

FROM THE BEGINNING

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Greetings from Nebraska in Christ's Holy Name. Finally, the CIA DVD seminar series is finished. There are nine DVDs totally over 15 hours of information. The entire set will sell for \$120.00 or individually for \$18.00 each. We are also committed to making sure that these will get into the hands of anyone who needs them, even if it is free of charge.

Creation in Evangelism

As I go out and do street evangelism a haunting truth keeps loudly appearing. If we can't answer the modern day faith questions of today, there is no reason to share the Gospel at all because it is of no effect and beyond understanding. Let me explain the modern day faith questions.

I am constantly asked, "Where did Cain get his wife?" or "How do you fit dinosaurs into the Bible?" The attitude is that if there are no answers to these questions then the Bible must be wrong, including the message of Jesus Christ.

About 150 years ago the Biblical idea that the earth was only a few thousand years old was being challenged by the scientific community. The church decided that it wasn't an important issue because as long as the Bible was the authority on moral issues and

salvation, then the world could have their science. They intentionally, but not wisely, separated God's Word from real life issues.

Clarence Darrow, in the famous Scopes Trial of 1925 did the same thing in the courts of law. He asked the question, "Where did Cain get his wife?" William Jennings Bryan didn't have an answer for him so, as a result, he challenged the historical accuracy of the Scriptures. If there is no logical sense as to how Cain got his wife, then the Bible isn't accurate. First of all, we know that Cain married his sister and there is perfect scientific reason as to how this was acceptable. When the perfect gene pool of Adam and Eve was in existence, brother and sister could marry, have children and all would be fine. After the Flood, the radiation from the sun began to corrupt the gene pool and God finally puts a stop to this in the book of Leviticus. You may watch our Pre-Flood World video for further information. In any case, there are answers to Darrow's question.

My question to you is this: Are we, like Bryan, not able to answer these very questions posed to the church each and every day? In your Sunday School program I am sure you are teaching about Jesus, Daniel and the Lions Den, Adam and even Noah. But are you teaching Biology, Geology and Astronomy in your Sunday School program? You see, even today we are subconsciously separating God's Word from real life issues. What is the difference between Daniel and the

Lion's Den verses Little Red Riding Hood? The pictures of Noah's Ark we paint all over our preschool walls look like a cartoon, not a real history story. How do our children know how to make the distinction from truth and mere story?

Out on the street we hear people saying things like this all the time: "Oh, you are trying to tell me it's wrong to get drunk? Based on what? Oh, your Bible? Science has proven that book wrong. It was just written by men." You see, we are trying to impose morality upon a society that doesn't accept the foundation of that morality. How can we tell anyone what is morally right or wrong if the Bible we use to say something is right or wrong isn't the Word of God? The famous actor, Bruce Willis, said, "Organized religion used to hang the whole thing on one hook: If you don't do these things, if you don't act morally, your going to burn in hell. Unfortunately, with what we know about science, anyone who thinks at all probably doesn't believe in fire and brimstone anymore. So organized religion has lost that voice to hold up their moral hand." (USA Weekend Magazine, Cincinnati, Enquirer. Feb 11-13, 2000 p.7.). Do you see what he is saying? The same thing we hear on the street when people say we have no right to say what is right or wrong if the Bible is not God's Word. Carl Sagan, the famous (but now dead) evolutionary astronomer said, "Look at this world out there, all the mistakes, all the mutations, and the death and suffering and disease. Where's a god of love? Where is your powerful God? I don't see a powerful God." He is saying the same thing we hear out on the street all the time. People say, "I don't believe in God, He let my best friend get killed in a car accident," or "I don't believe in God, where was He when my step dad was

beating me?" They don't believe in God because if God existed, why is there death and struggle in this world when God is supposed to be a God of love? Think about it. What could you have said to Carl Sagan or any of these people we meet out on the street if there is no literal Adam and Eve which brought about literal sin, which brought about literal death, disease and suffering? If Adam is not literal history, Christians have no explanation for things like 9/11 or the tsunami that just killed over a 150,000 people. The very fact that you are alive speaks of Adam's literal existence because you had a literal mom and dad who had a literal mom and dad who had a literal mom and dad all the way back to Adam.

We read in Romans 5:12, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." The Bible is very clear that death is in this world because there was a literal Adam who sinned. Death, suffering and disease will be here until the Lord comes to take us home. But in the meantime, this Gospel is not understood because sin, death and the curse are not understood. The world is out throwing Satan's flaming arrows at the cross. As the arrow hits the foundation of Genesis, a literal Adam and Eve, a young earth etc., in front of the cross, the church is saying, "It didn't hit the cross." But what they don't realize is that the very foundation of the cross, Genesis, is being destroyed. If the world attacks the cross the church gets into an uproar, but if it attacks the foundation, they don't see it is an attack against the cross. Psalm 11:3 states, "If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?" Today, our foundation of God as Creator is being removed from our churches and society and the Gospel is being destroyed.

Many people have come up to me and said, “You can’t say that just because I believe in evolution that I’m going to hell.” First of all, I never say that because I don’t believe that at all. However, I usually respond this way, “I’m not worried about your salvation. I’m worried about the faith of those people whom you are destroying because of the compromising and contradictory message you are giving them. Do you believe Jesus is your Savior?” When they say “ Yes ,”I reply, “How do you know that.” They usually say, “It says in the Bible that .. .” Now I quickly interrupt and say, “Wow, wait a minute. You mean you are going to quote that book to say that Jesus is your Savior but I can’t quote that same book to say the Jesus is the Creator of a young earth?” You see we have to be consistent. We can’t quote the Bible on the things we like and throw out those verses we don’t. Yet this is what many Christians and churches are doing. We are leaving out creation as a vital part of evangelism.

Perhaps this is one reason we read in 1 Corinthians 1:23, “But we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles.” Notice that the same message of Jesus Christ is received in two different ways. To the Jew the cross is a stumbling block and to the Gentile the same cross is outright foolishness. The reason for this is that the Jew had understood the basic ABC’s of Christianity. They knew that God created them, it was just a stumbling block to understand that the Savior He was going to send was this suffering servant, Jesus. The Gentile, however, did not understand creation or that God was sending the Messiah. Therefore, to say that Jesus is the Christ is foolishness when they aren’t convinced that the Father was real to begin with. Jesus

himself said, no one can come to him except through the Father. In Acts 10:38-41 we see Peter witnessing to Cornelius, a believing Gentile practicing the Jewish ways and, therefore was of the Jewish mindset. Peter evangelized by saying, “You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. . . They killed him by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen.” Notice the message was Christ crucified and it worked well. You can also see similar examples in Acts 13:23 and Acts 17:1-3.

When the disciples go to Gentiles there is a completely different witnessing style. In Acts 17:23-25 we read, “For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you. **The God who made the world and everything in it** is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because **He himself gives all men life and breath and everything else.**” Here the message was creation, not Christ. The foundation had to be laid before Christ would move from foolishness to merely a stumbling block. Read Acts 14:11-16 for another example of this. In every case a Gentile is preached to the message is creation but in every case it is a Jew, the cross is the focus.

I propose that the church is giving Christ to people when they first need creation. We go out and tell them about the love of Jesus when they aren’t prepared to understand who Jesus is, let alone His love. If I tell you Jim loves you but you don’t know who Jim is, do you really care about Jim’s love? I believe

that our society is more like the Gentile mindset than the Jewish one. Most people today do not have an understanding of creation and who God is let alone His promise to send a Savior. Those that do have an understanding of God, often only have a head knowledge of who He is and don’t truly believe in their heart that God created this world in six-24 hour days. Because of this, they don’t believe in God’s Word and have no faith. Is it any wonder that those people on the street think it is foolishness for me to be telling them about Jesus when in their mind the Bible has been proven wrong by evolution?

Carl Sagan said in the 1985 Pocket Book by Simon & Schuster, “If God is omnipotent and omniscient, why didn’t he start the universe out in the first place so it would come out the way that he wants? Why is he constantly repairing and complaining? No, there’s one thing the Bible makes clear: the biblical God is a sloppy

manufacturer. He’s not good at design, he’s not good at execution. He’d be out of business if there was any competition” (pg 285). Is it any wonder that the world is lost? If only Carl Sagan had understood Creation, he would have understood the Fall and the reason for death, disease and suffering. God is and was a perfect Designer. But I guess Sagan was right on one thing, there is no competition. There is only one God, and like it or not, if He created you, He sets the rules for your life. If you disobey those rules you will have to answer to Him, your Creator. This is why we as Christians do judge. The most quoted verse of today is “Do not judge lest ye be judged.” This is taken completely out of context because the Bible says we are to judge the church and sin, just not salvation. John tells us to “Judge righteously” but without a literal creation and a literal truth in Scripture, there is no standard to judge by. May the church open their eyes and stop compromising on this important issue of Creation.

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