

Creation

OPENING QUESTION

What is your earliest memory?

READ Genesis 1:1—2:25.

1. What does “in the beginning” tell you?

- A. This is when it all started.
- B. The opening of a story, like “once upon a time.”
- C. God is creative—right from the start.
- D. This will take faith, since nobody but God was present (*Heb. 11:3*).
- E. Every cultural group has to have a beginning story; this is for Jews.
- F. The Trinity was present (God, spoke/word, spirit of God).
- G. The Bible supports baseball: “In the big inning.”
- H. The beginning begins with God.
- I. Other.

2. God pronounced his creation “good,” which means:

- A. Good.
- B. It’s all good.
- C. Nobody else was around to say otherwise.
- D. God don’t make no junk.
- E. It culminates in “very good” found in *Gen. 1:31*.
- F. This stands in contrast to *Gen. 2:18*.
- G. God created the earth sin-free/unbroken.
- H. God sets the standard.
- I. Other.

3. What does it mean for humans to be made in the image of God?

- A. Humans are just like God.
- B. Humans are gods.
- C. God gave humans dominion over the earth.
- D. Humans have abilities no other part of creation has.
- E. God created humans for divine companionship and intimacy.
- F. *Imago Dei* (Latin for the “image of God”).
- G. The image of God requires both genders, not just one.
- H. Humans are similar, but not identical to God.
- I. Other.

4. Why did God rest on the seventh day of creation?

- A. He was tired.
- B. He had accomplished enough to finally enjoy it.
- C. So we could keep the Sabbath for the rest of history.
- D. To create a sanctuary in time.
- E. This oriented humans for intimacy with God on their first full day.
- F. This started the rhythm of work and relaxation.
- G. So when sin entered, people could recalibrate each week.
- H. Creation made the entire world a sanctuary; it was time to worship.
- I. Other.

5. What stands out in your mind about God's creation of humans?

- A. God personally formed humans rather than speaking them into being.
- B. We are made of dust, and we will return to dust.
- C. God breathes life into dirt.
- D. The order/sequencing of creation.
- E. God's choice to make only man first; and then woman.
- F. God's plan for humans to be fruitful and multiply.
- G. Why did he do this when he knew in advance what would happen?
- H. God made humans in his own image.
- I. Other.

6. Why did God create woman?

- A. To complete the image of God.
- B. He didn't mean to do so.
- C. It's not good for a man to be alone (*Genesis 2:18*).
- D. Companionship and intimacy.
- E. This replicates the Trinity with the 3-part union of God, male, female.
- F. All the other animals had a partner suitable to them; why not humans?
- G. To force humans to rely on supernatural help to co-exist and thrive.
- H. So humans could be fruitful and multiply (*Genesis 1:28*).
- I. Other.

7. How do you reconcile the Biblical account of creation with current scientific statements about origins?

8. How does the story of creation impact your perspective and how you live today?