



## “Creation” By: Doug Warren

### **How can you believe that God created the world?**

This time of year we find ourselves taking every opportunity to enjoy the outdoors. Whether it's a trip to the beach or hiking the trails, there is so much beauty to enjoy in this wonderful place we call Maine. Seeing the beauty around me often leads me to sing, shout, and speak praises to God for all that He has made. As you can imagine that often provokes questions from my friends. How can you think that God has made all this? Aren't you aware that science has ruled out the need for a divine creator?

Actually, the more I enjoy, study, and reflect on the beauty of the world around me, the more I am convinced of the truthfulness of the explanation given by the Scriptures. The complexity, diversity, and magnificence found in a single tide pool declare the reality of a beautiful and powerful God. It not only makes sense that there is a Creator behind the creation, I would propose that unless you are *predisposed* to believe otherwise, there is no way you could offer another explanation.

It has become popular to describe all religious accounts of the universe as myths by definition. But the explanation of the world's origin given in Genesis that starts, “In the beginning God created the heavens and earth” was written precisely to debunk mythological ideas. As the nation of Israel came up out of Egypt they were wrestling with trusting the God who had delivered them. One of the reasons for their lack of trust was not just the difficulty of believing in something that you cannot see, but arose because there were other gods competing for their devotion.

They lived in a society where the sun was said to be governed by a specific deity-- and the moon by another god. There were myths and legends to explain why everything was the way that it was. It was with this backdrop that God used Moses to write the real account. So why believe this one and not one of the stories they had already heard? Notice that the other accounts all assumed a chaotic cosmos with various divine creatures and heroes controlling only a fraction of the whole. Genesis is the first narrative that radically proclaims a single God who created it all.

Another radical feature of the Genesis account is that it tells of an orderly God creating an orderly universe with purpose and parameters. So much has been made of the possible conflict between science and religion that we forget that modern sciences are founded on the concept of a lawgiving God creating an orderly creation. It is only because God is faithful to His word and has created a universe with abiding laws that the pursuit of science is even possible. This is foundational to scientific methodology from observation to hypothesis, experimentation to conclusion.

In fact, the biblical account does not go against science; it makes science possible. What the Genesis record does do is answer some of the questions science cannot. Even if you could prove one of the competing hypotheses for how we got here, it cannot tell you why. "There *is* no reason!" you say. But you didn't get that from the data. You got that from your personal mythology. It is this same kind of mythological answer from which Genesis delivers us.

These myths are answered by the biblical account that points us to the Creator Himself. He not only counters the competing answers to why we are here (including the one asserting there is no reason), but He has demonstrated His commitment to those purposes, by coming into creation itself. We each need to recognize our own desire to give some other explanation that eliminates our need for Him. All of us on some level sense that if He really is the Creator, then we owe Him our allegiance.

We see in the person and work of Jesus the answer to restoring the goals of creation. He doesn't leave us to our own myths because there is no life in them. He alone gives life and in Jesus we see how abundantly He gives. There is order and purpose in the universe because He made it. We can have order and purpose because Jesus has remade us in His image. He is both the Creator who powerfully made all that there is and the Redeemer who lovingly makes us able to know Him.

As you enjoy His creation, give Him praise and thanks. If you were fortunate enough to have a summer camp on a lake with a boat, what would it be like if some of your friends came up for the weekend, slept in your camp, played in your boat and never thanked you for it? Let us thank Him as we acknowledge that the beauty of His creation is a reflection of His beauty.