

Week 2 (Creation) A Catechism for God's Family

A catechism is a basic instruction in the Christian religion using questions and answers. This catechism is designed to be used for one year. Each week there are four questions to memorize with the answers. This catechism is imbedded in a daily devotional format, which can be used for a wide age range.

Included here are explanations of the truths that have been asserted in the questions and answers. For each day there is a Bible passage, the catechism question to memorize, and a basic commentary. This is followed by "Thinking Deeper," a more in depth discussion of the subject. Each week there is a Bible passage to memorize that will be the focus of that week's questions. Every Friday is review day, so all four questions of the week can be reviewed.

Memorize (Exo 20:11) *For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.*

Q5. How many days did God take to make things?

A. God made things in six days.

Q6. What did God make in six days?"

A. God made heaven and earth, the sea and everything in them in six days.

Q7. What did God make in the first three days of creation?

A. On day 1 He separated light from darkness

On day 2 He separated water above the sky from water below the sky.

On day 3 He separated land from water and made plants

Q8. What did God make in the last three days of creation?

A. On day 4, sun, moon and stars.

On day 5, birds and sea creatures.

On day 6, animals and man.

Monday (Creation)

Memorize (Exo 20:11) *For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.*

Bible Reading: Genesis 1:1-8

Q5 How many days did God take to make things?

A. God made things in six days.

Have you ever wondered why we have seven days in a week? It is because that is how God started it. When He created things, He took six days. Then He rested for a day. That was the first week. That was the beginning. After creation, time has been measured by days and weeks, and months and years. God has created things so that the stars and sun and moon all move together perfectly. Everything is in order because God has made it that way.

On October 17, 2007 in Key West, Florida the sun rose at 7:26 AM. Did you know that in ten years from that date, October 17, 2117 the sun will rise in Key West at 7:26 AM? God keeps perfect time! He created the first week with seven days. The first six days He worked, and the seventh day He rested. From then on the sun has been rising and setting right on schedule.

Thinking Deeper

During the French Revolution, the leaders of the revolutionary government decided to experiment with a ten day week. Their motive was to get rid of the old ideas that were influenced by the Bible. Since the Bible said a week was seven days, they wanted to change it. Lalande, who proposed the ten day week, wrote, "*No creation of the republic will do more to break the hold of the priests over their superstitious dupes.*" They tried to divide the year into twelve months of thirty days, but then they had five days left over. These they designated as holidays! It didn't take long for them to realize that their experiment was a failure. The government could outlaw the church, but they failed to re-do the time that God had already put into the year.

Atheists have a major problem. They act as though they can make their own laws, yet they live in a world that God created. Even the pagan Athenians of Paul's day knew better, for they understood that in God "we live, and move, and have our being."

Tuesday (Creation)

Memorize (Exo 20:11) *For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.*

Bible Reading: Genesis 1:9-13

Q6. What did God make in six days?"

A. God made heaven and earth, the sea and everything in them in six days.

How could God make everything in six days? It is because with God nothing is impossible. For God, time is not a problem. He can make things in an instant. Of course it seems impossible for us to understand how God could have created so much in six days. But God can speak and make things happen just by His words. That's how He made everything. He spoke and it happened. "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God." (Heb. 11:3)

Jesus showed how God can do what seems impossible by speaking. He was with his disciples in a boat in a storm. The waves were about to sink them when Jesus spoke to the storm. Immediately it was calm. Because He is so great, he can do anything.

Thinking Deeper

There is a theory that things came into being by what is called the Big Bang. It all supposedly started with the explosion of a "primeval atom." We are not told where that atom came from and no one really knows anything about it. And we are told that the Big Bang happened anywhere from ten to twenty billion years ago. After that, the universe began evolving into what it is today. All this supposedly happened by natural processes, without any designer, and without any mechanism in place to channel the energy into any organized form.

Faith concepts have been criticized for explaining things that ignorant people don't understand. Yet this so-called scientific theory of the origin of the universe is based on speculation without any real understanding. It is built on guesses upon guesses. The Bible is clear that our understanding about how the world came into being is by faith. Our faith is in the eternal God, who is capable of doing anything.

Wednesday (Creation)

Memorize (Exo 20:11) *For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.*

Bible Reading: Genesis 1:14-23

Q7. What did God make in the first three days of creation?

A. On day 1 He separated light from darkness.

On day 2 He separated water above the sky from water below the sky.

On day 3 He separated land from water and made plants.

Does your room look better if it is a mess, or if it is in order? When you pick up your clothes and toys and put them in their right place, your room looks neat and attractive. You actually feel better when you walk into a neat room than when you walk into a messy room. If things are scattered around, your room looks messy, and you probably don't feel good about it. When God made the world, He put things in order. He put the sky in its place, the water in its place, the land in its place, and the plants where they belonged. He separated things and put them where they belonged, "and God saw that it was good."

Thinking Deeper

The Biblical record shows that the order found in the universe came about because of God's power and direct creative activity. What began "without form and void" took on order and fullness because God made it that way. It continues to have order because God continues to keep it orderly. The Second Law of Thermodynamics indicates that things tend to become more disorderly. Left to themselves, things fall apart. A major problem with the theory of evolution is that it must explain how things became more complex and more orderly without a controlling force. The standard answer is that "natural selection" is that force. But that really explains nothing. It gives no means by which chaos is directed into order, and then kept in order. On the other hand, the Bible declares that God created and is sustaining the worlds and life. Jesus "is before all things, and by him all things consist [*are held together*] (Col. 1:17)." If Jesus were not holding things together, everything would immediately and completely fall apart. He who created order is sustaining that order.

Thursday (Creation)

Memorize (Exo 20:11) *For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.*

Bible Reading: Genesis 1:24-27

Q8. What did God make in the last three days of creation?

- A. On day 4, sun, moon and stars.
- On day 5, birds and sea creatures.
- On day 6, animals and man.

In the first three days of creation, God put things in order. In the next three days, He created a tremendous amount of different things. He made the sun, moon, and stars too many to count. He made the thousands of birds and the many, many sea creatures. And then he made the animals--all kinds of animals from very small to very large. The earth was full of the things God made. There was color and noise and movement and life! Finally, God made man. "And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, *it was* very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day (Genesis 1:31)."

It's fun to go to the zoo and see all the animals and birds from around the world. Aren't the different colors of birds beautiful, and the strange creatures fascinating? Yet they are all in cages or buildings, and you can't get too close to them. Imagine what the world was like when animals and birds were not afraid of each other or of man. God made a wonderful place when He created the earth.

Thinking Deeper

The order of creation is interesting, especially when the Bible is contrasted with the order proposed by evolutionists. Consider that plants were created on Day Three of creation before the sun was created on Day Four. Evolution needs millions of years for evolving plant life. So-called "theistic evolutionists" must believe that God had a different method for photosynthesis for those years before there was a sun, or else they must believe that the Bible doesn't really mean what it says. For those of us who accept the Biblical account as true, there is no problem believing that plants can survive for one day without the sun. It is difficult to have it both ways—believing the Bible yet accepting evolution. Somewhere along the line one must yield to the other. Theistic evolutionists have essentially given up on the truth of the first eleven chapters of Genesis because they think science has proven them invalid. But they do so on the basis of assumptions, not on the basis of proven, observational science. Scientists just can't tell us about matters of history, even though they try. Better to stay with the truth of God's revelation than get on the band wagon of pseudo-science and undercut the faith of many.

Week 2 Friday (Creation)

Memorize (Exo 20:11) *For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.*

Bible Reading: Genesis 1:28-31

Review the questions for the week

Q5. How many days did God take to make things?

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A. On day 4, sun, moon and stars.

On day 5, birds and sea creatures.

On day 6, animals and man.

When God made man, he told him to “be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth (Gen. 1:28).” Man is supposed to take care of the earth and the creatures that live on the earth. Learning about the world and the living things God made is not only interesting but it is also what God wants us to do. Discovering the wonderful world God made is part of His plan for us.

George Washington Carver was interested in plants and how they can be used. He decided to study the peanut. What he discovered was amazing. He found that the peanut could be used to make 325 products, including peanut butter, milk, cooking oil, peanut coffee, ice cream, hand lotion, laundry soap, and wood stain. Isn't it amazing how much we can learn about even a small part of God's creation like the peanut?

Thinking Deeper

Celebrating the earth, going green, being ecologically aware, all are part of our cultural attempt to relate to the environment. What is missing is an understanding of how man is the steward of creation. We are appointed by God to “subdue” and “have dominion” over the earth and its creatures. That means we are to study the environment, harness its resources for good, and look over the well-being of the earth and its creatures. All these are part of the “dominion mandate” that God gave to Adam. We are placed here by the Creator to look over the world for good. We are not to dominate the earth to its detriment, yet we are not to be fearful of using the earth's resources. They are here for proper use. Ultimately, as stewards of the earth, we will give account to God for our stewardship.

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