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Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them." (<u>Ecclesiastes 12:1</u>)

Here is the wisest counsel a young person can receive. Though it was first written many years ago, it is more relevant than ever today when young people are being bombarded daily with the **propaganda and practices of evolutionary humanism**. They urgently need to realize that despite these pressures, they are **not products of chance**, with pleasure their only aim in life. They are **special creations of God**, with a high and holy purpose destined for them by their Creator.

If they will only recognize this fact, acknowledging God, in Christ, as Creator and Savior while they are young, trusting and obeying His Word as they mature, they can anticipate a life of fulfillment. "I have been young, and now am old," David said, "yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread" (Psalm 37:25).

If they refuse their Creator in the days of their youth, however, then it will become increasingly difficult to remember their Creator as the years go by. Few are converted in later life. They can only anticipate the bitterness and regrets of old age and death, as described so vividly in the verses following our text. Under the figure of a decaying house symbolizing their aging bodies, the forlorn picture is drawn of fading eyesight, trembling hands, buckling knees, sleepless nights, easy irritability, increasing senility, and other aspects of approaching death—all with no pleasure in them because they long ago had forgotten their Creator. Remember now thy Creator, young man, young woman! Now is the accepted time, now is the day of salvation (2 Corinthians 6:2). Therefore, "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity" (1 Timothy 4:12). HMM

1. Propaganda and Practices of Evolutionary Humanism-Lesson 24B

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It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man" (Psalm 118:8).

In the present chapter-and-verse divisions of the Bible, it is striking that this verse, <u>Psalm 118:8</u>, turns out to be the middle verse of the Bible. Although these verse divisions were not part of the original inspired text, this particular verse is very appropriate as a key verse for the word of God.

It presents the great truth of theism versus humanism; belief and trust in God as the ultimate measure of reality and meaning rather than in man. The Bible begins by setting forth God as Creator (Genesis 1:1) and ends by invoking the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ (Revelation 22:21), but mankind's greatest and most basic sin has always been that of seeking to replace God with man. "Ye shall be as gods," was the Satanic lie which induced man's initial rebellion (Genesis 3:5).

All the ancient pagan religions were based on the arrogant evolutionary prescription that "changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever" (Romans 1:25). This false religion, in modern garb as secular evolutionary

humanism, dominates the intellectual establishment in every nation of the world today, as well. The infamous Humanist Manifesto of 1973 declared: "No deity will save us; we will save ourselves." But humanism is utter folly. Only God can save, since only God is the true Creator of life.

There are really only two basic religions or philosophies among men, one of which is man-centered; one God-centered. One is based on evolutionism; one on creationism. One is humanism; the other is theism. And the only truly creationist, theistic religion is Biblical Christianity, for it alone acknowledges that the eternal God is both Creator and Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. It is infinitely, eternally better to trust in the Lord, than to put one's confidence in man. HMM

2. Products of chance-Lesson 24C

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The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good" (Psalm 14:1).

Despite all their pretense of scientific intellectualism, those who deny the existence of a personal Creator God are, in God's judgment, nothing but fools. The 14th psalm, the 53rd psalm, Romans 3, etc., all describe the inner character of all such people—whether they call themselves atheists or humanists or pantheists or whatever. This repeated emphasis indicates how strongly God feels about those who dare to question His reality. It is bad enough to disobey His commandments and to spurn His love; it is utter folly to deny that He even exists!

The Bible describes the awful descent from true creationism into evolutionary pantheistic humanism. "When they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools. . . . Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator (Romans 1:21,22,25).

Certain atheists/humanists claim to be moral people, though their criteria of morality are often quite different from those of the Bible. No matter how admirable their humane acts of "righteousness" may seem, however, they are guilty of the sin of unbelief, the greatest sin of all. "Without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is" (Hebrews 11:6). With all the innumerable evidences of God's reality as seen in the creation and throughout history, and then especially in the person and work of Jesus Christ, it is utter foolishness to plunge blindly into eternity to meet the God whom they deny. HMM

The Foolishness Of Human Wisdom | The Institute for Creation Research (icr.org)

"Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools" (Romans 1:22).

The Lord Jesus, in Matthew 5:22, warned His disciples against calling anyone, "Thou fool," since we can only judge by outward acts. Yet the Scriptures, in general, and Christ, in particular (who could discern the inward character), do not hesitate to describe certain types of people as fools.

For example: "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God" (Psalm 14:1). Anyone who tries to explain away all the innumerable evidences of God is a fool, the Bible says. So is anyone who rejects the teachings of Christ: "And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand" (Matthew 7:26). In particular, one who lays up riches for himself is in this category. "But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be" (Luke 12:20). Christ rebuked the Pharisees as "fools and blind" (Matthew 23:17,19) because of their hypocrisy.

But perhaps the most foolish of all are those who proclaim themselves to be wise and then seek to rationalize their rejection of the Word of God. The Apostle Paul gravely warns against all such mancentered wisdom: "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God" (I Corinthians 3:19).

Such "wisdom" led to ancient paganism, and is now centered in evolutionary humanism. They "became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And . . . worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator" (Romans 1:21,22,25, as in the context of Romans 1:18–32). Such humanistic philosophy commonly masquerades as "science," but God has warned: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise" (I Corinthians 1:19). HMM

3. Special Creations of God -Lesson 24D

Creationism can be studied and taught in any of three basic forms, as follows:

- (1) **Scientific creationism** (no reliance on biblical revelation, utilizing *only scientific data* to support and expound the creation model).
- (2) **Biblical creationism** (no reliance on scientific data, using *only the Bible* to expound and defend the creation model).
- (3) **Scientific biblical creationism** (full reliance on *biblical revelation* but *also* using *scientific data* to support and develop the creation model).

These are not contradictory systems, of course, but supplementary, each appropriate for certain applications. For example, creationists should *not* advocate that biblical creationism be taught in public schools, both because of judicial restrictions against religion in such schools and also (more importantly) because teachers who do not *believe* the Bible should not be asked to *teach* the Bible. It is both legal and desirable, however, that *scientific* creationism be taught in public schools as a valid alternative to evolutionism.

In a Sunday School class, on the other hand, dedicated to teaching the Scriptures and "all the counsel of God," biblical creationism should be strongly expounded and emphasized as the foundation of all other doctrine. In a Christian school or college, where the world of God is studied in light of the Word of God, it is appropriate and very important to demonstrate that biblical creationism and scientific creationism are fully compatible--two sides of the same coin, as it were. The creation revelation in Scripture is thus supported by all true facts of nature; the combined study

can properly be called scientific biblical creationism. All three systems, of course, contrast sharply and explicitly with the evolution model.

The evolution and creation models, in their simplest forms, can be outlined as follows:1

Evolution Model	Creation Model
Continuing naturalistic origin	Completed supernaturalistic origin
2. Net present increase in complexity	2. Net present decrease in complexity
3. Earth history dominated by uniformitarianism	3. Earth history dominated by catastrophism

The evolution model, as outlined above, is in very general terms. It can be expanded and modified in a number of ways to correspond to particular types of evolutionism (atheistic evolution, theistic evolution, Lamarckianism, neo-Darwinism, punctuated equilibrium, etc.).

The same is true of the creation model, with the biblical record giving additional specific information that could never be determined from science alone. The three key items in the creation model above are then modified as follows:

Biblical Creation Model

- 1. Creation completed by supernatural processes in six days.
- 2. Creation in the bondage of decay because of sin and the curse.
- 3. Earth history dominated by the great flood of Noah's day.

Creationists, however, do not propose that the public schools teach six-day creation, the fall of man, and the Noachian flood. They do maintain, however, that they should teach the evidence for a complex completed creation, the universal principle of decay (in contrast to the evolutionary assumption of increasing organization), and the worldwide evidences of recent catastrophism. All of these are implicit in observable scientific data, and should certainly be included in public education.

Both the scientific creation model and the biblical creation model can be considerably expanded to incorporate many key events of creation and earth history, in terms of both scientific observation on the one hand and biblical doctrine on the other. These can, in fact, be developed as a series of formal principles² of scientific creationism and biblical creationism, respectively, as listed below:

Principles of Scientific Creationism

- 1. The physical universe of space, time, matter and energy has not always existed, but was supernaturally created by a transcendent personal Creator who alone has existed from eternity.
- 2. The phenomenon of biological life did not develop by natural processes from inanimate systems but was specially and supernaturally created by the Creator.
- 3. Each of the major kinds of plants and animals was created functionally complete from the beginning and did not evolve from some other kind of organism. Changes in basic kinds since their first creation are limited to "horizontal" changes (variations) within the kinds, or "downward" changes (e.g., harmful mutations, extinctions).
- 4. The first human beings did not evolve from an animal ancestry, but were specially created in fully human form from the start. Furthermore, the "spiritual" nature of man (self-image, moral consciousness, abstract reasoning, language, will, religious nature, etc.) is itself a supernaturally created entity distinct from mere biological life.
- 5. Earth pre-history, as preserved especially in the crustal rocks and fossil deposits, is primarily a record of catastrophic intensities of natural processes, operating largely within uniform natural laws, rather than one of uniformitarian process rates. There is therefore no *a priori* reason for not considering the many scientific evidences for a relatively recent creation of the earth and the universe, in addition to the scientific evidences that most of the earth's fossiliferous sediments were formed in an even more recent global hydraulic cataclysm.
- 6. Processes today operate primarily within fixed natural laws and relatively uniform process rates. Since these were themselves originally created and are daily maintained by their Creator, however, there is always the possibility of miraculous intervention in these laws or processes by their Creator. Evidences for such intervention must be scrutinized critically, however, because there must be clear and adequate reason for any such action on the part of the Creator.
- 7. The universe and life have somehow been impaired since the completion of creation, so that imperfections in structure, disease, aging, extinctions and other such phenomena are the result of "negative" changes in properties and processes occurring in an originally perfect created order.
- 8. Since the universe and its primary components were created perfect for their purposes in the beginning by a competent and volitional Creator, and since the Creator does remain active in this now-decaying creation, there does exist ultimate purpose and meaning in the universe. Teleological considerations, therefore, are appropriate in scientific studies whenever they are consistent with the actual data of observation, and it is reasonable to assume that the creation presently awaits the consummation of the Creator's purpose.
- 9. Although people are finite and scientific data concerning origins are always circumstantial and incomplete, the human mind (if open to the possibility of creation) is able to explore the manifestation of that Creator rationally and scientifically, and to reach an intelligent decision regarding one's place in the Creator's plan.

Principles of Biblical Creationism

- 1. The Creator of the universe is a triune God--Father, Son and Holy Spirit. There is only one eternal and transcendent God, the source of all being and meaning, and He exists in three Persons, each of whom participated in the work of creation.
- 2. The Bible, consisting of the thirty-nine canonical books of the Old Testament and the twenty-seven canonical books of the New Testament, is the divinely-inspired revelation of the Creator to man. Its unique, plenary, verbal inspiration guarantees that these writings, as originally and miraculously given, are infallible and completely authoritative on all matters with which they deal, free from error of any sort, scientific and historical as well as moral and theological.
- 3. All things in the universe were created and made by God in the six literal days of the creation week described in Genesis 1:1-2:3, and confirmed in Exodus 20:8-11. The creation record is factual, historical and perspicuous; thus all theories of origins or development which involve evolution in any form are false. All things which now exist are sustained and ordered by God's providential care. However, a part of the spiritual creation, Satan and his angels, rebelled against God after the creation and are attempting to thwart His divine purposes in creation.
- 4. The first human beings, Adam and Eve, were specially created by God, and all other men and women are their descendants. In Adam, mankind was instructed to exercise "dominion" over all other created organisms, and over the earth itself (an implicit commission for true science, technology, commerce, fine art, and education) but the temptation by Satan and the entrance of sin brought God's curse on that dominion and on mankind, culminating in death and separation from God as the natural and proper consequence.
- 5. The biblical record of primeval earth history in Genesis 1-11 is fully historical and perspicuous, including the creation and fall of man, the curse on the creation and its subjection to the bondage of decay, the promised Redeemer, the worldwide cataclysmic deluge in the days of Noah, the post-diluvian renewal of man's commission to subdue the earth (now augmented by the institution of human government) and the origin of nations and languages at the tower of Babel.
- 6. The alienation of man from his Creator because of sin can only be remedied by the Creator Himself, who became man in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ, through miraculous conception and virgin birth. In Christ were indissolubly united perfect sinless humanity and full deity, so that His substitutionary death is the only necessary and sufficient price of man's redemption. That the redemption was completely efficacious is assured by His bodily resurrection from the dead and ascension into heaven; the resurrection of Christ is thus the focal point of history, assuring the consummation of God's purposes in creation.
- 7. The final restoration of creation's perfection is yet future, but individuals can immediately be restored to fellowship with their Creator, on the basis of His redemptive work on their behalf, receiving forgiveness and eternal life solely through personal trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, accepting Him not only as estranged Creator but also as reconciling Redeemer and coming King. Those who reject Him, however, or who neglect to believe on Him, thereby continue in their state of rebellion and must ultimately be consigned to the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

- 8. The eventual accomplishment of God's eternal purposes in creation, with the removal of His curse and the restoration of all things to divine perfection, will take place at the personal bodily return to the earth of Jesus Christ to judge and purge sin and to establish His eternal kingdom.
- 9. Each believer should participate in the "ministry of reconciliations" by seeking both to bring individuals back to God in Christ (the "Great Commission") and to "subdue the earth" for God's glory (the Edenic-Noahic Commission). The three institutions established by the Creator for the implementation of His purposes in this world (home, government, church) should be honored and supported as such.

Even though the principles of scientific creationism can be expounded quite independently of the principles of biblical creationism, the two systems are completely compatible. All the genuine facts of science support biblical creationism and all statements in the Bible are consistent with scientific creationism. Either system can be taught independently of the other or the two can be taught concurrently, as the individual situation may warrant.