



*Everlasting Life Baptist Church
Youth Conference*

REMEMBER YOUR CREATOR

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EVERLASTING LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH

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SCRIPTURES AND DEFINITIONS

Select bible verses are provided below that teach the nature of God's Word. There are also some terms included which describe the character of Scripture.

Origin

2 Timothy 3:16

2 Peter 1:20-21

Permanence

Isaiah 40:8

Psalms 119:89

Matthew 24:35

Sufficiency

By Scripture's sufficiency, we mean that the Bible is an adequate guide for all matters of faith (what we believe) and conduct and character (who we are).

Psalms 19:7-14

Hebrews 4:12

Truth

John 17:17

Effective

Isaiah 55:10-11

Salvation

2 Timothy 3:15

Inerrant – without error in its original writings.

Infallible – Scripture will not mislead.

THE NATURE OF THE BOOK OF GENESIS

Taken from the book, *Survey of the Old Testament*, by Paul Benware

The nature of the Book of Genesis is important. It is a book that records actual history. Adam, Eve, Noah, and other personages in this book lived as surely as any people do today.

Therefore, Genesis is not a collection of allegories, myths, and legends (especially regarding the first eleven chapters). When one reads the New Testament, it becomes clear that the Lord Jesus Christ, the apostolic writers, and other writers of the New Testament believed in the historicity of the Book of Genesis.

Genesis is quoted some sixty times in the New Testament in seventeen different books. For example, **Matthew 19:4,5; 24:37; Luke 11:51; Romans 5:14; 1 Timothy 2:13**. Never is there any hint that what Genesis reports is anything other than literal history.

Like the rest of Scripture, Genesis is not a science textbook. It does not use scientific terminology when it addresses science, but it does speak accurately and authoritatively when it does.

God is the Divine author of Genesis, and as the Creator of the scientific laws that govern the physical functioning of the world, He speaks authoritatively, accurately, and infallibly when He speaks scientifically.

Genesis is characterized by supernaturalism. The opening verse reveals a supernatural Being who acted supernaturally to create the universe and the world in which we live.

Throughout Genesis, the supernatural is on display. In fact, Genesis could not be understood if the supernatural elements were removed from its pages. For example, Adam and Eve were supernaturally created. Theologians call their creation *special creation*. Also, there is the universal flood and the creation of different languages.

ORIGINS

Various views have been offered to answer the question of the origin of the universe and the earth. Much has been written to promote different views that explain how the material universe began.

EVOLUTION

The word *evolution* simply means “change,” “development,” or “progress.” When this term is applied to earth’s origin, it means the world and everything in it developed by natural processes. Beginning with simple-single-celled organisms, new species of more complex and intricate

forms have developed over a period of billions of years. This view denies the need for a personal, supernatural Creator—God. Believers must reject this theory.

THEISTIC EVOLUTION

This view seeks to combine basic components of the theory of evolution with the Creator, God of the Bible. It is a compromise of the truth. The basic idea is that God created life by the process of evolution to bring about the earth and universe as we observe it now. Adam's body, in this view, was simply that of an animal that was the result of millions of years of evolutionary development. Several hundred thousand years ago, God placed an eternal soul into this apelike biped. This act is that which sets animals and man apart.

Theistic evolution is a compromise of the clear teaching of Scripture. Scripture teaches that man is the direct creation of God. For those who have a high view of Scripture, theistic evolution is utterly untenable and will be repudiated.

CREATIONISM

Creationism believes that God almighty supernaturally created the heavens and the earth by specific acts. Creation was *ex nihilo* (out of nothing) and was instantaneous. God did not use evolutionary methods to bring things into existence.

THE DAY-AGE VIEW

This view, also known as the Geologic Day View, generally holds that the days in **Genesis 1** were not literal twenty-four-hour days but rather long periods of time. Thus, the earth is old, but man, created on the sixth day, is relatively young. Some have held that the days of **Genesis 1** are literal twenty-four-hour days but that there are great amounts of time separating the days.

THE RUIN-RECONSTRUCTION VIEW

This view is also known as the Gap Theory. It proposes a large gap in time between an original creation (found in **Genesis 1:1**) and recreation found in (**Genesis 1:3-31**). The basic idea is that in the dateless past, God created a heaven and an earth that were perfect. But then Satan fell into sin, and many angelic beings also fell with him. Sin, therefore, entered the universe, and God destroyed the original earth, leaving it waste and void. After vast amounts of time, God recreated the heavens and the earth. The days of **Genesis 1** are literal twenty-four-hour days, but they describe the recreation and not the original creation.

THE LITERAL DAY VIEW

This view holds that the days of creation in **Genesis 1** are literal twenty-four-hour days and that they are the days of the original creation. The heavens and earth that we observe today, though marred by sin, are those created in **Genesis 1**. This view also believes in a young earth (that the earth is tens of thousands of years old and not millions or billions).

GENESIS

The number of years covered by the Book of Genesis is unknown because we do not know the time of creation. Scholars say from the call of Abraham in **Genesis 12** to the death of Joseph in **Genesis 50**, three hundred years pass. The first eleven chapters of Genesis are assigned two thousand years, so the estimate of twenty-three hundred years is the time span covered by Genesis.

Genesis 1-11 has been the subject of argument regarding how it is to be understood. On one side are the allegorists who deny that the events reported are not literal history. On the other side are the ones who affirm that **Genesis 1-11** is as much actual history as **Genesis 12-50**. And it is to be understood as literal history.

Those proponents of Genesis as a record of literal history also believe the earth and universe are relatively young. The prevailing accepted belief in science today is that the earth and universe are millions of years old. This belief is called “deep time” and is held to be scientific fact because it enables the holders to postulate evolution.

Sad to say, many Christians hold this view.

THE DAYS OF CREATION

Day 1 (1:2-5)

Critical to our understanding of creation is how God created. In the opening verse, Moses uses a Hebrew word, *bara*, which strongly supports the idea of creation *ex nihilo* (out of nothing). There were no pre-existing materials from which God formed the universe. He simply called it into existence.

The word “beginning” in verse one is not a reference to billions of years ago but to the beginning of creation week.

Furthermore, the word “beginning” refers to the start of time in the universe, and it demonstrates that time and matter had a definite origin.

Henry Morris writes, “The universe is actually a continuum of space, matter and time, no one of which can have a meaningful existence without the other two.”

Morris also notes that the word “heaven” corresponds to our modern term *space*.

The earth was “formless and void” at this point. It did not have distinct features, such as mountains or continents. It was unfinished and uninhabited.

On day one, God created light, but the sun was not the light source because it was not created until the fourth day (**1:16-19**).

This has been considered an “insurmountable difficulty for creationists. But...reformed commentators recognized the issue and saw no problem whatsoever. They simply drew a distinction between light coming from an undesignated luminary source on ordinary days 1-3 and the sunlight and moonlight which shined from the 4th ordinary day onward. The creation of a light source on the first day of creation was in order to temporarily mark off the day-night cycle, as the earth rotated on its axis,” says Dr. Paul Benware.

Benware further states, “Perhaps this was to speak out against the future pagan worship of the ‘creator’ sun, the false religious science of astrology, and the evolutionary idea of the earth’s coming from the sun.”

“And there was evening and there was morning, one day”

“The word ‘day’ is the primary time word in **Genesis 1:1-2:3**, and it divides scholars into two major categories: Those who cannot accept it to mean in Genesis 1 a normal, straightforward day and those who can.” (Trevor Craigen)

We affirm that *yôm* (day) refers to a literal 24-hour period.

Some noteworthy scholars contribute their views in the following statements in support of their literal reading:

Gerhard VonRad:

“The seven days are unquestionably to be understood as actual days and as a unique, unrepeatable lapse of time in the world.”

Gordon Wenham:

“There can be little doubt that here ‘day’ has its basic sense of a 24 hour period.”

Victor Hamilton:

“Whoever wrote Genesis 1 believed he was talking about literal days.”

Herman Gunkel:

“Naturally, the ‘days’ are days and nothing else.”

THE CREATION OF MAN GENESIS 2:1-25

The crown of God's creation is the special creation of man on the sixth day of creation. **Genesis 2** is a further development of part of day six. In that development, it gives greater attention to the creation of man. It is not, as some have suggested, a separate and different creation narrative.

THE CREATION OF ADAM GENESIS 2:7-9

Currently, there is a debate regarding the historicity of Adam.

We affirm that Adam was a historical person and the originating head of the entire human race.

Adam was the product of sudden and supernatural creation from the dust of the ground. Dr. Henry Morris, "God used the 'dust of the ground' to make man's body, a remarkable phrase conveying the thought that the smallest particles of which the earth was composed (in modern terminology, the basic chemical elements: nitrogen, oxygen, calcium, etc.) were also to be the basic physical elements of the human body." The first man is of the earth, earthy (**1 Corinthians 15:47**).

THE CREATION OF EVE AND THE BEGINNING OF MARRIAGE GENESIS 2:18-25

The creation of Eve was God's last act of creation, and it happened on the sixth day of creation week.

Prior to Eve's creation, Adam's relationships were vertical—to God above him and to the animals below him.

Eve was not created from the dust of the ground but from one of Adam's ribs to emphasize their oneness.

THE GOSPEL

The word *gospel* is likely a familiar term to you. It is often associated with a style of music – gospel music – in a segment of the Christian church. The word also is used by non-Christians in the phrase “the gospel truth” when they wish to affirm the truthfulness of their statement.

But what do Christians—better yet—what does the Bible mean when it refers to the Gospel? The Gospel is God’s answer to the bad news of man’s spiritual condition without Christ. What is that condition? Man is hell bound. Sinners who die without saving faith in Christ will experience eternal wrath in the lake of fire (**Revelation 20:11-15**). This is as certain as God Himself lives and reigns on His eternal throne. And there is no worse possible news that can be thought of than this reality that confronts humanity.

The Gospel is the opposite of the bad news. Gospel means *good news*. The same God who will send unrepentant, Christ-rejecting people to hell, has provided this good news, the Gospel, to all who will repent of their sins and trust Christ alone as Savior and Lord.

The Gospel is not from man. It was not invented by the church. It is from God. He is its source (**Romans 1:4**).

The content of the Gospel is that God sent His Son (the second Person of the Trinity) into the world to die for sinners on a cross, be buried and raised from the dead, and save all who believe in Christ as their Savior and Lord (**John 3:16; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Romans 10:9**).

What does it mean to believe in the Gospel or believe in Christ? There are three parts to the meaning of *believe* or *faith* regarding believing in Christ.

The first part of belief or faith is agreement with the facts of the Gospel. You believe that the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ is true. But simply believing the fact is not enough (**James 2:14**).

The second component of belief in Christ includes the emotional part. You embrace the facts of the Gospel with sorrow over sin. Sorrow over sin means recognizing that you have sinned against your Creator and have offended Him by your sins and sinfulness. This sorrow leads to repentance. Genuine belief in Christ includes repentance (or turning away from sin). Charles Spurgeon was right when he declared, “You and your sins must separate, or you and your God will never come together.” The emotional component of true faith also includes joy over God’s mercy and grace extended in the Gospel.

The third component is a choice you make. You submit your will to Christ. He is LORD, the One you obey (**Luke 6:46**) and trust alone as the only hope of salvation.

The most important question you face is this: Have you repented of your sins and trusted Jesus Christ alone for salvation? You must do so to receive the benefits of Christ’s death and resurrection. To refuse Him and die in your sins is to receive the curse of eternal damnation. From such damnation, there is no escape from Divine punishment. You are not too young to believe the Gospel. Do not think that you can wait until you are older. You do not know your future. All you have is the present. Come to Christ while you can. Again,

there is no escape from eternal punishment if you die without the Savior. **Hebrews 2:3** states it clearly and truthfully, “how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?”

WHERE WISDOM MAY BE FOUND

Wisdom, from a biblical standpoint, is the skill of godly living. This skill for living a life that is consistent with divinely revealed righteousness is not found outside the Bible.

One of the books of the Bible that majors on how to gain skill in living a godly life is Proverbs. This book instructs us to make choices that God approves and refuse behaviors that God condemns. Making divinely approved choices by which one lives exhibits godly living. It is skillful living in an ungodly, fallen world.

Behaviors contrary to those that receive a divine stamp of approval are labeled foolish. Moreover, they result in harm to those who behave foolishly.

The wisdom that Proverbs provides stresses that upright living flows out of a right relationship with God. A person who has come to saving faith in Jesus Christ has a new nature that desires to live according to the Word and will of God. Living wisely in an unwise world is possible for a Christian.

Proverbs is a timeless book of wisdom that Solomon and others penned under the direction and power of the Holy Spirit. Thus, it is God's Word, not simply the opinion of men. It is wisdom given by the Creator for living properly in His world.

Proverbs contains 31 chapters covering a myriad of topics giving counsel, instruction, and learning the fear of the LORD. Below you will find a select number of texts that address some of the themes that teach living wisely.

We begin with a key verse in the book. **Proverbs 1:7**, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; but fools despise wisdom and instruction."

Fear of the LORD in this verse means reverence for the LORD. Fearing Him will result in submission of one's life to Him. This is the beginning of wisdom. There is no wisdom apart from this foundational response to the LORD. To say it differently, the foolish refuse the fear of the LORD. In fact, they despise His teaching, His wisdom, as the second part of the verse says.

Where may wisdom be found? The answer is from divine revelation, the Bible as a whole, but Proverbs in particular. **Proverbs 2:6** says that "the LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding." God has spoken and given in His Word the knowledge and wisdom anyone needs to live his or her life with wisdom.

Wisdom's Warning

Proverbs 1:8-33 provides counsel and warning concerning peers who entice you to engage in evil. A wise person will not join in with wicked, unwise people. Moreover, those who ignore counsel will inevitably experience trouble. And when trouble comes, wisdom will not help but laugh (**1:26**).

Wisdom's Godly Parents

Proverbs 1:8; 3:1; 4:1-27; 31:1-9, 26

Wisdom's Value

Proverbs 2:1-22.

The Wisdom of Sexual Purity

Proverbs 5:1-23; 6:20-29; 7:6-27.

Wisdom of Godly Speech

Proverbs 6:17; 13:2; 15:1-2, 28

Wisdom's Counsel to Avoid Laziness

Proverbs 6:6-11

Wisdom's Warning and Counsel About Strong Drink

Proverbs 20:1; 23:29-35

Make it a habit of reading and applying the Proverbs. Secure a study Bible, preferably the *MacArthur Study Bible*, which provides clear and helpful footnotes to explain the meaning of the Proverbs. Your understanding will be enriched and your ability to live wisely will grow. As you grow in the skill of godly living, you will experience the joy that comes from obedience to the LORD, even as you glorify Him with a wise life.

A PRESCRIPTION FOR PURITY

Ours is a sexually loose age. It is no different from previous generations, except it is more out in the open; people do not try to hide their immorality these days.

No matter the time, God's standards remain unchanged. He still demands that sexual activity be expressed within the boundary He has set—the boundary which is taught in His Word.

All followers of the Lord Jesus Christ are to be governed by the God-given standard or boundary. To do otherwise is to incur His displeasure and exposes the disobedient one to His discipline. Moreover, the one who fails to follow God's Word in this area of life, sins against his own body (**1 Corinthians 6:18**).

To help you honor the Lord in the matter of sex, some biblical prescriptions are shared below. As we explore what God says about sex, it is good to recognize that the Lord is not a cosmic killjoy, that is, sitting in heaven seeking to keep humans from having fun.

No. The truth is God desires what is best for us. He knows what is best for us. His will is good...and perfect (**Romans 12:2c**). He doesn't withhold from us that which is good (**Psalms 84:11**) but only that which is harmful.

Recall God's command to Adam and Eve not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The command was for their blessing. God's negative commands are for your blessing.

So in various places in Scripture, the Lord tells us about the subject of sex and how we are to relate to sex. **Proverbs 5:1-23; 6:20-35**. These chapters teach how to avoid wrong sexual involvement and the value of proper sexual activity (within marriage).

In the New Testament, **1 Corinthians 6:12-20; Ephesians 5:3; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8; Hebrews 13:4**. Take these Scriptures and others that address this topic and study them, meditate, and memorize them to fortify you against the sure temptations that await you.

Ask the Lord to help you live up to His standards in order to experience His blessing and honor Him. Also, ask Him to aid you in this by building into your life conviction about the rightness of His way and the wrongness of the world's attitude toward sexual sin. Seek Him in prayer that you may reserve yourself for the person whom the Lord will provide for you to marry.

Be deliberate in protecting your mind and emotions from influences that lead you away from obedience to Christ regarding sexuality. These influences include those who do not share your commitments, such as music, social media, literature, television, movies, etc.

Proverbs 22:3, *A prudent person sees evil and hides himself, but the naïve proceed, and pay the penalty.*

YOUR PERSONAL TIME WITH THE LORD

Quiet Time is a term used by Christians to designate personal time with the Lord. This time of solitude with God is important and essential in developing a believer's personal relationship with Christ and fostering spiritual growth. (**1 Peter 2: 1-3; 2 Peter 3:18**).

PLAN—

An effective quiet time must be planned. Time with God should be viewed as an appointment to keep on a daily basis. Select a place and a time for meeting with God. Many believers have found the mornings to be advantageous.

PROVISION—

You will take your Bible, pen or pencil, and a notebook to your pre-selected meeting place.

PROCEDURE—

Begin your time alone with Christ with prayer. Offer prayer of adoration to God for Who He is. Follow adoration with confession of known sin (**1 John 1:9**). Then, ask the Lord to give you understanding of His Word (**Psalms 119:18, 34**). The Bible is not merely a human book; its origin is divine (**2 Timothy 3:16**). Therefore, we require divine aid to comprehend its message.

Read in a systematic fashion through a portion of Scripture. Do not play biblical hopscotch, i.e., hop from one place to another. Rather, for example, read through the Gospel of John from beginning to end, dividing it into appropriate segments for reading and meditating.

Meditation (**Psalms 1:2**) is essential for retaining the truths you observe in reading. Meditation is a mental review, a rehearsal of the material read.

With your pen and notebook available, note what you learn about God, sins to forsake, commands to obey, etc.