

Questions for Lesson 23: The Wisdom of Creation

1. What is apologetics?

Answer: Webster says it is to make a defense.

2. Why is apologetics needed? Why is this series relevant? Is it biblical?

Answer: We live in an age of doubt and skepticism. Challenges to belief in God and to the Bible as His word are growing, are open, and having increasing results. In Europe people are being told that they live in the “post Christian era.” “I don't need God to be good” is being highly advertised in the United States. First Peter 3:15 tells us to “be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” Romans 1:20, Psalms 19:1, Isaiah 45:18, and other passages talk about God having given us evidence which we can all see and act on.

3. What is “Intelligent Design”?

Answer: It is a movement that says what we see in nature is too complex to have been formed by chance alone. In recent years statistics has been used to bolster that claim. Program #6 in this series presented an example of that technique. It is an apologetic, not a method of doing science. There have been philosophical discussions about this issue, but from a science and evidence perspective it is not science but is of great use in asking for evidence of God's creative wisdom.

4. What does it mean to ask if God is a magician?

Answer: It asks if God did everything He did by miraculous techniques that man can never understand and which cannot be approached by science in any way.

5. What does it mean to ask if God is an engineer?

Answer: It is the opposite of the magician concept. It suggests that God used intelligence and natural processes that can be understood for much of what He did in the creation process. It is our position that most of what God did was understandable and thus the work of a master engineer. Evidence can only be discussed if that is true.

6. What wouldn't be a product of the “engineer God”?

Answer: The creation of time, of space, of matter/energy from nothing, and creation of the human soul.

7. If God created time, what happened before there was time?

Answer: We live in a time dependent world. God's activity in a time independent existence is described in Ephesians 1:4; John 17:24, 2 Timothy 1:9, and Titus 1:2. All of those things are beyond our grasp scientifically, and intellectually.

8. Is there biblical support for this concept?

Answer: First of all, the Hebrew words used in Genesis 1 and throughout the Bible recognize this concept. *Bara* in Hebrew is used to describe acts that only God can do. This includes the creation of space, time, matter/energy and the human soul in Genesis 1. *Asah* is used to describe things God does that man can do. It is used in

Genesis 1 and throughout the Old Testament. There is a discussion of this on our doesgodexist.org web site in the booklet "God's Revelation in His Rocks and His Word." At the end of the creation account in Genesis 1 the writer says "These are the things that the Lord God created and made (*bara* and *asah*)" (Genesis 2:3).

9. Proverbs 8 is used in the presentation. How does it support this concept.

Answer: Wisdom is talking in this chapter of Proverbs and is pointing out its role in all that God did. Wisdom is the product of intelligence and not to a magician's process. In Proverbs 8 there is a sequence and the role of wisdom is given in each step. Verse 23 talks about the preparation of those things needed for matter to exist. Quantum mechanics, the Higgs Boson, and all of modern understandings of the origin of matter is involved. Verse 24 talks about oceans and water sources. Verse 25 deals with mountains, hills, rocks, etc. Verses 26-28 explain the wisdom of dust, clouds, and the atmosphere. Verse 29 explains oceans as a product of wisdom. Verses 30-31 explain it all as the work of a craftsman.

10. Are there other biblical references to God as an engineer?

Answer: The word *natah* meaning to stretch out is used to describe the condition of things in the heaven, and in passages like Isaiah 40:22 the expanding and accelerating universe is implied in the description. In Genesis 2:7 the human body is formed (Hebrew *yatshir*, used in reference to what a potter would do). In Genesis 2:8 a garden is planted--not zapped into existence. These are all acts of an engineering God, and science simply helps us understand what God has done.

10. Can this understanding be expanded to the plan of salvation?

Answer: The plan of salvation makes sense and is not just a capricious set of rules. Belief is necessary at the start of any response to God. Repentance and the act of dying to sin and a life of destructive behavior is vital. Identifying the source of our new life in confession is important in our day of religious pluralism. Those of us who have come out of a hard life in sin can see the beauty in baptism. It is a burying of the old man of sin and coming out of the water a new creature. It is beautiful and makes wonderful sense. Living a new life is vital for our Christianity to have meaning (Ephesians 5-6). I think God's wisdom shines through in the plan of salvation.