

At one time or another, most people consider the issue of where they came from. By that they are not talking about their parents and physical family, but from where did mankind come. Let's consider the beginning. We're talking about going all the way back to the original couple. Even the evolutionists agree that at some point in time, there was a male and a female which were able to reproduce offspring. While the evolutionist can not explain exactly when this took place, we can. ***Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*** I believe this to be true by faith. ***(Heb 11:3) Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God. *** (Psa 33:6) By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.*** God spoke and it was done. ***(Psa 33:9) For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.*** When God said it, it happened. While there are scientists who claim to have evidence to the contrary, their evidence is questionable and suspect at best. In the beginning God...

(Heb 3:4) For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God. Today we are assembled in a comfortable and attractive building that is probably some 40 years old or so. No one here today thinks this building simply occurred without a builder. This podium had a builder; that power point monitors was first on someone's drawing board. Everything about this building was first designed and then constructed. Every house is built by some man. Where did that builder come from? Heb. 3:4 goes on to tell us that he came from God. On the sixth day ***(Gen 1:26) And God said, Let us make man in our image.*** The first Ten Commandments that you read about in the Bible are not found in Exodus 20, but are in Gen 1.

Some will say that they believe that God created the world but that he used evolution to accomplish it. This idea is called "theistic evolution." They claim to believe in God and evolution at the same time. This idea accepts the creation account but considers the days of creation as possibly millions of years instead of a 24 hour period. Let's note a couple of things. ***v3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.*** God commanded and it happened. He said, let there be light and light was. ***4 And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. 5 And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.*** God goes on to create for a total of six days. I want to suggest to you that these days are literal 24 hour days and the reason for such time frame was for us to have a time reference. Note first of all that God made something in an evening and a morning and then there was the next day. The Hebrew word *yom* is translated as "day" in Gen. 1 and not the word *'olam* which means "time/age." The words for evening and morning implies 24 hour days. The day

consisted of a morning and an evening, which is described as light and darkness. QUESTION: If the days represented eons of years, then what did the evening represent?

If the day represents a long period of time and that period had morning called day and evening called night, then what about the photosynthesis process. We all know for vegetation to survive, there has to be a certain amount of light from the sun. Sunlight is needed to sustain life. If the days are millions of years, then what about that time of darkness between the vegetation being created on day three (vs 11) and the creation of the sun on day 4 in vs 16?

If the days were millions of years, then what do the years mean in Gen 1:14? *And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years.* If God wanted to say that he created the world in six 24 hour days, could he have said it any more plainly than is stated in Gen 1. Turn and read with me Ex 20:8 ff. *8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: 10 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: 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.*

How old was Adam literally five seconds after God create him? Well you say he was five seconds old, and you are correct. But how old did he look? Did God create Adam as a helpless little baby in the Garden of Eden? No, God created Adam mature and full grown; he was capable of working for he was to care for the garden. God created Adam in a full grown state so that the appearance of Adam was much older than he really was literally. He wasn't really as old as he looked. If God could create man to look actually older than he was, wouldn't it stand to reason that God would create a world that looks literally older than it actually is. Of course he could, so if they measure something that looks to be millions of years old, it doesn't shake my faith in the creation at all. (blank slide) *Picture this in your mind. I come home one day and there is a beautiful cake on the counter with my name written on it. I then find Linda and thank her for making me my favorite cake. She said she didn't know anything about it. Curious as to how the cake got there I figured it out as I was watching the evening news that told of a nearby earthquake that occurred earlier in the day. The quake shook open the cabinet door and a mixing bowl fell off the shelf to the cabinet and as it was falling, it hit a box of cake mix. This cake mix fell such as to dump into the mixing bowl. The refrigerator door must have vibrated open and there was some kind of explosion which heralded the eggs across the room and it just so happened that they smashed*

into the cabinet and dripped into the mixing bowl. Amazingly, all the other ingredients necessary for mixing this cake was shaking around and happened to make their way right into the mixing bowl.

Linda then asked a very good question, “How did the mix get from the mixing bowl into the cake pan and then into the oven?” I went on to explain how that happened. There was another explosion. This time the big bang caused the cake pan to go flying across the room and smashed into the mixing bowl and turning it over. The pan landed on the floor beneath it. The cake mix then dripped into the cake pan. Then there was another explosion which sent the cake pan flying through the air toward the oven whose door had now been jarred open and just as the cake pan neared the oven, the mixing bowl separated as the cake pan flew right into the oven and as it did the door slammed shut.

“Who turned the oven on?” There were coffee cups in the cabinet above the oven and during the shaking, two of those cups fall and it just so happened that as they were falling, one hit the bake knob and the other hit the oven timer and set it to the exact temperature needed to bake a cake. Then when that cake was cooked at just the right amount of time, we are so lucky because there was another explosion that set it flying through out of the oven and on to the cabinet top. At the same time, the door of the refrigerator door swung open and the frosting cap popped off and somehow the frosting and the cake pan collided and it frosted the cake. I’m still working on how my name got there. By this time Linda thinks I have lost my mind.

This illustration is ridiculous isn’t it? We all know that for a cake to exist, there has to be a baker-it just doesn’t happened by accident. It absurd to think that the world and mankind just accidentally evolved from some big bang which sent fragments heralding through space. One cell of your DNA is more complex than the makeup of a cake. Listen; there can be no house without a builder. God made man in the beginning. ***Gen 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.***

It’s not enough to stop with the creation account in Genesis. There’s more to it than that. It’s not enough to know the beginning without knowing in the middle and in the end. In the middle, God unfolds the mystery of church and the redemption therein for us to see. We are told that through Abraham’s seed all nations shall be blessed so we see the forming of the Hebrew nation. We see how that nation led to the coming of Jesus Christ. The thread of unity through the OT tells that Christ is coming. MMLJ tell that the Christ has come and he came as the Son of God; the very

one who created the world came back to his creation to make a way for mankind to be recreated spiritually. He came and lived a perfect life and died as a perfect sacrifice, rose on the third day, 40 days later he ascended into heaven where he sits on the right hand of God and reigns as king of kings and lord of lords. When He ascended into heaven, he told his apostles that he would return. *Acts 1:11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.* The message throughout the NT is that Christ is going to come back, not as a Savior but as a Judge. What are we suppose to do about it?

On the Day of Judgment, you will be asked more than do you believe there is a God. You will be asked whether you have obeyed him. Turn with me to Romans 5. In the beginning God created. Now consider God in the middle. **6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. 8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.** In the middle, God made provisions for the sin of man. Christ died for us! Mankind is guilty of sin and in and of himself can do nothing about his sin problem. At God's direction, he could offer up bulls and goats but Heb 10:4 tells us that that was not sufficient to take away sin. So what is man to do? He is to wait for the perfect sacrifice, which was in the form of Jesus of Nazareth. If the world had been created and Jesus had never come - then so what? The world was created but man sinned and thus necessitated the need for a redeemer, and Christ became our redeemer. So now what?

Look at 2 Peter 3 as we consider the **END OF TIME**. God created the world; He made provisions for redemption, but what about the end? There were scoffers who didn't believe that the Lord was coming back vs 3-4. But the Lord is coming back. **9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness...10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. 11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, 12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?** Now you may be sitting there thinking that Peter is telling us that what God created in the beginning that in the end He is now going to destroy. That's almost right; everything is going to be destroyed except for the soul of man.

It's not enough to know about the beginning; what God did in the middle to prepare me for the ending because in the end it all gets destroyed. Your nice house, that new car, that prize piece of property, that beloved pet - in the end, it will all be destroyed. *A preacher was holding a meeting at a place and one of the members was an airplane pilot. One afternoon the pilot took the preacher up for a flight and as they were flying over what was very beautiful country, the pilot asked the preacher thought of what they were seeing. The preacher said, "It is very beautiful but one day it will all burn up."* That's true. On the Day of Judgment, it makes no difference what kind of car I drive or how nice of a house I live in. When we stand before the righteous judge, the amount of money I have in the bank will not matter for when you die, you leave it all behind.

Before his death, Elvis Presley told an interviewer that at times he felt like the most miserable man on the face of the earth. In spite of all his fame and fortunes, in spite of his mansions and possessions, those things did not bring happiness. Elvis was echoing what Solomon said hundreds of years earlier after he tried it all and had the world's wealth at his disposal said that it was all vanity - emptiness. *(Eccl 12:13 KJV) Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. {14} For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.* If you know that there is a God, but you live like there is not one, then what good is that knowledge. Vs 14 says that on the Day of Judgment, you will meet God as he brings every work and every secret thing into judgment- the good ones and the bad. In judgment, what matters is how well you kept his commandments.

In the beginning God created with the ending in mind. What is the ending of the story – on the Day of Judgment I am either going to go to heaven or to hell. Each one of us will one day give an account of how we have lived. This is an individual account; we don't get in on the "group plan." What do you really consider to be important? I close with this little story that I once printed in a bulletin.

A father took his son aside around the time of the boy's high school graduation. He said so I want to ask you a question about your future. Come in here and sit while we talk for a minute. You are graduating and I am so proud of you, but I really want to know what your plans are after your graduation. Dad you know what they are-I'm going to college and get my degree. I might even meet that special someone and get married. Then I will graduation and start my career.

That's really a good plan but after you have done all that, then what? Well after all that I will be involved with my career and trying to make a good living for my family. I will make sure my children get a good education and prepare themselves for life.

That's great. I would love to be around to see your grandchildren but I don't know if I will or not, but after you get you family grown, then what? Well by the time I've done all that, I will be getting close to retirement age and we will retire and do all the things we've dreamed about doing.

Well, I'm sure I want be around to help you enjoy your retirement, but after you have done all of that, then what? Well, after I've done all that ---- I guess I'll die. With tears in his eyes, the father look at his son and said, "Yes son, you will and after you die, then what?"

That's what life is all about; trying to figure that out? In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. In the middle God commended His love so much to us that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us, so that in the end we can hear Him say, "Enter thou in to the joy of the Lord." In the end, there will be destruction and judgment. What then? The answer depends on you. Will you not obey the gospel today? HBRCB