

**God's Grand Design**  
**Class #2**  
**Where did life come from?**  
**Genesis 1**  
**Josh Whitney**  
**October 18, 2023**  
**The Rock Church**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Good evening everyone! My name is Josh Whitney, if we haven't met before. I am a pastor here at the Rock Church. Welcome to our second **God's Grand Design class!** I am excited so many of you came back for part 2. I have been studying this subject for 30 years and I am so excited to be speaking on it.

Week 1, we talked about a variety of things. But answered the question, why does this topic of origins matter? We looked at the worldview implications; where did we come from, why are we here, where are we going?

So this second class will be based on Genesis chapter 1 and answering this question, **where did life come from?** Plus some science and fun.

Three housekeeping things. First, **Get on the email list and submit questions at [josh@trc.life](mailto:josh@trc.life).** I have received some amazing questions the last 2 weeks.

Second, generally speaking, this will be the class format. Aiming for **~20 minutes of lecture, 20 minutes of video & 20 minutes of discussion.** That is the general plan. I am changing it up tonight. Start at 7:00 p.m. End at 8:00 p.m.

Third, **Annular solar eclipse** on Saturday. Did anyone see it? It was pretty cool. Does anyone know what annular means? Having the form of a ring. At my house, we got somewhere into this range. We are going to talk about astronomy in a few weeks.

So let's start with prayer.

## **OVERVIEW**

In this class, time and time again, we will be comparing two different views on origins.

Where did everything come from? Life, humanity, animals, plants, and everything that stretches out into the cosmos.

**View #1 – God created the heavens and the earth. (in 6 days, thousands of years ago)**

And **View #2. The heavens and earth evolved, without God. (millions and billions of years ago)**

I added a definition of evolution. **Evolution: the gradual development of something, especially from a simple to more complex form.** Gradual change over time.

So according to View #2, the universe evolved without God.

I want to repeat my caveat from class 1. There are good people on all sides of these questions of origins. I want this class to be a place of respectful dialogue and conversation.

And for the record, there are Christians who believe God created the universe billions of years ago, and some Christians who even believe God used the process of evolution to create the universe.

Again, just so you know where I am coming from, I want to compare these two views in this class. I am explaining why we believe the young earth creation perspective (View #1) makes the most sense both biblically and scientifically.

## **EVOLUTION**

So let's get into it. Let's talk about View #2. That the universe evolved without God.

Where did the universe come from? According to space.com. **The Big Bang Theory is the leading explanation for how the universe began. Simply put, it says the universe started with an infinitely hot and dense single point that inflated and stretched — first at unimaginable speeds, and then at a more measurable rate — over the next 13.7 billion years to the still-expanding cosmos that we know today.**

Where did the earth come from according to the evolution view? According to Los Alamos national laboratory. **Earth formed from debris orbiting around our sun about 4 ½ billion years ago.**

Where did life come from? According to Smithsonian. **According to the conventional hypothesis, the earliest living cells emerged as a result of chemical evolution on our planet about 3.7 billion years ago in a process called abiogenesis.**

Abiogenesis, simply means life arising from non-life. This is a picture of geothermal vent because the latest theory is that early simple life arose near one of these.

**Tree of life.** And then over the next 3.7 billion years, that simple life evolved into more and more complex life forms. This life eventually left the ocean and came up on the land. And some life started flying. And some life became you and me.

I want you to look at this for a minute. According to the evolutionary view, 3.7 billion years ago, the simplest life arose from non-life. And for 3.7 billion years, that life has been evolving and split into these different branches.

So every life form ever found on the planet is represented here. All kinds of sea creatures. Land animals. People. Dinosaurs. Fish. Plants. All of it.

You are directly related to every living thing on the planet, according to this view. When you go to the zoo, that is your billionth cousin, a billion times removed. “Cousin, I will get you out of here!”

So that is View #2. The evolutionary view of the universe, earth, life, everything. Small gradual changes over incredible amounts of time producing everything.

This is what you have been taught over your entire educational process, I would guess. When you visit science museums. When you watch nature documentaries. When you look up something up online.

The evolutionary view is the dominant view in our world and culture. The entire universe, earth and life can be explained by slow gradual processes over 13.7 billions of years.

## **CREATION**

Let’s study view #1, the creation perspective. So let’s look at Genesis chapter 1. I want to read all of **Genesis chapter 1:1-2:3**. If you have never heard this before, here you go, some of the most foundational verses in the Bible.

If you have read it before. Let it wash over you afresh. And listen for reoccurring phrases and words.

Actually let’s have Voddie Baucham read it. Voddie is a pastor, author, and serves as Dean of Theology at African Christian University in Zambia.

There is a great 14-minute video of Voddie T. Baucham reading the text. With animation of what it could have looked like. This will be our video for today. 13.5 minutes. We will stop it before the creation of Adam and Eve. Save that for a future class.

Imagine if you were there watching it all happen real time.

### **Genesis Chapter 1, verse 1**

**In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.**

**3 And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. 4 And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.**

6 And God said, “Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” 7 And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. 8 And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

9 And God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. 10 God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

11 And God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth.” And it was so. 12 The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. 13 And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

14 And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, 15 and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. 16 And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. 17 And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, 18 to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. 19 And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

20 And God said, “Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens.” 21 So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. 22 And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” 23 And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

24 And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so. 25 And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

26 Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” 29 And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You

shall have them for food. 30 And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. 31 And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Chapter 2. Verse 1 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. 2 And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. 3 So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

Amen.

Thank you Voddie!

That was interesting how some of the processes happened quickly, almost like watching something on fast forward.

There are so many things we could unpack in Genesis chapter 1.

But first the high level observations.

Day 1, God created the light and the earth.  
Day 2, God separated the waters above and below.  
Day 3, God created the dry land and plants.  
Day 4, God created the sun, moon, planets and stars.  
Day 5, God created the flying and sea creatures.  
Day 6, God created the land animals and people.  
And Day 7, God rested.

So remember first class period, we read this. Here we believe the Bible is completely true. This means we believe it's accurate as related to earthly events – both in the past and in the future.

And then we read this paragraph talking about creation.

Creation: The Creation of the universe came about just as the Word of God described; it was a six-day Creation event.

We will get into the other parts of that paragraph in other classes.

Now we are going to discuss why we believe this is a six-day creation event, which will answer our question where life came from?

#### **4 WORDS**

So today I am going to teach you 4 Hebrew words from Genesis 1 and 2.

Bara – create  
Min – kind  
Yom – day  
Kalah – finished

Remember our general pattern in this class, we want to look at the original Hebrew in Genesis 1-11, look at the New Testament where applicable and look at the science.

Let's study these four critical Hebrew words.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Word

First word **create** occurs in these verse 6 times. In Hebrew it's bara.

Why is this word significant? According to the evolutionary view, there is no creation going on. The universe is evolving slowly over billions of years. No special divine creation involved.

The word, bārā' is always used in the Old Testament with several distinct characteristics:

1. It refers to the creation of something new that never had any existence before.
2. It refers to an act of creation by God.
3. The word does not exclude the use of pre-existing matter. In Gen. 2, God formed the man from dust of the ground
4. Creation *ex nihilo* (means from nothing) is indicated by the Hebrew. *Ex nihilo*. The universe sprang into existence when God spoke. We will come back to this idea later.

So this word bara, which says God created universe is in conflict with the view that the universe evolved without God.

Before we move onto our next Hebrew word, I want to start exploring our question for the night. Where did life come from? Did it proceed from the mind of God or did it evolve in naturalistic processes? What are some thoughts on that?

Charles Darwin, the father of modern evolutionary theory. He speculated where the first life came from in a letter to a friend. In 1871 he wrote, "... if we could conceive in some warm little pond with all sort of ammonia and phosphoric salts, light, heat, electricity present, that a protein compound was chemically formed, ready to undergo still more complex changes..."

That is Darwin's speculation where life came from.

And then like we discussed, according to the evolutionary theory, this first simple life slowly evolved into more and more complex forms of life.

That is the key to Darwin's theory. Simple life becomes more complex over time. If you could demonstrate that the simple could not evolve into complex, then his theory would breakdown.

Darwin said so himself. Another Darwin quote. **If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed, which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications, my theory would absolutely break down. But I can find out no such case.**

Why would he say that? Back in Darwin's day, he and other scientists thought cells were simple blobs on biological jello, if you will. Made of simple elemental chemicals and proteins.

But TODAY we know that cells are not simple blobs on biological jelly.

**Cells.** They are little towns, full of factories, communication systems, transportation systems, and more. I am not a biology major. As I have read various books that describe cells. It says they contain all of these amazing little biological machines. Incredibly small. Incredibly complicated. Self-replicating.

A number of you work in manufacturing. We can produce incredibly complicated factories. But imagine a factory that was microscopic that could produce itself! Josh, your whole factory could rebuild itself. That is what is happening at a microscopic, cellular level. There is no such thing as simple life.

Take for example, bacterium are microscopic living organisms with only 1 cell. Some of the smallest simplest forms of life. Bacterium frequently cause diseases. This is an **e-coli bacteria**. They are 1-2 micrometers long. A micrometer is a millionth of a meter.

So teeny, tiny. And notice the tails. That is how it moves.

This is the e coli flagellum. The e coli has essentially a motor that it uses to move around it's environment. It is made up of 40 different parts including a rotor, u-joint and propeller. It is a 40-piece rotary engine. It can self-assemble and repair. It has forward and reverse gears. It moves at 100,000 rpms. And it is 1-2 millionths of a meter in length.

In 1859, Darwin said, if you could show one organ that couldn't evolve piece by piece, his theory breaks down. You take away any component of this and it stops working.

It is a big leap to go from biological jelly forming out of a warm pond to tiny rotary motors.

I am not alone in this opinion, that this is a big leap. Evolutionary biologists see this as well. When the famous evolutionary biologist Richard Dawkins was asked where the first life came from?

He talked about aliens. He speculated that the earth was seeded by alien life from other planets. Pan spermia is the theory.

Richard Dawkins, evolutionary biologist, said this.

“It could be that at some earlier time, somewhere in the universe, a civilization evolved by probably some kind of Darwinian means to a very, very high level of technology— and designed a form of life that they seeded onto perhaps this planet. ...

And I suppose it's possible that you might find evidence for that if you look at the details of biochemistry, molecular biology, you might find a signature of some sort of designer.”

When one of the foremost evolutionary biologist says the word designer, it catches my attention. For him, it's an alien, but a designer never the less.

Because he looks at the insane complexity of life at a cellular level and he needs something or someone outside of the earth to explain it.

So did life evolve on its own or did God created it?

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Word**

Second critical Hebrew word. **Kind**. Means kind or type of creature or plant. I counted 10 times this word is used.

Day 3, God created plants according to their kind.

Day 5, God created fish and bird after their kind.

Day 6, God created land animals according to their kind.

Why is this word significant? According to the evolutionary view, there are no distinct kind. All life on the earth goes back to one kind. There is one kind of life that branched into plants and fish and birds and land creatures.

SO when Genesis speaks of different or distinct kinds, that is different.

Note: The word kind is not equivalent to modern species. It is a broader term. The word may be as broad as genus, family, or order in the modern classification system.

You remember in your high school biology class, there is an area of study called **taxonomy is the classification of living and extinct organisms**.

Do you remember this from biology class? Here is your dog. The levels of classification. Cellular similarities. Then all animals. Then maybe a backbone. Then mammals. Then meat eaters. Then the dog family. Then more specific. And then even more specific.

Domain, kingdom, phylum, class, order, family, genus, species, and even subspecies.

So it is thought this Hebrew word kind is more at the order, family genus level.



Remember the theory of evolution teaches these are all descended from the same starting point. So they are all from the same kind. They are all related. They share similar features. And similar genetic code.

So that is a classic question. Why would there be shared features or shared genetic code if they are not all descended from the same starting point?

What about similarities? Do they speak of one original source of life? Or do they speak to a common **designer using similar designs**? Look at all of these various apple products. Are these evolving? Did the ipod evolve into the ipad which evolved into the iphone? Of course not. Designers using similar features and code. They are being efficient.

**Evolutionary model.** So let's think about our two worldviews.

On the right there, you have the evolutionary worldview again. 3.7 billion years ago, the first simple life form started. And over the last 3.7 billion years, every single plant, animal, sea creature and bird has evolved from the first original life forms.

And then look at the creationist view on the left, based on Genesis 1, there are distinct kinds, different plants, sea creatures, birds, land animals, etc. And God tells them to reproduce according to their kind.

Do we believe that plants and animals adapt to their environment? Absolutely! It is happening all around us.

For example, dogs are adapting and being bred for a variety of features. But is dog able to become a cat given enough targeted breeding. No! You can have incredible variation in the dog kind. But they are all dogs. We are going to come back to this.

But Genesis 1 teaches God created different kinds of living things. And they reproduce according their kind.

Again, think of plants and animals being created according to their kind related to the evolutionary and creation view.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Word**

Ok, third Hebrew word. This is the word of the day. The word of the day is day.

Why is this word significant? According to the evolutionary view, over 13.7 billion years the universe has been evolving. According to Genesis 1, it happened in 6 days? Is that what it is teaching? Let's unpack this.

Third word day. Occurs here. Created. **Yom**. 14 times. It can mean a 24-hour period or a period of time or even daylight, depends on the context.

What do I mean? Look at this sentence. “On the day of Oct. 14, during the day, my dad told me stories from back in his day.” An awkward sentence. Three different uses of day and we know what they mean by the context.

The meaning of the Hebrew word yom, or day, is foundational. If you want to dive deeper into the word yom, I can email you videos, articles and books to study more.

Many Christians in an attempt to reconcile the age of the earth to the supposed millions and billions of years from “science” have said the word day here means large periods of time.

First let’s break down the Genesis text.

Days in Genesis 1 & 2:

God created the light and earth.

Gen. 1:5 - And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

There is no THE in the Hebrew. It just says the number and day.

Then God separated waters above and below.

Gen. 1:8 - And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And then God created dry land and plants.

Gen. 1:13 - And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

Then God created the sun, moon, planets and stars.

Gen. 1:19 - And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

Then God created the flying and sea creatures.

Gen. 1:23 - And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And then God created the land animals and man.

Gen. 1:31 - And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

And then God rested.

Gen. 2:2 – [God] rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done.

There is no article, “the” before days. So the ESV adds the. It should read like this.

You see the pattern, evening and morning. In other words, night and day. And the sequential order, one, two, three, and so one.

A few observations on this. Why is our week seven days long? Have you ever thought about that? Why does pretty much every culture on the planet have a seven-day week? Hmm? That’s interesting.

And even religiously, why do the Jews celebrate the Sabbath on Saturday? Look at this verse here. The Old Testament law. The 10 commandments.

Exodus 20:11 - For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

Let's use a great Bible tool to study this more. This is from the **blue letter bible**. The word yom occurs 2287 times. And a day, like 24 hour day, occurs 2008 times. Out of 2287 uses. **88% of the time - yom means a 24-hour day.**

**BUT...**

**100% of the time – when used with a number, yom means 24-hour day.  
(410 cases)**

**100% of the time – when used with evening/night and morning/day, yom means 24-hour day.  
(113 cases)**

So very clearly this means the days in Genesis 1 and 2 are referring to normal 24 hour days. That means to deny they are ordinary 24 hour days is the result of imposing outside ideas on the Hebrew text.

I won't typically use **memes** in this class. But Steele shared this with me and I thought it was funny. Gandalf says God called the light day, and the darkness he called night.

And there was evening and there was morning.

The first day.

And Pippin says so the word day could mean many things. It might mean eons or ages! We just don't know. 😊

So going back to this theological statement.

**Creation: The Creation of the universe came about just as the Word of God described; it was a six-day Creation event. The true age of the earth (and all of the physical universe) is measured in thousands (not billions) of years (Genesis 1-11). Mankind began with two individuals who came into being through a special, personal, creative act of God (Genesis 2).**

So why do we believe in six days of creation? The text in Genesis is clearly teaching that. And that puts the time frames of the two different views of origins into conflict. Again, because of the time frame presented in the text.

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Word**

Fourth and final word I want to highlight. Occurs here. Finished. Kalah. 2 times. To be complete, finished, accomplished.

Why is this word significant? According to the evolutionary view, the universe is never done. It is always evolving. It's never finished.

GENESIS 2:1-3 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. 2 And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. 3 So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

God has finished his creation. It's complete, God describes it as good and he rested.

Creation is done. Nothing to wrap up. No loose ends. It is a mature, complete creation.

This is a powerful biblical argument against an evolutionary model of life.

Evolution teaches the universe is evolving, moving to higher levels of organization. Genesis 2 teaches that creation was finished.

So let's compare our two models, our two views, as we wrap this up.

#### CREATION MODEL:

- God created the universe
- Over six days
- Into distinct "kinds"
- Creation is finished

Compared to.

#### EVOLUTION MODEL:

- The universe evolved w/o God
- Over billions of years
- All "kinds" are related
- Evolution is ongoing

#### CONCLUSION

Alright, let's wrap it up. And then we will discuss till 800. Last verse.

HEBREWS 11:3 By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

So where did life come from? God created it!

We demonstrate faith a variety of ways. But this is a critical point. Maybe a starting point of faith. We believe that God created all of this, the universe, the earth, plants, animals, you and me.

We believe that by faith.

Faith is necessary to understand the first verses of the Bible. Nobody was there but God. And he told us what happened. Do we believe him?

Coach breakdown groups. Breakdown by SG, Bryan, Tom, Jim, or Jon. Or Tiffany. Don't have a group. Join the people near you. Spread out in the room or lobby.

### Discussion Questions:

We will have a closing prayer at 8:00 and we will be done.