

## Frequently Asked Questions about God, the Bible, and Creation (Gen 1-11)

### 1. How do you know God exists?

Ans: The Bible does not try to explain God's existence (Genesis 1:1). He simply IS (I AM WHO I AM - Exodus 3:14). Creation declares some of His attributes. (Psalm 19:1-3, Romans 1:19-20).

### 2. How do you know the Bible is God's Word?

Ans: (1) It claims to be so ("Thus saith the LORD" 418 times); (2) Jesus Christ testified of its authenticity (John 10:35); (3) The Apostles and others were eyewitnesses (Acts 4:33, 1 Corinthians 15:6, 2 Peter 1:16, 1 John 1:1); (4) It has the great unifying theme of redemption without contradiction; (5) It has been miraculously preserved (Psalm 12:6,7); (6) It is 100% prophetically accurate; (7) It is 100% historically accurate; (8) It is 100% accurate when making scientific inferences; (9) It has influenced whole societies; (10) It has transformed individual lives, perhaps yours.

### 3. Why would a loving God allow evil and calamity (racism, Covid-19, etc.)?

Ans: We can only attempt to answer why God does something. But God is not the source of evil. He created a perfect universe. It is Satan (Isaiah 14:12-15) and then Adam and Eve (Genesis 3; Romans 5;12, 8:22) who brought on sin and evil, estranged themselves from God, and affected all mankind and the whole creation. There are two types of evil - moral evil (man's sin such as racism) and physical evil (calamity and disease such as Covid-19). God is sovereign (all-authoritative), omnipotent (all-powerful), and omniscient (all-knowing) and He orchestrates all events (including calamity) to accomplish His eternal, righteous will. Part of His will is that all people repent and come to Him by faith for salvation (Acts 17:30, 1 Timothy 2:4, 2 Peter 3:9, John 3:16). He reveals Himself to everyone through creation (Romans 1:20, Psalm 19:1) and their conscience (Romans 2:15). But perhaps God also allowed the intrusion of evil into the world to reveal His character - His justice (wrath) and love (mercy). Perhaps He knew that unless we saw the stark contrast of His holy character and that of sinful man, we would not believe in Him. Certainly, that contrast was best revealed in His own person, Jesus Christ, on the cross, where unimaginable evil was defeated by God's infinite justice, love, and forgiveness. Through that revelation, and despite all the evil in the world, God offers the hope of an eternal future in heaven with Him (1 Corinthians 2:9), through our humble repentance and faith. In heaven there will be no more evil, sorrow, crying, tears, pain or death (Revelation 21:3,4).

### 4. Can't Christians believe in evolution?

Ans: Evolution contradicts biblical truth, such as the order of creation events. Scientific evidence is interpreted based on one's worldview. It is a matter of either accepting the authority of the Bible or the authority of man's theories. True science does not contradict the Bible, but it does contradict evolution.

### 5. Where did the races come from?

Ans: There is one race - the human race. Three lineages of people descended from Noah's three sons and daughters-in-law (Genesis 10). Groups dispersed after Babel (Genesis 11) and isolation (due to the language confusion) brought out certain ethnic traits - erroneously called races.

### 6. How do dinosaurs fit in with the Bible?

Ans: God created sea creatures including leviathan, and beasts of the earth including behemoth on days 5 and 6 of creation week (Genesis 1:21,25; Job 40:15, 41:1-34). These certainly included the plesiosaurs and large reptiles/dinosaurs (see descriptions in Job). Young adult land dinosaurs were taken on the Ark and eventually they became extinct mainly due to climatic changes.

### 7. Where did Cain get his wife?

Ans: Initially brothers and sisters married each other. There was no physiological or biblical problem with that. Cain's wife was one of his sisters.

### **8. Doesn't carbon dating prove the earth is very old?**

Ans: No. Measurements of C-14 in fossils, coal, and diamonds; and the increasing C-14 to C-12 ratio in the atmosphere support a young earth.

### **9. How did Noah get all the animals in the Ark?**

Ans: The Ark was huge (Genesis 6:14-16) - having the cargo space of about 550 railroad boxcars. This was plenty of room for one pair (7 pairs of some) of each "kind" (approx. taxonomic family) of air-breathing animal (Genesis 7:13-16) – estimated between 3,000 and 7,000 animals. Most were small birds and amphibians. The average size of the mammals and reptiles was about that of a sheep.

### **10. How do you explain ape-men?**

Ans: There were no "ape-men." All people were and are created in God's image (Genesis 1:27). Man did not evolve from some lower primate. Some people such as Neanderthals had different physical traits, but they were fully human - making jewelry, burying their dead, etc.

### **11. Wasn't there a time gap between the first two verses of Genesis?**

Ans: No. Very few Bible scholars try to insert a time gap between the first two verses of the Bible. Genesis 1:2 is an expansion of Genesis 1:1. They were not two different events separated by eons of time. Since death is a result of sin (Genesis 2:17, 3:6; Romans 5:12), any time gap where there was struggle and death (evolution) before Adam contradicts scripture.

### **12. Couldn't the creation days have been long ages?**

Ans: Although the word "day" (Hebrew *yom*) can mean an indefinite time period (e.g., "the day of the Lord"), God defined the creation day as "evening and morning." Also, every time the word day (*yom*) is used in the Old Testament with a number (e.g., first day, second day, etc.), as in the case of the creation week, it means a 24-hour period. Virtually all Hebrew scholars agree with this. God equated the literal 7-day creation week with man's work-week (Exodus 20:9-11). The verse in 2 Peter 3:8 equating a day to a thousand years is simply referring to the fact that God is not constrained by time.

### **13. Where did I come from?**

Ans: Every person is created in God's image (Genesis 1:27). We are fearfully and wonderfully made. From the moment of our conception, we have all the DNA necessary for our specific traits and personhood (Psalm 139:13-16).

### **14. Why am I here?**

Ans: God has a specific purpose for each of our lives. To have no purpose in life is debilitating.

### **15. How should I live?**

Ans: A society can only succeed if it follows a moral code which transcends individual opinions and preferences. The Bible, which includes the 10 Commandments, provides such a code. Otherwise, a society without such a code will descend into chaos, anarchy, and eventually tyranny. Ultimately, we are to glorify (to reverence and obey) God as our Creator (Ecclesiastes 12:1,13).

### **16. Where am I going when I die?**

Ans: The Bible is clear that as God's image-bearers, after physical death, we exist forever - either in a state of eternal life or one of eternal death (Daniel 12:2, John 3:36). Although every person is estranged from God from birth due to their sin nature, God, by His grace, has made a way to live eternally with Him. It comes through repentance and faith in His Son, Jesus Christ. Those who reject the Gospel - Christ's sacrificial death for them - are consigned to a Christ-less eternity in hell (2 Thessalonians 1:9). There is no middle ground, no annihilation.