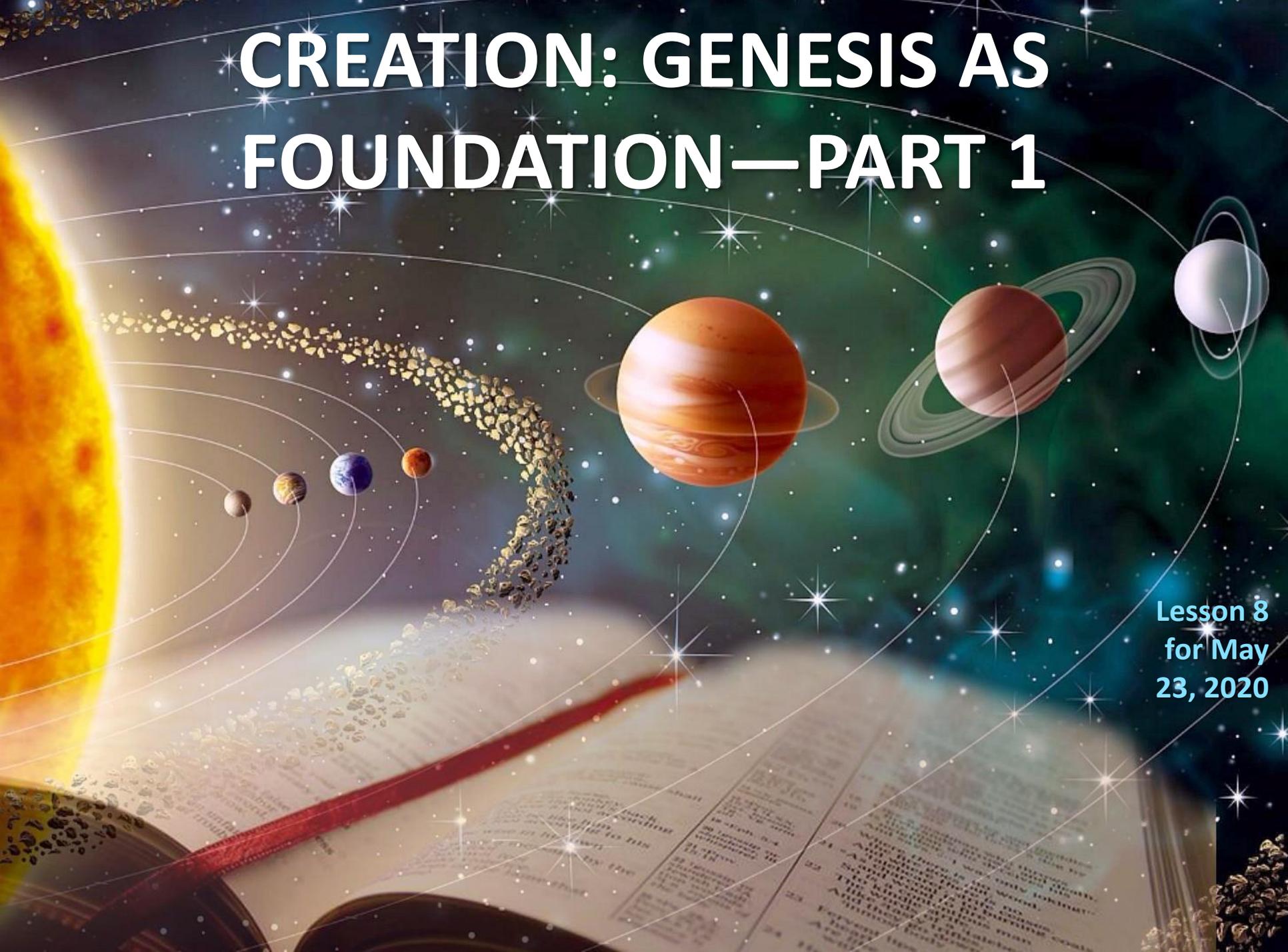


CREATION: GENESIS AS FOUNDATION—PART 1

Lesson 8
for May
23, 2020





Were humans created by God's hand, or are they part of the evolution of species?

Can we interpret the Bible somehow that we may accept both divine creation and evolution?

What are the implications of accepting or rejecting the six-day Creation in Genesis 1-3 in a literal way?



Divine origin or chance



Literal days or long periods



Sabbath or Sunday



Marriage or other unions



Sin and death, or evolution and survival



DIVINE ORIGIN OR CHANCE

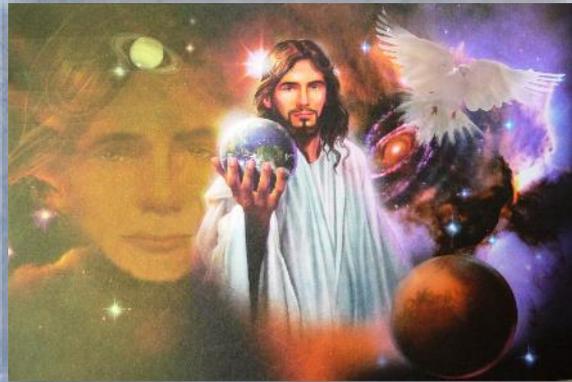
**"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."
(Genesis 1:1)**



Philosophers have been trying to answer three basic questions for centuries: Where do I come from?

Who am I? Where do I go to?

The Bible answers those questions in its very first pages. We're not here by chance, we've been created by God with a purpose.



The Bible also tells about God's pre-existence, and His work in our creation. The whole Godhead (an only God in three Persons) made us: "Let Us make man" (Genesis 1:26; see Genesis 1:1 and Colossians 1:6).



We can be sure that Jesus—Who made the Universe (Hebrews 1:2)—will finish what He began.

LITERAL DAYS OR LONG PERIODS



"God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day." (Genesis 1:5)

In order to make the Bible compatible with the theory of evolution, some people have interpreted the word "day" metaphorically as long periods of time.

The fact that those days are divided in periods of evening and morning highlights the idea of those days being 24-hour periods.

There's no mention to gaps between those days, so they make a whole non-stop week (day second, day third...). This is the foundation of the Sabbath commandment (Exodus 20:8-11).

Rejecting Creation's literal week implicates rejecting the trustworthiness of the whole Bible.



“The first six days of each week are given to us in which to labor, because God employed the same period of the first week in the work of Creation. The seventh day God has reserved as a day of rest, in commemoration of His rest during the same period after He had performed the work of Creation in six days.

But the infidel supposition, that the events of the first week required seven vast, indefinite periods for their accomplishment, strikes directly at the foundation of the Sabbath of the fourth commandment. It makes indefinite and obscure that which God has made very plain.”

E.G.W. (To Be Like Jesus, May 22)

SABBATH OR SUNDAY



**"Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made."
(Genesis 2:3)**

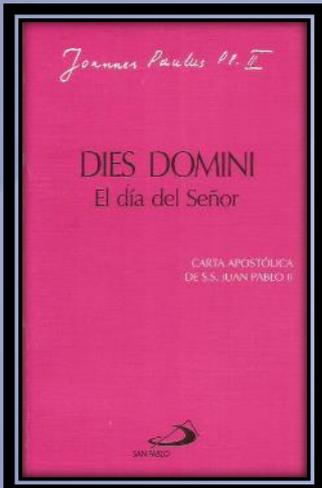
The concept of week in the Creation in Genesis is suffering changes in our cultures lately.

In business, resting on Sunday is being encouraged more and more. In some countries, the dictionaries define Sunday as the seventh day of the week. Several popes have published circulars against "the Jewish Sabbath" ("*Dies Domini*", "*Laudato Si*").

However, Jesus proclaimed Himself "Lord of the Sabbath" (Matthew 12:8). He rested on Sabbath; He also sanctified it and taught us to rest as He did (Exodus 20:8-11).



The last message that will be delivered to this world involves the proclamation of Sabbath as a reminder of God's creation (Rev. 14:7).



MARRIAGE OR OTHER UNIONS

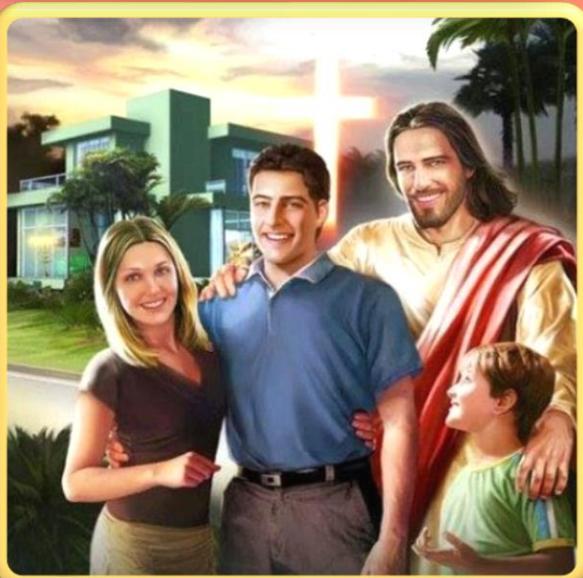
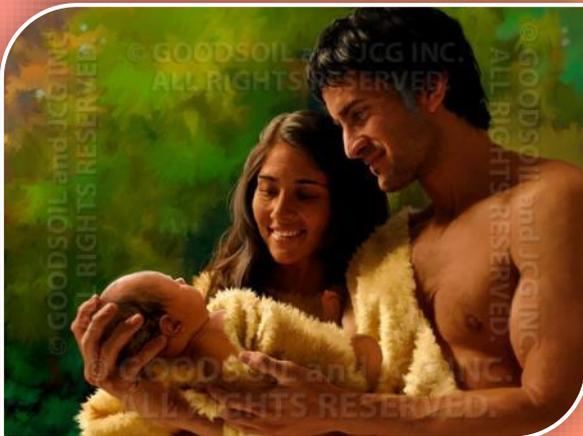
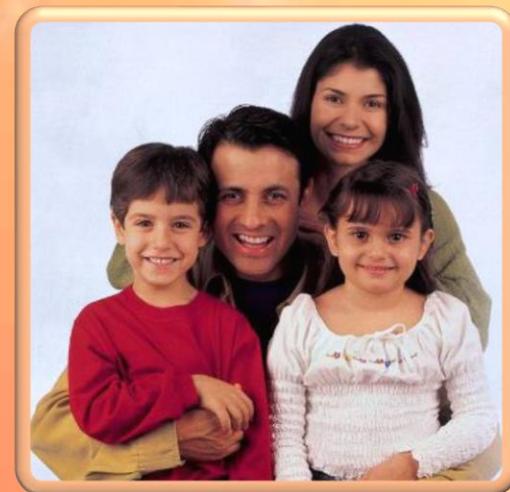
**“And the Lord God said, ‘It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.’”
(Genesis 2:18)**

Man and woman were created different but supplementary. They form a family unit together.

God is a plural being, so He wanted humans to perpetuate through the intimate union of a man and a woman.

The children are the fruit of that relationship, and they’re requested to honor their parents (Exodus 20:12). In the commandment, both father and mother are mentioned instead of using “parents”, clarifying that that’s the only valid union.

A world filled with loving families, who regard God supremely and uphold His character in their lives and raise their children in humble obedience was the original purpose in God’s creation.

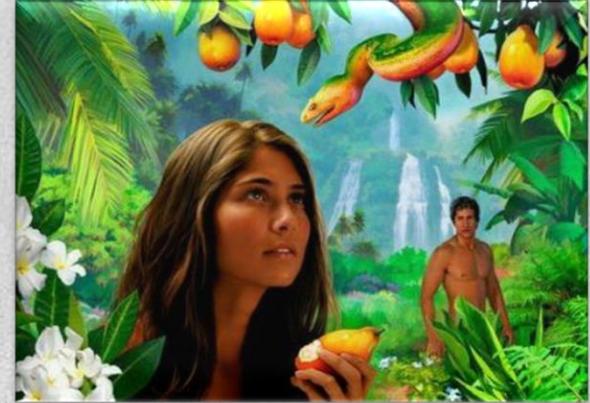


SIN AND DEATH, OR EVOLUTION AND SURVIVAL

“but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” (Genesis 2:17)

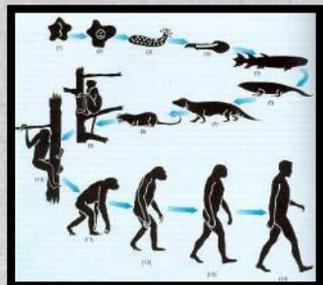
The Bible explains that death began in this world because of Adam and Eve’s sin (Ro. 5:12).

It also explains that the only way to overcome death and have everlasting life is through the Redemption that Jesus made available through His death and resurrection (John 6:40).

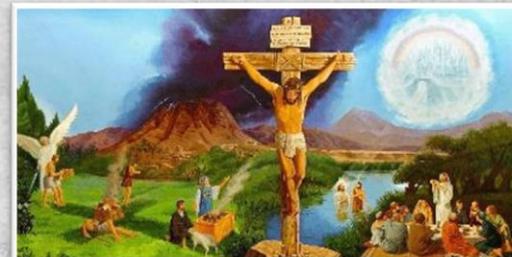


On the contrary, the theory of evolution states that humans were “created” through many cycles of fight for survival and death. In that case, death would be inherent to life.

If we accept the theory of evolution, we’re accepting death as part of the creation process. That would mean that a Redeemer was no longer needed, because death wouldn’t be a consequence of sin.



The Bible reveals God’s plan of Salvation and gives us the promise of everlasting life in Christ.



“ [...] with what readiness the assumed period of the earth’s development is from time to time increased or diminished by millions of years; and how the theories advanced by different scientists conflict with one another,— considering all this, shall we, for the privilege of tracing our descent from germs and mollusks and apes, consent to cast away that statement of Holy Writ, so grand in its simplicity, “God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him”?...

Rightly understood, both the revelations of science and the experiences of life are in harmony with the testimony of Scripture to the constant working of God in nature.”