

UNIT 4: THE EARTH AND CREATION

LESSON 3 – Other Thoughts on Creation



Introduction

- What we want to learn:
 - There are a few theories as to how the universe and everything in it came to be; however, only one can be true
 - As Christians, we believe that God is the Creator of the universe



Introduction

- What should we do with what we learn:
 - To be able to have open, honest, and loving conversations with others who may have differing opinions regarding the creation of the universe



Scripture Focus

- Genesis 1:1
- Psalm 104:16-24
- 2 Corinthians 5:17-19
- Revelation 21:1-5



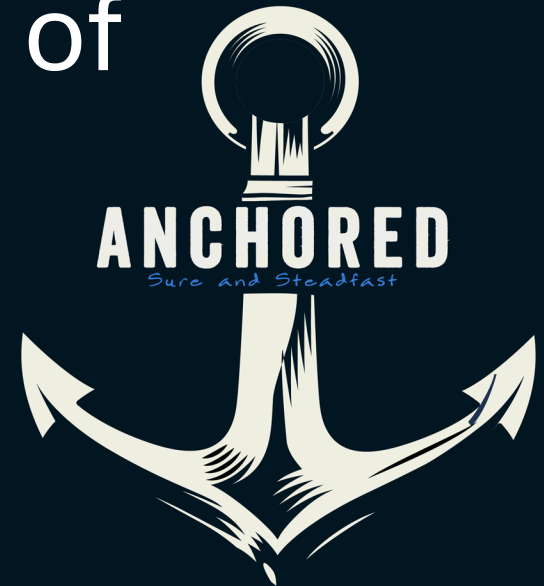
Opening Prayer

Lord, I am asking you to give me eyes to see Your Word, a mind that understands Your Word, and a heart that embraces Your Word. Without Your help, I am lost. Thank You for loving me and teaching me through Your Word. Amen.



Anchor Statement

Through observing what God reveals in Scripture as well as the intentional design of the world around me, I believe that He alone is the Creator of the universe



OVERVIEW



Overview

- There are many people out there with different opinions about the universe and how it was created
- With love and boldness we can have open conversations about many topics



Context and Details

Genesis

Author: Moses

Time frame: 1400s-1200s BC

Purpose: details the earliest history of our world



Context and Details

Psalms

Author: Multiple authors including David, Asaph, the Korahites, Solomon, and others

Time frame: from 1100 – 400 BC

Purpose: to poetically reflect humanity's journey with Him



Context and Details

1 Corinthians

Author: the apostle Paul

Time frame: ~53-55 AD

Purpose: to unite a divided church;
He was calling the church to
embrace Christ who was crucified
for all.



Context and Details

Revelation

Author: John the apostle

Time frame: toward the end of John's life, ~90-95 AD

Purpose: to reveal the fullness of Christ's identity and to provide hope for suffering believers



THE SETTING



The Setting

- Genesis was written long after the creation of the universe and everything in it. Moses does a great job writing down God's inspired Word about His design in chapters one and two



THE MAIN POINT



The Main Point

- No matter what you believe regarding the age of the earth, there was certainly a beginning.
- We will take a look at a few alternative views of creation
- Develop a deeper understanding of our own beliefs



THE LEAD IN



Goal

To practice starting conversations
with people who have different
beliefs



Earth and Creation

- While we may feel educated and affirmed that our view is the correct view, there will always be others out there who hold a different view
- Understand God's truth in a way that we can communicate it to others



Group Debate

- Group 1:
- Group 2:



Group Debate

- As the Church, we believe any view that does not align with what has been found in scripture is incorrect
- The more you know about what you believe, the more comfortable you are discussing it with others



THE MAIN EVENT



Goal

- To grow more confident in your view of creation through interacting with other views



Christian View of Creation

- When we take on a biblical worldview, we are accepting the message in Genesis 1 and 2 as true; God created the universe



Question?

- What are some other opinions or theories you have heard about regarding how everything was created?



Creation Theories

- There are too many for us to cover
- Let's look at just a few, two of which are scientific and one that is the belief of another major religion



Creation Views (handout)

- The Big Bang Theory
 - First presented around 1931 by a Catholic priest
 - The universe originated from a singularity
 - The singularity came from nothing
- The Biblical View
 - Created intentionally by an intelligent designer



Big Bang Theory

- After the singularity, the universe expanded, then cooled
- Subatomic particles formed
- Then atoms and eventually stars and galaxies
- The expansion of the universe continues today



Keep in Mind

- The Big Bang Theory is just that – a theory
- Theories are guesses that are not yet proven to be fact
- Believing in the Big Bang takes as much faith that we have believing Genesis 1



Big Bang Theory

- Researchers and scientists are left to find information that could fit within this theory rather than making discoveries that deepen their understanding of what has been claimed as truth



Big Bang Theory

- Someone who believes in the Big Bang Theory would have trouble fitting God into the equation
- But if you believe God created the universe, and if someone proved the BBT to be true, you could simply view the BB as how God began His creation



Creation Views

- **The Multiverse Theory**

- Not just the go-to plot for sci-fi right now
- Large number of scientists believe it's real
- Concept of Deja-vu: your timeline is intersecting with another timeline
- It has driven people mad and has sparked a lot of scientific research



The Multiverse Theory

- Multiple universes exist simultaneously, each with its own set of physical laws and properties
- Possibility of an infinite number of parallel realities



Multiverse Theory

- Quantum Mechanics
- String Theory
- Don't forget, it's just a theory
 - Most theories have just as much evidence against them as for them



Psalm 104:16-24

- What does this passage tell us about God's creation?
 - All things on earth depend on God. Not just because he created them, but because he has created everything that supports and provides for them.



Multiverse Theory

- It's appealing – we like to think there is another version of our lives out there that is better.
- We also like to think that there is a worse version of our lives that we've avoided



Multiverse Theory (cont.)

- It's fun to play what-if games, but let's think again about what God is telling us in Psalm 104
- There is not a single part of the world around us that is not wholly dependent upon Him



Multiverse Theory (cont.)

- Belief in this theory implies that there are versions of reality without God.
- This theory takes control out of God's hands and, in most cases, removes Him entirely.
- It attempts to escape accountability from scientific research AND biblical truths by claiming that perhaps what isn't proven in our universe is widely accepted in another.



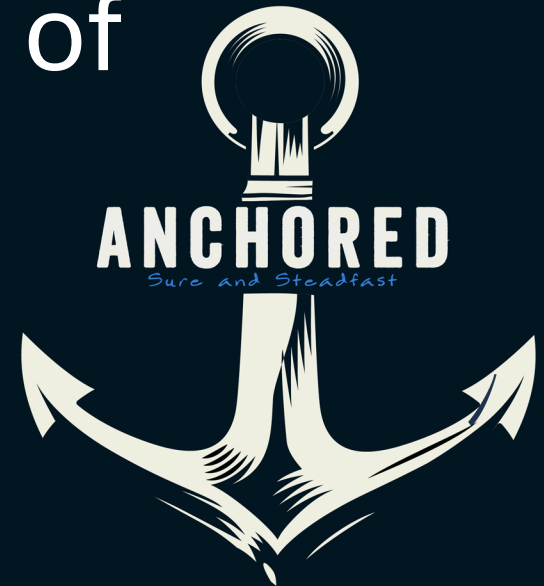
Multiverse Theory (cont.)

- It's like science-fiction escapism.
- Any evidence for or against something is circumstantial.
- You can see how someone who believes this can easily move from reality to reality, fitting whatever works into their theory.



Anchor Statement

Through observing what God reveals in Scripture as well as the intentional design of the world around me, I believe that He alone is the Creator of the universe



Hinduism

- Currently the third-largest world religion
- They believe there are many Gods
- Hindu cosmology posits that the universe undergoes an infinite series of cycles
 - Creation → Preservation → Destruction



Hinduism (cont.)

- Creation → Preservation → Destruction
- Their divine trinity:
 - Brahma (the creator)
 - Vishnu (the preserver)
 - Shiva (the destroyer)



Hinduism (cont.)

- This universe has been created and destroyed many times over
- One day, Shiva will destroy the universe just to have it created again
- How does this sound?



2 Corinthians 5:17-19

- God “re-creation” is not part of a cycle, but part of a promise
- Our faith and Hinduism may appear similar, but they aren’t
- Hinduism incorporates reincarnation



Reincarnation

- Whatever you do in your current life will either be rewarded or punished in your next life
- It doesn't fix the problem of sin or motivate us to be particularly 'good' in fear of bad results



Question

- Why do you think that Christians believe a universe without reincarnation is better?



Revelation 21:1-5

- In Genesis, the creation of the earth is a key element in our understanding of who God is
- But the re-creation of who we are when we come to faith in Christ is just as incredible as what we read in Genesis 1



Creation

- Other views (religious and non-religious) of creation lack the promise that God gives us in Jesus – eternal life with God Himself
- We can be just as excited about the coming creation of the New Heaven and New Earth, with sin removed!



THE LAST WORD



Goal

- To look for the ways God reveals Himself to everyone through His creation



Read Psalm 8 (to yourselves)

- Index Cards
- On side one, write down some of the ways God reveals Himself to the writer of this Psalm



Psalm 8

- Flip your card over
- Write down the things that you would add to this Psalm if you were writing it



Share Your Thoughts

- What stood out to you in Psalm 8?
- What did you think you would have included?



