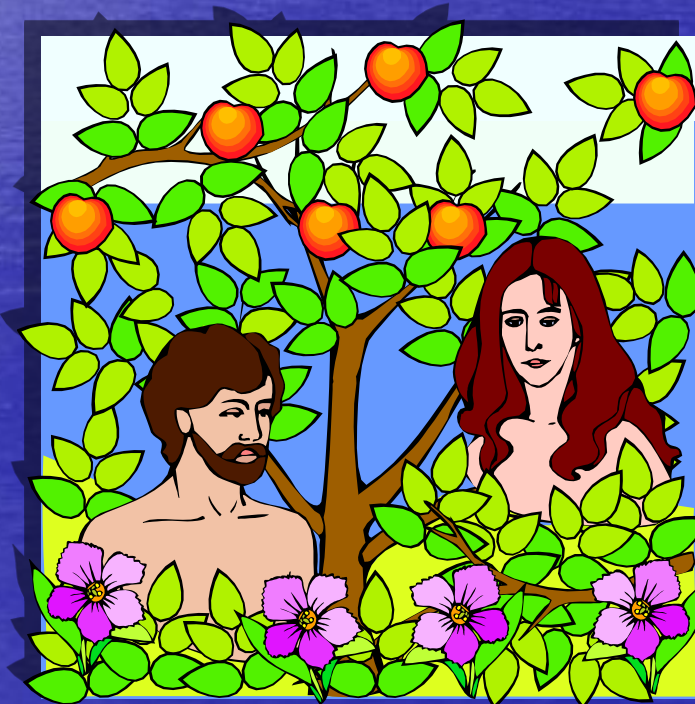
What is man
that you are mindful of him,
the son of man that you care for him?
You made him a little lower
than the heavenly beings
and crowned him with glory and
honor.

Ps. 8: 4-5

A. Origin of Mankind

- The creation of mankind, male and female, is recorded by the Scriptures in Genesis 2:7, 22

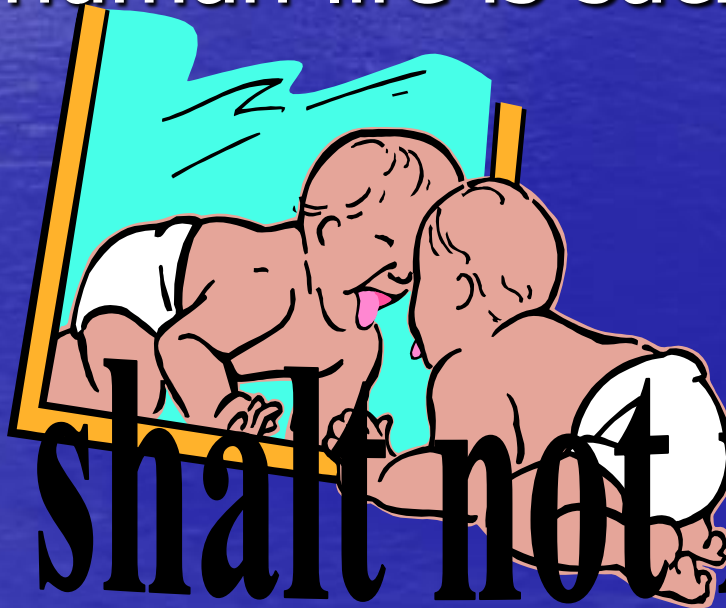
- The fact and order of the creation is the basis of other Christian doctrine



- Scripture always refers to the creation of mankind as a historical event

B. The Nature of Mankind

- Made in God's image, mankind is a special creation
- As such, human life is sacred



Thou shalt not murder

1. Human Dignity: The Image of God

This image of God includes both moral
and intellectual characteristics



The Image of God

God is an intelligent being

Therefore

Humans reflect and possess a
finite amount of intelligence



Moral Image

God is a holy
and loving being

Therefore

Humans share a finite
amount of moral
attributes



Moral Image



Humans resemble God

Humans represent God

Humans reign for God

Volitional Image

A moral and intellectual likeness to God implies a volitional likeness

Therefore

Like God, humans have free choice and are responsible and accountable beings



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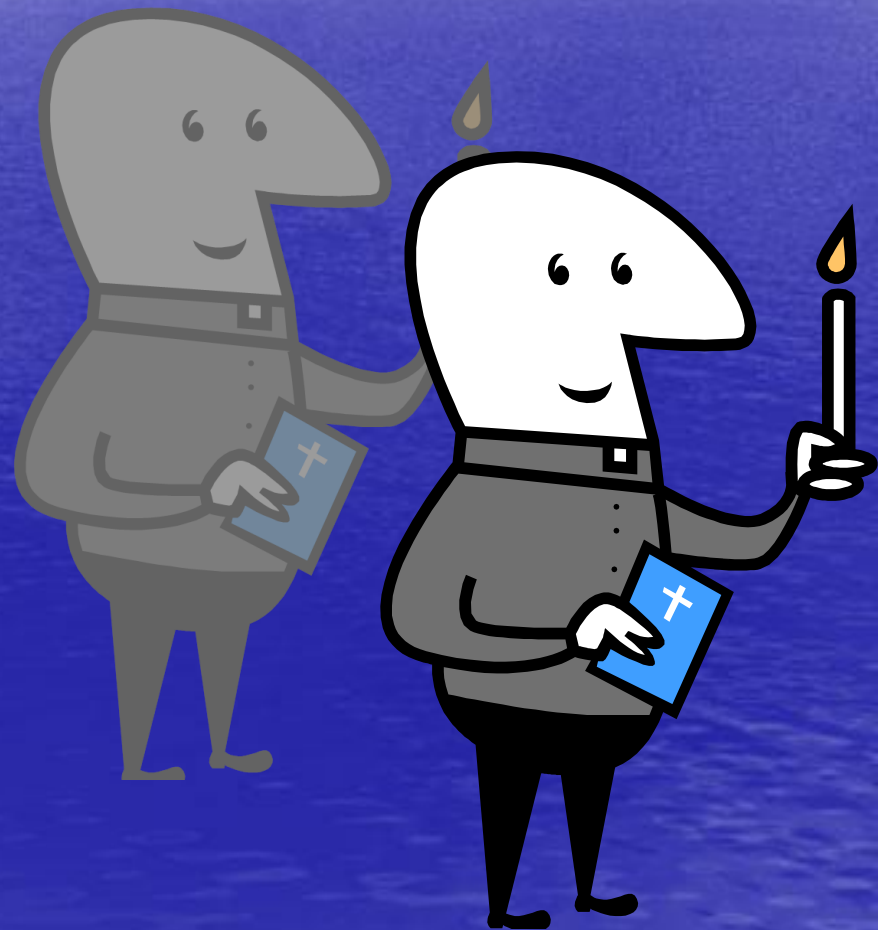
3. Human Community

B. Human Unity

1. One Nature=Human Nature
2. Two Dimensions=Soul and Body
3. Three Directions:
 - a. Upward to God
 - b. Inward to self
 - b Outward to world

B. Human Unity

In each individual
human being
there is a unity
of soul and body
– a spiritual
dimension and a
physical
dimension



Human Tri-directionality

Within this basic unity of body and soul,
there is a tri-directionality.

For a human can be...

Self-conscious
(inward-looking)



World-conscious
(outward-looking)



God-conscious
(upward-looking)

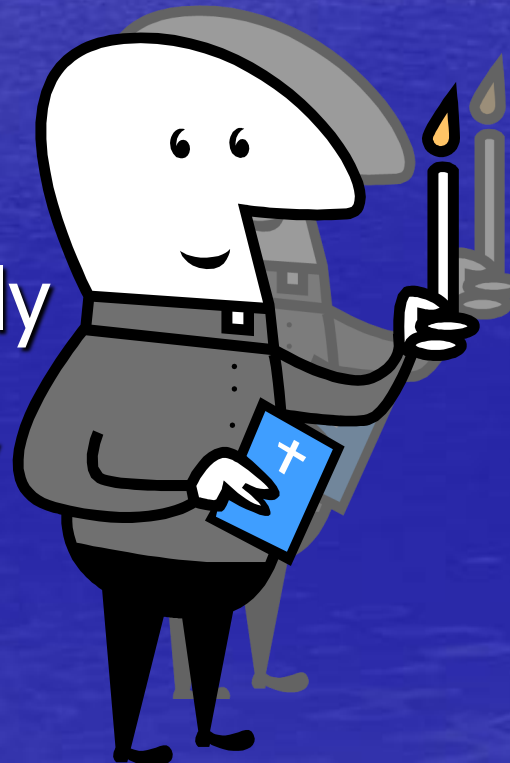


Human Duality Within Unity

Within this basic unity of body and soul,
there is also a duality.

For body and spirit
are not identical.

They are temporarily
separated at death,
but reunited in the
Resurrection.



IV. The Creation of Mankind

A. Origin of Mankind

B. Nature of Mankind

1. Human Dignity

a. Intellectual Likeness

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3. Human Community

God created mankind to live in community and solidarity

From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth.

Acts 17:26

Human Community

- Mankind's community and solidarity includes:
 - His creation
 - His fall from grace
 - His propagation and genetics
 - His purpose
 - His death

Human Community

For as woman came from man, so also man is born of woman. But everything comes from God.

1 Cor. 11:12

For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

Rom. 14:7-8

V. The Purpose of Mankind

V. The Purpose of Mankind

A. To Glorify the Creator

B. To Enjoy His Creation

A. To Glorify the Creator

"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."

Rev. 4:11

“Whatever you do, work at it with all
your heart, as working for the Lord,
not for men.”

Col 3:23

“Therefore, whether you eat of
drink, or whatever you do,
do all to the glory of God.”

1 Cor. 10:31

To Glorify the Creator

- God did not *have to* create
- God did not *need to* create
- God *wanted to* create

We owe *everything* to him:

“Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.” (1 Chrn. 29:14)

B. To Enjoy God's Creation

"[God] richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment."

1 Tim. 6:17

"I know that there is nothing better for them than to rejoice, and to do good in their lives, and also that every man should eat and drink and enjoy the good of all his labor-it is the gift of God."

Eccles 3:12

To Enjoy God's Creation

- God is not a heavenly scrooge or a Cosmic killjoy
- God desires happiness (satisfaction) and holiness (sanctification) for his creatures
- God's very purpose is for us to enjoy every gift he graciously gives
- God desires that we exalt him and enjoy his presence and his creation



Summary

Summary

- God created the universe
- God created every living thing
- God created mankind in His image
- God created because He wanted to
(not because He had to or needed to)
- It is our duty to glorify the Creator
It is our privilege to enjoy His creation

Summary

- God created unity, diversity, fecundity, and stability in life
- God instituted procreation for the continuance of life
- Human beings are a special creation
- Humans possess dignity, unity and community
- The purpose of created life is to glorify God and enjoy his creation

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