

Genesis 1:2-2:3 — Creation

September 20, 2015

Good morning CrossWinds. If you are new, my name is Kurt. I am one of the pastors. Welcome to the second week of the book of Genesis. If you missed last week, that is OK. We didn't get too far. We covered the background of Genesis and only looked at Genesis 1:1. Today we will pick up the pace. We will cover the entire first chapter. Everyone will need to buckle up because what took God an entire week, we will go over in a little more than 40 minutes.

The origin of the world is a controversial subject. The scientific world is committed to evolution. While evolution is considered a fact, it is not a fact. It is a theory. Evolution is not a science. Science deals with something that is repeatable in the laboratory. Nobody can repeat the creation of the world in a laboratory. They can only hypothesize about what might have happened at the creation of the world. The only person that can tell us what actually happened is God.

The supposed need for an Earth that is billions of years old to allow for evolutionary processes has not just taken control of the scientific community but many well-meaning Christians have created compromises between evolution and special creation. The hope is these compromises will allow both the Bible and evolutionary theory to be true. Unfortunately, that blissful middle ground doesn't work.

What is the problem with Theistic Evolution and the Day-Age theories?

One of these compromises we looked at last week is called theistic evolution. It is also called the day-age theory. This is the idea that the days of

creation in Genesis 1 are not literal 24-hour days but they represent long periods of time in which the geological ages, which lasted billions of years, took place. Last week we learned why this compromise doesn't work. If you had billions of years of animals dying and evolving before the creation of Adam and Eve, you have a huge theological problem. You have billions of years of death in the world before sin enters the world. The Bible says death is a consequence of sin. Death doesn't enter the world until sin enters the world. Sin doesn't enter the world until Adam and Eve chose to rebel. The day-age theory and theistic evolution don't work.

Another problem with the day-age theory is you would have important parts of creation missing. If plant life was created on day three, which lasted billions of years until day five when birds were created, and day five, when insects were created, how could plants survive for billions of years without pollination? Every gardener knows birds and bees exist in a symbiotic relationship with plants. They need each other to survive. How would flowers pollinate if there were no birds or insects? The day age theory doesn't work theologically or logically.

What is the problem with the Gap Theory?

We also learned the gap theory doesn't work. This is a theory popularized by the Scofield reference Bible study notes. It is the idea that there was a huge gap of billions of years between the creation of the world in Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2. In this gap of billions of years occurred all the geological ages. The gap theorists hypothesize that after Satan fell he was cast to the earth and the

earth became formless and void. The earth was ultimately re-created by God in the rest of Genesis 1. That is a lot of guess work that is not supported in the Bible. The same fatal problem exists with the gap theory as the day-age theory. We would have death in the world for billions of years before sin entered the world. That is a theological impossibility.

What is the the problem with simple time and chance producing evolution?

Plain evolution by chance also doesn't work. It violates the second law of thermodynamics. Order does not come from chaos no matter how much time you give it.



Here is a simple illustration. Take 10 pennies. Number them one to 10. Put them in your pocket. What is the chance of pulling out penny No. 1? One in 10. Put them back in your pocket. What is the chance of pulling out penny No. 2 after you have already pulled out penny No. 1? One in 100. What is the chance we keep doing this and pull out pennies one to 10 in numerical order? One in 10 billion. You have a better chance of winning the lottery. That is a simple ordered set of 10 pennies. Why don't we try something a little more complex, like the DNA in one human cell? Just one of our cells has more than 3 million nucleotides in specific order. If you could stretch out the DNA in one of our cells it would be 5 feet long and 50 trillionths of an inch thick. That is a much longer ordered set than 10 pennies. What do you think are the chances of DNA assembling itself in random order to make a single cell of the human body by

chance? I don't know. It is beyond possibility. It is foolish to think time and chance can assemble the DNA for a single cell amoeba, much less something more complex, like an animal.

The only viable option left is we are special creations of God. Evolutionary theory doesn't add up. If we are special creations of God, Genesis tells us how it happened. Let's discover how we came into existence. As we put our fingers in the text, I want

you to see
Genesis 1 has
two parts.
Days one to
three describe

	Forming the Earth	Filling the Earth
Day 1 + 4	Forming light and darkness	Filling the sky with sun, moon and stars
Day 2 + 5	Forming waters above and below	Filling the waters with fish and birds
Day 3 + 6	Forming dry land and seas	Filling the dry land with animals and man

God forming the Earth. Days four to six describe God filling the earth. Days one and four connect together just like days two and five connect together as well as days three and six. What God forms on the first day is what God fills on the later day.

Day One — Light and Darkness

The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. Genesis 1:2-5 (ESV)

Genesis begins by telling us the Earth was without form. It was void. Void means empty. We understand void but what does it mean to have the Earth without form? The Earth always has form. It is round like a ball. Did you ever

think the Earth was not always round? Proverbs 8 is an interesting mirroring of Genesis 1. It tells the creation story from the perspective of wisdom. Many theologians believe Jesus is personified as wisdom in Proverbs 8. One of the verses in Proverbs 8 has an interesting detail about creation that is not found in Genesis 1:2.

When he established the heavens, I was there (speaking about Jesus); when he drew a circle on the face of the deep... Proverbs 8:27 (ESV)

The Hebrew word for deep in Proverbs 8:27 is the same word used in Genesis 1:2. Apparently when our planet was created, it was formless. It was like a big blob. There was no sphericity on our planet until God drew a circle around our planet creating gravity to pull it into the form of a sphere.

As the creation story of day one continues, God turns on the lights. Then God said "Let there be light" and there was light. God separated the day from the night. Many people fuss over the fact the sun and moon were not created until day four while light was created on day one. How can we have light on the earth without the sun or the moon?

We need to remember that the sun and the moon are not the only sources of light. God is a source of light.

...who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light,... 1 Timothy 6:16 (ESV)

Light is created in a number of ways besides the sun. We have light bulbs. They create light. In the new creation there is no need of a sun or a moon because Jesus' radiance is the light for the entire creation. When the Israelites left Egypt and walked in the wilderness on the way to the Promised Land they were led in the day by a cloud that was a pillar of fire by night. The lights never

went out in their camp. The pillar of fire gave light to everything all night long and it wasn't burning anything as a source of fuel. God has many ways of creating light for our planet without using the sun or moon.

To make sure we know this was a literal day God said,. "There was evening and morning the first day."

Day Two — Forming Waters Above And Below

And God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. Genesis 1:6–8 (ESV)

We have a round Earth covered in water. Then God created the atmosphere. He created the clouds in a water-vapor canopy above the earth. This is a guess. In the beginning of Genesis, before the flood, people lived ultra-long life spans. It is possible that one of the reasons people lived so long was the existence of a much thicker vapor canopy over the earth than exists today. This thicker canopy would have filtered the ultra-violet rays and would have protected the earth. Genesis 2:5 tells us it never rained until the flood. Genesis 7:11-12 tells us that when the flood came God opened the windows of heaven. A lot of the water to flood the earth came from above the earth.

The big picture of day two is God creating the atmosphere by separating the waters below from the waters above.

So we know this was a literal day because God says there was evening and morning that day.

Day Three — Forming Dry Land And Seas

And God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. And God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth.” And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. Genesis 1:9–13 (ESV)

On the second day, God created vertical separation. On the third day God created horizontal separation. He created dry land. One of the first questions people ask is how God could create dry land in one day. Wasn't it mud? It was under the ocean. Wouldn't it take months or years to dry out? Wouldn't the earth be too salty for plants? The answer to these questions are that we are talking about a special creation of God, not a natural process.

How did Jesus multiply the loaves and fishes in a little boy's lunch to feed the 5,000? Wouldn't fish take time to hatch, grow and be caught on a hook? Wouldn't the wheat in the bread take time to be grown and harvested after planting? If the laws of nature set limits on the creative power of God then we need to rule out all miracles. Our understanding of science should never limit our understanding of the Word of God. If God said it, he can do it. God has no trouble creating dry land on the earth in only one day.

We also need to notice that plant life appeared when God spoke it into existence. It did not appear as part of a long evolutionary process. Plants were a spontaneous creation of God that appeared full grown. They were created by God with seeds in them. They were not grown from seed.

This means plants appeared full-grown with the appearance of age. To limit plants and claim they must be grown from seed or from an earlier evolutionary species is to bow to the evolutionary theory. If God can raise people from the dead, he has no problem creating plants out of nothing.

The ESV is slightly misleading in this verse because it says “let the earth sprout vegetation.” The Hebrew word for *sprout* literally means “to become green.”. In a natural sense this would involve sprouting and growing, but in this context it means the spontaneous creation of lush green plants of all different types that cover the earth, making it green. To remind us this took place in a literal day, it says there was evening and there was morning on this day.

Day Four — Filling the sky with sun, moon and stars

And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.
Genesis 1:14–19 (ESV)

As we leave day three we see God moves from the earth to the sky. He formed the Earth and began filling it with green plants, then he filled the sky. God created the sun, moon and stars. It says these are all given to us to determine our days and seasons. This is exactly what takes place. The sun determines the length of our days and nights by sunrises and sunsets. The moon determines the length of a month. The revolution of the earth around the sun determines our years. Because the earth is tilted on its axis, as we rotate around the sun, we have different seasons.

Charles Boyle was a Christian scientist fascinated with the discoveries of Kepler and Newton about planetary motion and the intricacies of the universe. Boyle hired a watchmaker to design a working mechanical model of the solar system that would demonstrate the motion of the planets around the sun. As Boyle was showing this working model to a friend that was an atheist, his friend was very impressed. He asked Boyle who made it. “No one made it,” Boyle replied. “It just happened.” Boyle made his point. The more we look at the intricate movements of the sun, moon and stars, the more we realize none of this happened by chance.

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Psalm 19:1 (ESV)

The Bible tells us the more we learn about the universe, the more driven to worship we become when we see the size, complexity, beauty, and precision of all God has made.

For an example, look at the sun. The sun has a diameter 109 times larger than the Earth. If the sun were hollow, it would take a million Earth-sized objects to fill it. If the sun were the size of a bowling ball, the Earth would be the size of a poppy seed. Our sun is small in comparison to other suns. Astronomers call our sun a yellow dwarf. Other suns, known as super giants, are a thousand times larger than our sun. All of this should leave us in awe at the amazing power of God that spoke all of this into existence in one literal day. God is incredibly powerful.

Day 5 — Filling the waters with fish and birds

And God said, “Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens.” So God created

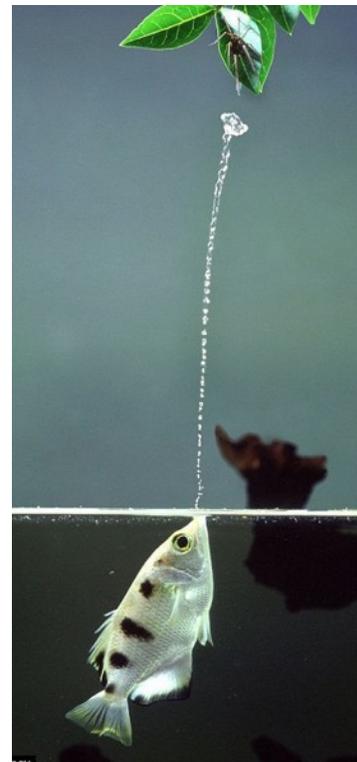
the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. Genesis 1:20–23 (ESV)

The Bible is clear that all birds and fish are special creations of God. What is abundantly clear is nothing evolved. Everything was specially created. Let me show you some of God's amazing creations that showcase his power and creativity.

Consider the amazing archer fish.

Take the archerfish. This fish lives in Southeast Asia. It has the unique ability to spit jets of water at insects resting on a leaf or branch that hangs over water. The upper plate of its mouth is grooved so when it presses its tongue to the roof of its mouth and close its gills, it can shoot a stream of water with pinpoint accuracy 5 feet in the air. The water knocks insects to the surface for easy prey.

They have binocular vision to judge distance plus their eyes can adjust to the refraction of light in the water. The evolutionists says archer fish developed these skills to help them survive. The problem is archer fish don't need these skills to survive. They shoot bugs for sport, like we go to hunting camp in the fall. There is no evolutionary incentive.



They are so accurate that if you are smoking a cigarette while fishing around an archer fish, they shoot a stream of water at the glow of your cigarette to put it out because they think it might be a glowing bug.

Consider the amazing albatross

For a bird, take the albatross. It has a wingspan of almost 12 feet. It is the largest known flying bird. An adult albatross can fly a thousand miles in a day. They use their wings to float on air currents so they don't need to land. A

young albatross might circle the earth seven times before landing on land. The only time they come to land is to breed, which is in Antarctica. They may only breed once every three years.



When they breed they only lay

one egg. Some albatross live 80 years. The albatross also has the unique ability to drink salt water, separate the salt from the water and expel the salt through its nose. How could this happen by chance, especially in a species of bird that is so inefficient in breeding?

Darwin theorized that everything was continually evolving and getting smarter and better. His example was giraffes. He claimed they developed long necks so they could eat the leaves of trees. Today we know that is impossible. The length of a giraffe's neck is determined by its DNA, not by how high it stretches its neck to eat. Baby giraffes do not develop longer necks than their parents simply because their parents were reaching for leaves high in the trees.

DNA determines what we look like and who we will be. Nothing is evolving by adding new information or different information to our genetic code that came out of our environment. The DNA on a fish cannot add detailed information for the next generation so it develops lungs to breath regular air. It is impossible. There is micro-evolution between species, like breeding different types of dogs, but there is no such thing as macro-evolution where you can breed a fish to develop fingers or breed a cat to develop wings like a bird. All the amazing fish and birds are not evolutionary chances. They are all special creations of God, and he made them in one day.

Day Six — Beasts, Creeping Things

And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so. And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. Genesis 1:24–25 (ESV)

There are three categories of land animals God created on the earth.

Livestock — These are animals that can be domesticated, like cows and sheep. These animals appear to be brought about by God for our good. Thank goodness for cows. I love a good piece of beef. Where would we be without a glass of milk, ice cream and butter?

Creeping things — These are insects, lizards, ants and other things that creep on the ground. When you look at some of the things that creep on the ground, you find amazing special creations of God that proclaim the incredible mind of his hand, not evolutionary chance.

Beasts — These are the wild untamed animals like lions, tigers and bears.

Let's look at some of these amazing animals that remind us of God's awesome creative power.

Consider the Amazing Basilisk Lizard

Take the basilisk lizard. When chased by a predator, he stands upright on his hind feet and runs. He runs to a body of water. When he gets to the water, he keeps running across the top of the water! His feet have a unique shape that allows him to create pockets of air as he presses them in the water when he runs from his pursuer. How did he evolve this amazing sprinting ability? The Bible



tells us God created him this way. Take your pet lizard and you can throw it in the lake all day long. Trust me, he will not learn to walk on water. If he did, how could he pass that ability to his children?

Consider The Amazing Bombardier Beetle

Another amazing creation is the bombardier beetle. It is found mostly in the deserts of New Mexico. It has reservoirs of two chemicals in its body. One is hydroquinone and the other is hydrogen peroxide. These chemicals are harmless by themselves but they are explosive when combined. The



beetle also has a movable turret on his abdomen. When attacked, the beetle faces the turret at his predator and combines the chemicals as he shoots them at his opponent. The chemical reaction explodes, making something as hot as

boiling water. The beetle knows how to time the explosion so it takes place just outside of his body, not in the turret, or he would explode.

Imagine how evolutionists would describe the evolution of this beetle. You have billions of years of chance that might result in the presence of these two chemicals in the body of a beetle but every time this happens, the beetle explodes. Once it has the chemical chamber in its body, it needs to develop an intricate delivery mechanism. Every time the delivery mechanism is slightly wrong, the beetle explodes and that ends the evolutionary cycle. How did this happen by chance? It couldn't. When we listen to National Geographic we should be left in awe at God's creative abilities. Unfortunately, the announcer keeps telling us it all happened by chance over billions of years. Impossible.

Day Six - Creation of Man

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Genesis 1:26–31 (ESV)

For the first time we find God in the plural. It says, "Let us make man in our image." Unlike the rest of the creation, Adam and Eve were created in the image of God.

What does it mean to be created in the image of God?

It is probably not talking about our physical nature. Our bodies are similar to some apes. Theologians have talked for a long time about what it means to be created in the image of God and nobody knows all that it means. I think a big part of the answer is our spirituality. Unlike animals, we have consciousness of God. We also have an understanding of right and wrong. We also have the capacity for language and deep relationships.

In this passage we learn for the first time that God is composed of more than one person. It says "Let us make man." The rest of the Bible tells us God is composed of three persons. God the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit are in an eternal loving relationship with each other where they communicate in love with one another.

In the same way we are created with the capacity to communicate and love just like God.

All of creation leads to this point. All of creation was prepared as our home. We are to have dominion over the earth and to use the earth and steward the earth for God's glory. Every green plant is given to us for food. At this time, all the animals were also vegetarians. It is not until after the flood where meat was given for food.

Adam and Eve were also personally created by God. One thing is abundantly clear. Human beings did not evolve from lower beings. The Bible says Adam and Eve were special creations that God made in his image. We don't need to worry about lower forms of life evolving to the point they are now in the image of God. It won't happen.

What came first, the chicken or the egg?

In Genesis 1, we find the answer to this age-old question. Did you hear the answer? The chicken came before the egg! Do you remember when God created plants? He created the plants fully formed with seed in them. In the same way he created all the fish, the birds and the land animals fully formed and with the ability to multiply. That means they were mature. God also created Adam and Eve not as little babies but as fully formed adults. They had fully developed muscles that we only get from exercise. They had a fully developed mind that knew how to think, speak and tend to the garden without going to school. They could talk with God and walk with God.

If we looked at Adam the moment after he was created, we would probably consider him 25 to 30 years old. In reality, he was only minutes old. In the same way, trees have rings that serve to mark their age each year. When trees were created, they were created with rings and the appearance of age plus they had seed in them to make more trees. If you think God can't create something with the appearance of age, remember Jesus' turning of water into wine in John 2. Jesus bypassed the fermentation process so the wine had the appearance of age, well-aged wine. That is how God fashioned creation. He put the planets in distant solar systems but he also put the light from those planets in space so it looked like that light traveled for millions of years to get to us.

Day Seven — Rest

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation. Genesis 2:1–3 (ESV)

Four times in these three verses God emphatically stated his work of creation was finished. Modern evolutionary theory doesn't believe creation is finished. The modern evolutionists believe in something called uniformitarianism. This means the earth is continually changing and evolving at a uniform rate. We are evolving and new things are being created now just like they were billions of years ago. The Bible says God's works of creation were done at the end of day six. Nothing new is coming. The Bible teaches not uniformitarianism but catastrophism.

Catastrophism teaches there were two catastrophic-type events in the history of the world. One was creation and the other was the flood. Together these events account for the formation of the world as we know it. The Bible says nothing is evolving. Nothing is changing. God created everything in six literal days, then God stopped creating and nothing else new can be created or will be created. As we talked about before, DNA determines the next generation. Humans will never develop gills like a fish or wings like a bird.

Catastrophism also explains the large fossil beds. Fossils take a special environment to form. Typically bodies decay. Fossils only form if bodies are rapidly covered in mud and they are under great hydraulic pressure, otherwise they decay. What worldwide phenomenon would create the rapid burial of huge quantities of animals in mud followed by great hydraulic pressure? The flood! Noah's flood explains fossil beds, like the Karoo fossil field in Africa which is estimated to hold 800 billions fossils. What could have buried 800 billion animals in mud all at once followed by huge quantities of hydraulic pressure? The rising

water of a massive worldwide flood would concentrate animals on high ground until they were buried together, then covered in mud and pressed together under great hydraulic pressure. The supposed geologic layers are not evolution. They are simpler animals drowning in the flood before more complex animals were later drowned in the flood because they could get to higher ground.

Why did God create in six days?

One of the great questions is, “Why did God take six days to create the universe?” Why didn’t he just do it all at once? The Bible tells us why God took six days to create the universe. He gave us a pattern for our work week from his work week.

For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. Exodus 20:11 (ESV)

How do we respond?

1. **Remember that evolution is a theory, not a fact.** While scientists claim evolution is a proven fact, by definition it is unrepeatable event. That makes evolution a theory. Evolution is also a religion that says man is the center of the universe. It says God was never involved and that things are still evolving. The Bible says God finished all of his creation works in this one week.
2. **Remember creation is a gift from God. Thank him for it and enjoy it.** There are people out there that worship creation. Environmentalists and PETA groups end up worshipping the earth. They consider animals to have the same rights we do. The Bible says we are the only ones created in God’s image. The Bible also tells us we are responsible for caring for this creation

but we should also enjoy and use this creation. This creation was given as our home. Enjoy it, use it and thank God for it. Have a juicy hamburger with ice cream for dessert and thank God for both.

As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. 1 Timothy 6:17 (ESV)

- 3. Let the magnificence of God's creation develop our humility and worship.** The Bible tells us the universe was created to show the glory of God. Its vastness and beauty showcases God's great power and wisdom, which is far above anything we could possibly imagine. Looking at the night sky should drive us to humility as we see the vastness of God's creation and the smallness of ourselves. It should lead us to worship to thank God for creating all of this beauty and creativity and then giving us dominion over all of it.

Even more amazing than the size, the beauty and complexity of God's creation which is given to us to enjoy is knowing that the same God who created everything loves us so much that he sent his own son to take on human flesh. To live a perfect life. To die a death he didn't deserve in our place for our sin. The God who created all of this loves us so much he sent his son to rescue us from death and sin. Our entire lives should be lived humbly worshipping God not just for all he made but for what he has done for us through Jesus. What God did for us through Jesus is more amazing than anything we see in creation.

“Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”
Revelation 4:11 (ESV)



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