

THE CREATION OF THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH

Golden Text

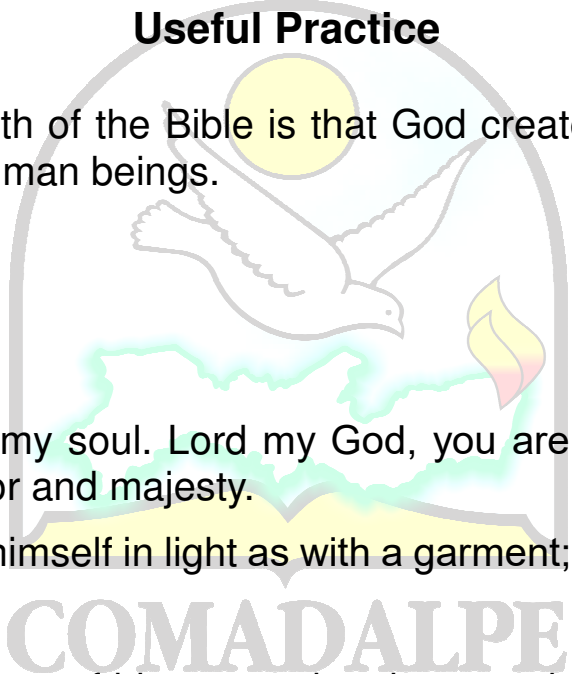
“By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible”.
(Hebrews 11:3)

Useful Practice

The first great truth of the Bible is that God created the heavens and the earth and the human beings.

Scripture Reading

Psalm 104:1-14

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- 1- Praise the Lord, my soul. Lord my God, you are very great; you are clothed with splendor and majesty.
 - 2 - The Lord wraps himself in light as with a garment; he stretches out the heavens like a tent
 - 3 - and lays the beams of his upper chambers on their waters. He make the clouds his chariot and rides on the wings of the wind.
 - 4 - He makes winds his messengers, flames of fire his servants.
 - 5 - He set the earth on its foundations; it can never be moved.
 - 6 - You covered it with the watery depths as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains.
 - 7 - But at your rebuke the waters fled, at the sound of your thunder they took to flight;
 - 8 - they flowed over the mountains, they went down into the valleys, to

the place you assigned for them.

9 - You set a boundary they cannot cross; never again will they cover the earth.

10 - He makes springs pour water into the ravines; it flows between the mountains.

11 - They give water to all the beasts of the field; the wild donkeys quench their thirst.

12 - The birds of the sky nest by the waters; they sing among the branches.

13 - He waters the mountains from his upper chambers; the land is satisfied by the fruit of his work.

14 - He makes grass grow for the cattle, and plants for people to cultivate—bringing forth food from the earth:



General Objective

To understand that God created the heavens and the earth.

Specific Objectives

- I. To introduce** biblical creationism;
- II. To know** how the creation of time, space and light took place;
- III. To explain** the ordering of the Earth.
- IV. To understand** how the creation of light took place;
- V. To know** how the separation of the waters occurred;
- VI. VII, VIII. To understand** how the formation of the plant kingdom, the solar system and the creation of the animal kingdom came into being.

Introduction

The book of Genesis is not an allegory, therefore it is essential to consider the narrative of the Creation as a historical fact; something that happened exactly as it is written. In view of this parameter, we will now study the Doctrine of Creation. Let us start by defining Biblical

Creationism.

I. BIBLICAL CREATIONISM

1. Definition. Biblical creationism is the doctrine according to which God created, from his word, everything that exists: the heavens, the earth, the plant and animal kingdoms, and ultimately the human beings (Hebrews 11:3).

2. Fundamentals. Creationism is based on the Holy Bible, on the silent manifestation of Nature and on the observations and studies carried out by us about it (Rom 1:20; Ps 119:1-6).

3. Goals. Creationism has three goals: 1) To show that God is the Creator of all things; 2) To demonstrate that, for creating everything that exists, everything belongs to him; and 3) To lead us to worship him as our Creator and Lord.

II – THE CREATION OF TIME, SPACE AND LIGHT

Between verses one and three of the first chapter of Genesis there is an indefinite break in which God created time, space, the heavens and the angels and finally the then formless Earth.

1. Time. Although the Bible does not say it, we can affirm that the first thing God created was time. This is because the divine work, though conceived in eternity, could only be consummated in the temporal sphere. The Creator alone is eternal. The Creation finds itself subject to time, requiring God's interventions and care (Ps 104:5).

2. Space. What is space? We can define it as the cosmic fabric which God created to put the heavenly bodies in. Therefore, space is also God's creation.

3. The heavens and the angels. The heavens, the dwelling place of God, were also created in a space-time context, for a quite simple reason: although they do not belong to our dimension, They are a very real place. That is where the souls of the righteous are taken to. After the creation of the heavens, God called into being his angels through the breath of his mouth (Ps 33:6). And so, the Lord also put his image and likeness into them.

4. The still formless Earth. God made the earth before the six days of the Creation. At first, formless and empty, it would be shaped by the Spirit of God until it came to take its current form (Gen. 1:2).

III. THE ORDERING OF THE EARTH

1. The Holy Spirit in the Creation. The Holy Spirit hovered over the waters (Gen 1:2). He was present and played an active role in the work of the Creation. What we see from the biblical account is that every day, God did a different work, but orderly, so that life on our planet could be possible.

2. Orderly tasks. In his everyday work, God acted in a very specific way, setting up the scenario into which life on our planet would be put. First, He prepared the world to receive living beings, then He created them. He first created the environment in which we would live to create us later.

IV. THE CREATION OF LIGHT

1. And there was light. The creation of light on the first day of the Universe is full of meanings (Gen.1:3). Although its Creator did not need it, the Creation reclaimed it (Psalm 139:12). Without light, life would not be possible.

2. The initial light. The light in Genesis 1:3 did not come from the sun, because the latter would only be created on the fourth day. It came from God himself. A similar light, but a more glorious one, will be in the Heavenly Jerusalem (Rev. 22:5).

V. THE SEPARATION OF THE WATERS

1. Separating the waters. God did not create the earth to be chaotic, but to be our dwelling place (Isaiah 45:18). So on the third day of the Creation, he separated the waters that were below and above the sky (Genesis 1:6-10).

2. The creation of the atmosphere. It was still on the third day when God created the heavens; and with it, the Earth's atmosphere, so that life could become possible.

VI. THE CREATION OF THE PLANT KINGDOM

1. The plant kingdom. For the animals, which would only be created on the fifth and sixth days, to be able to feed, the Lord, already on the third day of the Creation, produced vegetation, herbs and trees (Genesis 1:11-13). In his work, God proved himself to be perfect and methodical in everything. His schedule was strictly enforced (Psalm 86:8).

2. The possibilities of the plant kingdom. God commanded the plant kingdom to produce herbs, plants and fruit trees, so that they could multiply according to their species (Genesis 1:11,12).

VII. THE CREATION OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM

1. The creation of the sun, the moon and the stars. On the fourth day, God created the sun, the moon and the stars (Gen. 1:14-19). Thus, time will be divided not only into day and night, as it occurred until the third day, but also into weeks, months, seasons and years (Gen. 1:14).

2. The perfection of the solar system. God created the solar system to work perfectly, as the prophet Jeremiah said: "This is what the LORD says, he who appoints the sun to shine by day, who decrees the moon and stars to shine by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar — the LORD Almighty is his name: "Only if these decrees vanish from my sight," declares the LORD "will Israel ever cease being a nation before me." "(Jer 31:35,36). There is no machine as perfect as the solar system (Isaiah 40:26).

VIII. THE CREATION OF THE ANIMAL KINGDOM

Only after the natural environment was properly prepared was when God created, on the fifth and sixth days, water, winged and land animals. The Creator acted wisely in his designs.

1. Fifth day. On the fifth day, God created the great sea creatures and the fish; then, the birds (Genesis 1:20,21). Subsequently, he commanded them, "Be fruitful, and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth "(Genesis 1:22).

2. Sixth day. On the sixth day, God created the wild animals and livestock (Gen. 1:24,25). With respect to animals, there is an astonishing variety of species among them and, at the same time, a wonderful chain that identifies them (Ps 104:24). We observe, for example, the cat family. It ranges from the kitten to the lion, king of beasts. On the sixth day, God also created man, and so he brought mankind to life.

CONCLUSION

God did not just create the heavens, the earth, animals and human beings. By making himself present in his work, but without confusing himself with it, He shows himself present and sovereign in all things. We

are not alone in this world. The Heavenly Father watches over us.

