

NCIS
Noble Children Investigating Scripture

Acts 17:11 – “These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”

Lesson Plan

- Lesson One: Investigating Creation** (Genesis 1:1 – 2:3)
Days of Creation / Science of Creation / Age of the Earth
{Younger classes will emphasize Days 1 – 4 of Creation}
- Lesson Two: Investigating Man** (Genesis 1:26-31; 2:7-25)
Creation of Man / Image of God / Errors of Evolution
{Younger classes will emphasize Days 5 – 7 of Creation}
- Lesson Three: Investigating the Flood** (Genesis 6 – 8)
Record of the Flood / Science of the Flood / Evidence of the Flood
{Younger classes will also study the Flood, Noah and the Ark}
- Lesson Four: Investigating Dinosaurs** (Job 40 – 41)
Dinosaurs and the Bible / Dinosaurs and Man / Dinosaurs and the Flood
{Younger classes will also study Dinosaurs as a part of God’s Creation}
- Lesson Five: Investigating the World’s End** (2 Peter 3:1-14)
God as Judge / Salvation in Christ / Destruction of the Universe
{Younger classes will study the Birth and Sacrifice of Jesus}

Lesson One: Investigating Creation

(Genesis 1:1 – 2:3)

Series Introduction:

1. Investigation is essential if one wants to be pleasing to God.
2. Not only does God command us to “search the Scriptures,” but He also demands that we “prove all things” (John 5:39; Acts 17:11; 1 Thessalonians 5:21).
3. Thus, Christians must be investigators – those who examine the facts, the evidence, the opinions of others, and – especially – the Word of God.
4. True faith is built and grounded upon evidence (Psalm 19:1; Romans 1:20; Isaiah 1:18; Malachi 3:10; 1 Peter 3:15; 1 John 4:1; etc.).
5. So, this week we will be investigating the world that we live in and the Word – the Bible – that God has given us.
 - a. How did the universe come into existence?
 - b. How did life begin? Where did man come from?
 - c. Did the Flood really happen? Is there evidence of it?
 - d. Does the Bible say anything about dinosaurs? Did dinosaurs and man live together?
 - e. Will the world really be destroyed one day? Is Jesus coming again?
6. Let's begin our study by investigating Creation...

Introduction:

1. Evolutionists tell us that the universe came into existence by the “Big Bang” that is supposed to have occurred billions of years ago.
2. The Bible says that God created the universe in six days, less than ten thousand years ago.
3. Who is right? Let us investigate the evidence.

I. The Record of Scripture

- A. The Days of Creation
 1. Day One - Light / the heaven and the earth
 2. Day Two - Firmament / called “Heaven” – the atmosphere
 3. Day Three - Dry land (Earth) / Seas / Plants (grass, trees, etc.)
 4. Day Four - Sun / Moon / Stars
 5. Day Five - Fish (and water dwelling creatures) / Birds
 6. Day Six - Animals (land dwelling) / Man
 7. Day Seven - God rested
- B. The power behind the creation was the Word of God.
 1. With each step of the creation, the Bible tells us that “God said.”
 2. In other words, God spoke and it happened.
 3. Genesis 1:3 literally reads, “And God said, ‘Light be:’ and light was.”
- C. Many today try to convince us that the first eleven chapters of the book of Genesis are just myths and legends.
- D. However, there is important and valuable scientific information contained in this record of the creation of the world.
- E. Consider the creation of light (Genesis 1:3-5).
 1. The Bible says that God divided the light from the darkness.

2. Of course, this implies that God caused the earth to begin rotating on its axis – the cause of our day and night.
 3. Thus, the earth that was “without form” was given its spherical shape.
 4. Furthermore, this light existed before the creation of the sun, moon or stars on the fourth day (cf. 1 John 1:5).
 5. This helps us to understand how we can see stars that are supposed to be millions of light-years away.
 6. But, the creation of light involved more than just visible light.
 7. It would have been the beginning of ultraviolet light, infrared light, longwave radiation, shortwave radiation, and the earth’s electromagnetic field.
- F. Consider the creation of the firmament (Genesis 1:6-8).
1. The word “firmament” means, “an expanse,” and it refers to the atmosphere that surrounds the earth.
 2. But, notice that God divided the waters under the atmosphere from the waters **above** the atmosphere.
 3. This is important because it indicates that in the past the earth possessed a canopy of water high up in its atmosphere. {*The planet Venus still has a vapor canopy surrounding it.*}
 4. This would have tremendous effects upon the earth’s environments.
 - a. There would have been little to no rainfall (Genesis 2:5-6).
 - b. The “greenhouse effect” would have made the entire planet a tropical paradise.
 - c. Plants, animals and man would be better protected and would grow larger and live longer.
 5. This canopy also helps explain where the waters during the Flood came from.
- G. Consider the creation of “kinds” (Genesis 1:11, 21, 24).
1. When God created plants, animals and man, He created them as a “kind.”
 2. In modern terminology, we might think of these kinds as species. {*However, the biblical term is much broader than modern terms.*}
 3. What this teaches us is that God created living things with certain limits of variation within them.
 4. For example, an apple seed will always produce an apple tree – and nothing else.
 5. Dogs will only give birth to other dogs – even though they may vary from the fox to the wolf to the coyote to the dog to the hyena.
 6. They may be as small as a Poodle or as large as a Great Dane, but they are still dogs.
 7. In other words, one kind of animal does not evolve into or produce another kind of animal.
- H. So, the Bible tells us some very important things concerning the scientific implications of God’s creation of the universe.
- I. But, can the creation of the world be proven by science?
- II. The Record of Science
- A. Something exists; therefore, something must have always existed.
 - B. In other words, something does not come from nothing.
 - C. Yet, amazingly, that is what many scientists today would have us believe.

1. When scientists speak of the Big Bang, they claim that nothing was there in the beginning.
 2. Yet, somehow, nothing exploded and the universe came to be!
 - D. Every creation must have a creator.
 1. This is called the cosmological argument for the existence of God.
 2. There are only two options here: either the universe is eternal, or something brought it into existence.
 3. The universe is not eternal – it is expanding (implying it had a beginning) and it is running down (implying it had a start).
 4. Thus, it was created – by a creator, God.
 - E. Every design must have a designer. (Cf. Hebrews 3:4)
 1. This is called the teleological argument for the existence of God.
 2. There is grand design in the universe.
 - a. The location, position and rotation of the Earth
 - b. The intricacies of DNA
 - c. The amazing workings of the human body
 3. Evolution says that these things “happened” by “accident,” yet that has never been proven!
 4. Someone designed our world – that Designer is God.
 - F. The law of Cause and Effect
 1. For every effect, there must be an adequate cause.
 2. What caused the universe?
 3. Only God could have created our world.
 - G. The law of Biogenesis
 1. This law states that life only comes from life.
 2. This has been proven over and over in laboratories around the world.
 3. Spontaneous generation (or, abiogenesis) has been disproved countless times.
 4. Life cannot come from something non-living.
 5. Yet, the theory of evolution is based upon the fact (though unproven and disproved) that at least once something non-living and to become or produce something living!
 6. Life on earth exists; therefore, it must have come from something living – namely, God.
 7. Which came first, the chicken or the egg? The chicken! Where did the chicken come from? God created it!
 - H. The truth is, one must abandon the scientific method, scientific reasoning and even the foundations of science to accept the theory of evolution and reject the existence of God, the Creator.
- III. The Age of the Earth
- A. The Bible teaches that the earth is only five days older than man is.
 - B. While no exact date is given, it is obvious that the Bible teaches that the earth is relatively young.
 - C. There are some things that we know for certain.
 1. From history, we know that from the time of Jesus until the present, about 2,000 years have passed.
 2. From history, we know that from the time of Jesus back to Abraham was about 2,000 years.
 3. The only timeframe that is disputed is from Adam to Abraham.

- D. The genealogies recorded in the Bible gives us a very accurate understanding of the age of the earth.
 - 1. Enoch was the seventh from Adam (Jude 1:14).
 - 2. This is in perfect harmony with the genealogies in Genesis 5.
 - 3. When those records are compared, we learn that from Adam to Abraham covered a period of about 2,000 years.
- E. Thus, from the creation of the world until the present day, approximately 6,000 years have passed.
- F. This means that the earth is less than 10,000 years old! (Cf. Matthew 19:4; Mark 10:6; Luke 11:45-52; John 8:44; Romans 1:20)
- G. But, consider these scientific proofs for a young earth.
 - 1. The amount of dust on the surface of the moon indicates a young earth.
 - 2. The absence of fossilized meteorites indicates a young earth.
 - 3. The fact that there are still comets orbiting the sun indicates a young earth.
 - 4. The depletion of the earth's magnetic field indicates a young earth.
 - 5. The size of the Sun indicates a young earth.
 - 6. The amount of Helium in the atmosphere indicates a young earth.
 - 7. The amount of Hydrogen in the universe indicates a young earth.
 - 8. There are over 65 other scientific examples that prove the earth is young and could not be millions of years old.
- H. The reason many scientists claim the earth is millions of years old is so they will have enough time for evolution to take place.
- I. But, even given an infinite amount of time, something would never come from nothing; life would never come from non-life; and no life form would change into a different kind.

Conclusion:

- 1. The universe exists because God created it.
- 2. He created everything that exists in six, 24 hour days (Exodus 20:11).
- 3. Because He is our Creator, we must love, worship and serve Him faithfully.

Lesson Two: Investigating Man

(Genesis 1:26-31; 2:7-25)

Introduction:

1. As we study the creation of the world, we see the awesome power of God.
2. Yet, we also learn about His great love and care for man.
3. All of the things created on the first four days were designed to provide a perfect home for man.
 - a. The universe is not a giant accident resulting from an explosion.
 - b. It was carefully constructed by God as a beautiful dwelling place for man.
4. We see this even more when we consider the last days of the Creation week – and we learn of the creation of man.

I. The Record of Scripture

- A. There are several important facts to be learned from the Bible’s record of the creation of man.
- B. First, man was created – he did not evolve from lower forms of life.
 1. This will be discussed more fully in point II below.
 2. Consider the human eye as just one example that proves creation instead of evolution.
 3. In *The Origin of Species*, Charles Darwin wrote, “[I]t is scarcely possible to avoid comparing the eye with a telescope. We know that this instrument has been perfected by the long-continued efforts of the highest human intellects; and we naturally infer that the eye has been formed by a somewhat analogous process.”
 4. In other words, when one considers a telescope or a camera, he recognizes that it has been designed by someone with intelligence.
 5. Yet, the human eye does what a camera does hundreds of times better. How could it not have been intelligently designed?

<u>THE CAMERA</u>	<u>THE EYE</u>
Lens Cover	Eyelid
Lens	Lens
Close-up	Close-up
Wide-angle	Wide-angle
Telephoto	Telephoto
Autofocus	Ciliary Muscle + Lens
Light Meter	Iris + Pupil
Film	Retina
Black & White	Rods
Color	Cones
Processing	Brain

6. The eye can handle 1.5 million messages all at the same time.
7. 80% of the information gained by the brain comes through the eyes.
8. The eye moves about 100,000 times every day using some of the strongest muscles in the human body.

9. The average person blinks 3 – 6 times per minute – a process that cleans and moistens the eyes.
 10. Tears not only flush out dust and other materials, but also contain lysozyme which kills bacteria and other microbes.
 11. Again, Darwin wrote: “To suppose that the eye with all its inimitable contrivances for adjusting the focus to different distances, for admitting different amounts of light, and for the correction of spherical and chromatic aberration, could have been formed by natural selection, seems, I freely confess, absurd in the highest degree.”
 12. Yet, against his own logic and reason, Darwin believed that the human eye evolved by the process of natural selection.
- C. Second, man was created in the image of God.
1. This does not mean that man looks like God, for God is a spirit (John 4:24).
 2. Instead, it means that we are created with the same characteristics of God.
 - a. An eternal soul – man is also a spiritual being (not just flesh)
 - b. Free will – the ability to choose
 - c. Emotions – love, compassion, etc.
 - d. Reason – the ability to think logically
 - e. Jesus is the perfect example of man in the image of God (cf. John 1:1-18; 14:9; Hebrews 1:3; 2 Cor. 4:4; Col. 1:15-16).
- D. Third, man was created as male and female.
1. Man was created from the dust of the earth (Gen. 2:7).
 2. Woman was created from a rib taken from the man (Gen. 2:21-22).
 3. They were created to be a family – husband and wife (Gen. 2:23-24).
 4. The theory of evolution runs into a tremendous difficulty here.
 - a. It is not enough for one human being to evolve.
 - b. There must be two – and, one must be male while the other is female.
 - c. Also, they must evolve at the same time and in the same location.
 - d. This is not only true for man, but also for every other creature.
- E. Fourth, man was created to have dominion over the earth.
1. The earth was created as man’s home and for his benefit.
 2. God commanded man to fill the earth – inhabit all of it.
 3. He even commanded man to subdue (conquer, dominate, make subservient) the earth.
 - a. Of course, this should be done responsibly.
 - b. But, ideas like manmade global warming, population control and Earth Day are not in harmony with the Scriptures.
 4. Man was also created above the animals that were to be in subjection to him.
 - a. The theory of evolution would have us believe that men are just highly evolved animals.
 - b. To most evolutionists it is just as wrong to kill a chicken as it is to kill a human being.
 - c. God declares that there is a fundamental difference – animals do not have eternal souls and are not made in the image of God.

- F. Fifth, man was created to have responsibilities – a family and home to care for and work to do.
 - 1. Adam and Eve were a family, with responsibilities to one another.
 - 2. The Garden of Eden was their home – it was to be dressed and kept by them (Gen. 2:15).
 - 3. It was their source of shelter and food.
- G. Sixth, man was created with intelligence and understanding.
 - 1. When God created man, Adam was able to understand God's instructions.
 - 2. He was able to communicate with God and with Eve.
 - 3. The first man was not a knuckle-dragging caveman who could only grunt and paint pictures on cave walls.
 - 4. He was just as intelligent as any man is today.
- H. Seventh, man was created with the ability to choose between right and wrong.
 - 1. God told man what tree to eat of (Gen. 2:16).
 - 2. God told man what tree not to eat of (Gen. 2:17).
 - 3. Thus, man was able to know right from wrong.
 - 4. Sadly, man chose to do wrong and the world forever changed (Genesis 3).

II. The Record of Science

- A. Obviously, man exists as a highly complex form of life.
- B. Is it possible that we are just the product of random chance, haphazard mutations and natural selection?
- C. According to the Bible, the answer is no.
- D. But, according to science, the answer is also, "No!"
 - 1. The human eye, mentioned above, is just one evidence of amazing design in the human body.
 - 2. Compare the human ear to the microphones, recorders and other listening devices in modern society.
 - 3. As amazing as artificial limbs and body parts are, they never measure up to the original.
 - 4. Why haven't scientists created a machine that smells or tastes like a human can? *{We still use dogs to sniff out bombs.}*
 - 5. Though some have gotten close, no computer can match the human brain.
- E. Every part of the human body demonstrates intelligent design.

III. The Arguments of Evolution

- A. What about comparative anatomy?
 - 1. Evolutionists claim that similarities among animals indicate that they all came from a common ancestor.
 - 2. There are similarities between the human arm and the wing of a bat.
 - 3. However, this is evidence of a common creator rather than a common ancestor.
 - 4. An architect will use similar materials and designs to construct different buildings or monuments.
 - 5. God created animals and man to live in the same environment on the same planet.

6. Why wouldn't we expect similarities among them?
 7. But, how can evolution explain the duck-billed platypus?
- B. What about the missing link?
1. Darwin, and the multitudes who have followed him, expected to find fossils of transitional animals – from one species to another.
 2. They especially hoped to find “the missing link” between apes and man.
 3. However, almost 200 years later, no one has.
 4. Today, scientists say, “[N]o real evolutionist ...uses the fossil record as evidence in favor of the theory of evolution as opposed to special creation” (Mark Ridley, *New Scientist*, June, 1981).
 5. Not only is there a missing link, but the entire chain is missing!
 6. Man is not a monkey!
 - a. Man walks upright; monkeys do not.
 - b. Apes have opposable toes; men do not.
 - c. Man's line of sight is perpendicular to his body; the ape's is parallel.
 - d. Man's brain does 75% of its growing after birth; the ape's brain is 70% grown at birth.
 7. Scientists have found fossils of apes and fossils of humans, but not fossils of any in-between “ape-men.”
- C. What about the fossil record?
1. The fossil record is devoid of transitional fossils.
 2. These missing links have never been found because they do not exist!
- D. What about vestigial organs?
1. These are said to be parts of the human body that are no longer useful to man because we have evolved beyond them.
 2. The hip bones in whales – *actually serve to support internal organs*
 3. The “leg bones” in snakes – *actually serve as defense mechanisms*
 4. The “tailbone” in humans – *actually serves to support internal organs (It is not leftover from when we had tails!)*
 5. The appendix in man – *actually part of the immune system and helps to fight infections*
 6. The tonsils in man – *actually help prevent and fight infections, especially in children*
- E. Again, the evidence is clear; man was designed by a wise and intelligent Creator.

Conclusion:

1. We are not here by accident or chance.
2. God created us by His wisdom and in His image.
3. We should honor and serve our Creator with thanksgiving and praise.

Lesson Three: Investigating the Flood

(Genesis 6 – 8)

Introduction:

1. As we study the creation of the world, we see the awesome power of God.
2. When we study the creation of man, we see God's love and care for us.
3. However, we also must learn of God's justice and His punishment of sin.
4. As we investigate the Flood, we learn just how terrible sin truly is.
5. Yet, we also learn very important facts about the Earth, and how it changed from the paradise created by God to the world we live in now.

I. The World before the Flood

- A. Both Scripture and science teach us that the world before the Flood was very different from the world today.
- B. It was a virtual paradise – covered with lush vegetation, blessed with tropical weather from pole to pole and free from devastating storms.
 1. Science tells us, "In those days [the Mesozoic Era] the earth had a tropical or sub-tropical climate over much of its land surface, and in the widespread tropical lands there was an abundance of lush vegetation. The land was low and there were no high mountains forming physical or climatic barriers."
 2. The Miocene Era "was also a time of world-wide climates."
 3. "The climate of the Oligocene was definitely warm, ...and far warmer than the climate of the modern world. But the preceding Eocene was even warmer than the Oligocene. In the Eocene, subtropical heat was experienced in Greenland."
 4. "...[T]he climate of Cambrian time ...[was] much more uniform over the earth than now."
 5. "In the case of the Devonian, such evidence is indicative of a world-wide mild climate."
 6. "The environmental conditions of the Pennsylvanian appear to have been ...[a] moist, warm climate throughout the year providing luxuriant, unceasing vegetative growth."
 7. When the erroneous timeframe of the evolutionists is fit into the timeline of Scripture, this indicates that there was a worldwide tropical climate from day four of creation until the time of the Flood.
- C. The Bible agrees with this scientific description of the early earth.
 1. On the third day of creation, the entire earth (land) was covered with plant life.
 2. This plant life must have been abundant, for it was to sustain all animal life on earth (Genesis 1:29). {*There is no mention of eating animals until after the Flood (Genesis 9:2-4).*}
 3. The Garden of Eden was designed by God to be a perfect home for man – with food-producing trees present for man's benefit.
 4. Remember that God had to curse the ground in order for it to bring forth thorns and weeds (Genesis 3:17-19).
- D. This abundant plant life is also evidence of the presence of a canopy surrounding the earth (likely, of water vapor).
- E. If this is true, there would have been many other benefits for the world.

1. A vapor canopy would have sustained a uniform, warm climate around the globe. *{The “greenhouse effect” to the extreme!}*
 - a. Scientists have witnessed this very effect on Venus, which is surrounded by such a canopy.
 - b. Before the Flood, global warming was a good thing!
2. A vapor canopy would have prevented heavy rains, strong winds or storms. *{Imagine a world with no floods, hurricanes or tornadoes!}*
3. A vapor canopy would have protected man from dangerous radiation. *{What the ozone layer does well, the canopy would have done better.}*
 - a. This could have help man to live for hundreds of years.
 - b. Notice that after the Flood, the lifespan of man begins to decrease to between 70 and 100 years.
 - c. With no genetic deformities or mutations, it would have been possible to marry with close kin. *{Where did Cain get his wife? He married a relative, probably his sister.}*
4. A vapor canopy would have increased atmospheric pressure.
 - a. This would aid the body in fighting disease and infection.
 - b. Wounds would heal much more quickly.
 - c. The aging process would be slowed.
- F. Again, the world before the Flood was quite different from the world we live in today.
- G. Thus, when Peter wrote the “the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished,” he meant it literally (2 Peter 3:6).

II. The Record of the Flood

- A. When Peter described the Flood of Noah’s day, he used the Greek word *kataklysmos* – cataclysm.
- B. This was no gentle rainstorm that gradually covered the earth while men ran for higher ground.
- C. This was a disastrous catastrophe like the world had never seen before or has not seen since.
- D. As we study about what happened during the Flood, keep in mind that the reason all of this destruction took place was because of man’s sins (Genesis 6:1-7).
 1. Noah was a preacher of righteousness (2 Peter 2:5).
 2. Even though God was longsuffering and Noah continued preaching to the people of his day, eventually the time for punishment came (1 Peter 3:20).
 3. How sad it is that in a world of close to 1 billion people, only eight were saved from the Flood.
 4. Thus, the purpose of the Flood was to punish man for his sins and to purge the earth of its wickedness.
- E. However, God’s grace made known to Noah the way to escape the destruction of the Flood.
- F. God gave him instructions on how to build the Ark (Genesis 6:8-22).
 1. It was to be made of gopher wood. *{No other wood would do.}*
 2. It was to have rooms (nests, ASV) within it.
 3. It was to be sealed on the inside and outside with pitch.
 4. It was to be 300 cubits long, 50 cubits wide and 30 cubits high.
 - a. A cubit is about 18 inches.

- b. Thus, the Ark was about 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high.
- c. That is 1½ times the length of a football field.
- 5. It was to be three stories high – or, have three levels within it.
 - a. This gave it at least 100,000 square feet of space.
 - b. Its volume was at least 1.5 million cubic feet.
 - c. Its displacement tonnage would have been 24,000 tons!
 - d. This compares to between 500 and 600 standard railroad boxcars.
 - e. This was plenty of room for Noah, his family, their stores of food and the numerous animals.
 - i. Remember, Noah only had to take 2 (or 7) of every kind, not every species.
 - ii. Also, he did not have to take adult animals. In fact, younger ones likely would have survived more easily.
- 6. It was to be shaped like a box or chest.
 - a. This is the meaning of the word ark.
 - b. It was not designed to go anywhere; thus, it did not need to be pointed at the ends.
- 7. It was to have a window (light, ASV).
 - a. This would allow light to come in and air to circulate.
 - b. This seems to have been an opening of one cubit left open at the top of the Ark's walls.
- 8. It was to have a window. (See Genesis 8:6)
 - a. This seems to be a different window from the one in 6:16.
 - b. This window could be opened and closed by Noah.
- 9. It was to have one door.
 - a. This allowed Noah's family and the animals into the Ark.
 - b. It was this door that God closed when the time was right (7:16)
- G. Next, we are told of the duration and depth of the Flood (Genesis 7:1 – 8:14).
 - 1. The entire Flood event lasted for 371 days!
 - a. Powerful rains lasted for 40 days and nights (7:12).
 - b. For 110 more days, the fountains of the great deep remained open, allowing the waters to rise (8:3).
 - c. For 74 days, the waters remained covering the earth (8:5; 7:24 – 8:2 – *from the 17th day of the 7th month to the 1st day of the 10th month*).
 - d. 40 days later, Noah sent out the raven (8:6-7).
 - e. 7 days later, he sent out the dove (8:8, 10).
 - f. 7 days later, he sent out the dove again (8:10).
 - g. 7 days later, he sent out the dove for the last time (8:12).
 - h. The next date given shows an interval of 29 days (8:13).
 - i. Finally, there were 57 days after the covering of the ark was removed (8:14).
 - j. Again, this was not your average, springtime flood!
 - 2. The Flood was so deep that it covered the entire earth.
 - a. The Bible says that "all the high hills, that were under the whole heaven were covered" (Genesis 7:19).
 - b. In fact, they were covered by 15 cubits (22 ½ feet) of water (Genesis 7:20).
 - c. This depth would allow the Ark to pass over safely.

- H. What could have caused such a tremendous flood of waters?
1. Today, a flood like the one we read about in the Bible is not possible (without God causing it by His power).
 - a. If all the water now present in the atmosphere were to fall today, it would average out to about 2 inches around the world.
 - b. Plus, it would only rain for 1 ½ days!
 - c. Yet, the Bible claims that it rained for 40 days and covered the whole earth – 22 feet above the highest mountain!
 - d. How is this possible?
 2. First, the fountains of the great deep were broken up (Genesis 7:11).
 - a. This refers to underground sources of water that exist across the globe (Job 38:16; Prov. 8:24; Deut. 8:7 [ASV]).
 - b. To be “broken up” means to be “split open, cleft asunder, torn open” (cf. Zechariah 14:4).
 - c. Thus, the earth was torn open, allowing the pressurized underground waters to burst forth into the atmosphere.
 - d. This would also create powerful earthquakes and cause great volcanic eruptions.
 - e. Notice that this was happening all over the earth, not just in one location.
 - f. Also, this continued to happen for 110 days (Gen. 7:24 – 8:3)!
 - g. Terrible tsunamis would have resulted.
 - h. Erosion would have been extensive and devastating.
 - i. Animals would have been buried rapidly and fossilized.
 3. Next, the windows of heaven were opened (Genesis 7:11).
 - a. As the fountains of the great deep erupted, the canopy of water vapor surrounding the earth would have been disturbed.
 - b. All of that vapor would begin to condense and fall to the earth as a tremendous rainstorm – all over the planet.
 - c. Remember, it took 40 days and nights for all of that water to rain out from the sky!
 - d. Again, tremendous erosion would have occurred – rocks, soil, vegetation all would have been stripped from the earth and deposited in layers or strata all over the world.
 4. The Bible’s description of the Flood is a perfect explanation for the fossil record! The theory of uniformitarian evolution is not.
- I. Next, we learn some of the effects that the Flood caused in the world.
1. According to Psalm 104:5-8 (ASV), the Flood caused the mountains to rise and the valleys to sink.
 - a. In other words, the mountains are higher today than they were before the Flood.
 - i. This helps explain how the highest mountain could be covered by over 20 feet of water.
 - ii. It also explains why fossils are found on the tops of the highest mountains.
 - b. Also, the oceans are deeper today than they were before the Flood. {*This helps explain where all the water from the Flood went.*}
 - c. The existence of seamounts and continental shelves is proof that there is more water on earth today than previously.

2. As the mountains rose and the waters filled the deep valleys, the Ark came to rest in the Ararat mountain range.

III. The Evidence of the Flood

- A. If this event truly happened as the Bible proclaims, there should be evidence all over the world of such a cataclysm.
- B. In fact, there is abundant scientific evidence for the Flood.
- C. First, the earth's strata points to the fact of the Flood.
 1. The strata of the earth are sedimentary – this means that they were deposited by aqueous agency (water).
 2. For them to have been deposited, they must have first been eroded from somewhere.
 3. It is important to understand that the so-called “Geologic Column” does not exist – except in the mind of evolutionists.
 4. Instead, variations of fossils in the earth's strata point to a great cataclysm like the Flood.
 - a. Fossils are only formed under very specific conditions.
 - i. There must be rapid burial.
 - ii. There must be burial in aqueous sediments.
 - iii. There must be a reduced (oxygen-free) environment.
 - b. The very existence of fossils points to the Flood or some type of catastrophe.
 - c. Evolution cannot explain out-of-order fossils.
 - d. Fossil graveyards point to the Flood, not evolution.
 - e. Evolution cannot explain polystrate fossils – fossils that pass through several layers of strata (each one supposed to represent millions of years of history).
 - f. Evolution is plagued with the existence of living fossils.
 5. When studied honestly, the layers of the earth's rocks and fossils point to a worldwide flood rather than a gradual evolution.
- D. Next, the Grand Canyon is evidence of a tremendous flood.
 1. Put simply, it is not possible for the Colorado River to have formed the Grand Canyon over millions of years of slow erosion.
 2. Only a tremendous catastrophe could have created such a wonder.
 3. In fact, the eruption of Mt. St. Helens formed the “Little Grand Canyon” in a matter of days.
- E. The existence of great deposits of coal and oil is evidence of the Flood.
- F. The so-called “Ice Ages” testify of a worldwide flood.

Conclusion:

1. The destruction of the world by a flood of water was a demonstration of both the power and justness of God.
2. We should be moved to respect and reverence the God of Heaven when we see the evidence of the reality of this event.
3. It is no mere story; it is an actual historical event.
4. God has promised that one day He will destroy the world for good – not by water, but by fire.
5. We must be ready for that great day!

Lesson Four: Investigating Dinosaurs

(Job 40 - 41)

Introduction:

1. We have seen God's power in the creation of the world.
2. We have seen His great love and care in the creation of man.
3. We have seen His justice and punishment in the story of the Flood.
4. Now, we come to an interesting part of our investigation – the Dinosaurs.
5. These creatures are often used to destroy the faith of men and women, boys and girls.
6. Yet, they were a part of God's creation and they are a part of His Word.

I. Does the Bible Mention Dinosaurs?

- A. The short answer is "Yes!"
- B. In Job 40:15-24, God asks Job about a creature called "Behemoth."
 1. The word is simply the English version of the Hebrew word.
 2. We do not know what the word means, but we can read the description of this creature.
 3. First, it was created by God, just as man was.
 4. Next, it was an herbivore; it ate grass and vegetation.
 5. It was a strong creature, with great strength in its abdominal region.
 6. Its tail was like a cedar tree, and could be raised up with great power.
 7. Its muscles were strong.
 8. Its bones were strong as iron or brass.
 9. It is one of the greatest of God's creations and only God could defeat it.
 10. It eats on the mountains and rests in the reeds of the marsh.
 11. It is not afraid of a turbulent or overflowing river, even if it comes up to its mouth.
 12. It cannot be captured while it watches.
 13. Who can ensnare and trap such a creature?
 14. Many have claimed that this is the description of hippopotamus or an elephant.
 - a. However, neither of these have tails like a cedar.
 - b. Furthermore, many have captured both elephants and hippos.
 15. God's message to Job was that if he could not stand before Behemoth, why would he think he could stand before God.
 - C. In Job 41, God speaks of a creature called "Leviathan."
 1. Again, this is merely the English version of the Hebrew word.
 2. It seems to refer to some kind of sea creature, but the description in this chapter is quite impressive.
 3. First, Leviathan cannot be caught like a fish with a hook.
 4. It will not beg for mercy from man, nor will it be tamed and become a pet.
 5. It is so frightening that man is cast down and loses hope when he sees Leviathan.
 6. It has strong jaws and terrible teeth.
 7. It is covered with scales that are strong and serve as shields.
 8. It has glowing eyes and shoots fire when it sneezes.

9. In fact, this creature is what we might call “fire-breathing.”
 10. There is great strength in its neck.
 11. When it raises up and crashes down, people are terrified.
 12. It is protected on the underside by flesh like sharp pieces of pottery.
 13. It causes the water to bubble and froth.
 14. It leaves a shining wake as it travels in the water.
 15. There is no other creature like it in fearlessness.
 16. Many have said that this is a description of a crocodile.
 - a. But, they are often caught and captured.
 - b. Crocodiles do not breathe fire.
 - c. And, they are not protected on their bellies.
- D. When we study the descriptions of these creatures, there is no animal to compare them to other than dinosaurs.

II. How Do Dinosaurs Fit into God's Creation?

- A. We know from archaeology that dinosaurs were often very large reptiles.
 1. We tend to focus on the big and strong dinosaurs.
 2. However, some were as small as a chicken!
- B. In fact, the word dinosaur means “terrible lizard.”
- C. But, how were these animals able to reach such an immense size?
- D. Scientists tell us that mammals have “secondary centers of ossification in the growing ends of their bones” which only allow them to grow to a certain size.
- E. On the other hand, reptiles do not possess these characteristics.
 1. This means that reptiles continue to grow until they die.
 2. In the world before the Flood, man was able to live much longer than he does now. *{Remember, Methuselah was 969 years old!}*
 3. If a dinosaur lived for 900 years, it would grow to a gigantic size.
 4. Think of the large, 100-year-old turtles found around the world. *{One was over 9 feet long and weighed over 2,000 pounds.}*
- F. So, dinosaurs could grow as large as they did because of the environment of the world before the Flood.
 1. Since the time of the Flood, the world is colder, less protected and more dangerous.
 2. Thus, man does not live as long as he once did.
 3. Also, reptiles do not grow as large as they once did.
 4. The world is no longer a suitable environment for most dinosaurs.
- G. Dinosaurs were a part of God's creation.
- H. In fact, they would have been taken aboard the Ark with the other animals.
 1. How is this possible?
 2. Noah only had to take two of every kind – not necessarily two of every dinosaur.
 3. Also, he could have carried babies – possibly even eggs.

III. Did Dinosaurs and Man Live at the Same Time?

- A. If the Bible is true, then the answer must be “Yes!”
 1. Man was created on Day Six of the creation week.
 2. Dinosaurs would have been created on the same day (or possibly Day Five if they lived in the water).
 3. In fact, Adam would have named the dinosaurs (Gen. 2:19-20).

- B. But, is there scientific evidence that dinosaurs and man lived at the same time?
 - C. Legends of Dragons
 - 1. Found around the world
 - 2. Very similar to dinosaurs
 - 3. Even “fire-breathing” dragons are not outside the realm of science.
 - a. Consider the electric eel
 - b. Consider the Komodo dragon’s deadly bacteria
 - c. Consider the firefly
 - d. Consider the bombardier beetle
 - D. Drawings of Dinosaurs
 - 1. Found all around the world from many ancient civilizations
 - 2. Made hundreds of years before dinosaur bones and fossils were found and skeletons reconstructed
 - 3. How did they know what dinosaurs looked like if they had never seen one?
 - 4. Consider the Stegosaurus of Cambodia (AD 1186)
 - 5. Consider the engraved Sauropod of England (AD 1496)
 - 6. Consider the Apatosaurus of Utah (AD 500 – 1500)
 - 7. Consider the Dinosaur in the Grand Canyon (unknown)
 - 8. Consider the Julsrud collection of dinosaur statues (800 BC – AD 200)
 - 9. Consider the Ica Stones of Peru (unknown)
 - E. Footprints
 - 1. There are footprints of both man and dinosaur in the Paluxy River bed near Glen Rose, Texas.
 - 2. Human footprints have been found in the Upper Carboniferous layer of rock – supposed to be 250 million years old and the time of the dinosaurs.
 - 3. The fossilized print of a leather sole with stitching was found in the Triassic strata – supposed to be 225 million years old.
 - F. Dinosaur bones (supposed to be 180 million years old) have been found with carvings on them!
 - G. Scientists have found manmade artifacts over 300 feet deep in rock.
 - H. In fact, a human skull was found over 130 feet deep under 5 layers of lava!
 - I. These findings point out the flaws of the “Geologic Timetable.”
 - J. They also show that men and dinosaurs lived at the same time.
- IV. What Happened to the Dinosaurs?
- A. Archaeology proves that the dinosaurs were killed in a great catastrophe.
 - B. Fossilized bones indicate a powerful disaster.
 - C. Fossil graveyards point to a terrible cataclysm.
 - 1. These are areas in which numerous fossils are found (often of many different species) all buried in one location at one time.
 - 2. There is a large fossil graveyard of dinosaurs at Dinosaur National Monument in Utah and Colorado.
 - 3. Scientists have written about it: “The quarry area is a dinosaur graveyard, not a place where they died. A majority of the remains probably floated down an eastward flowing river until they were stranded on a shallow sandbar. ...Perhaps they drowned trying to ford a tributary stream or were washed away during floods. Some of

- the swamp dwellers may have mired down on the very sandbar that became their grave.”
4. Something like this could have happened easily during the Flood.
- D. The truth is, scientists are not sure what happened to the dinosaurs – even though they have many theories.
1. Some say that mammals evolved and ate all the dinosaur eggs.
 2. Others claim that a virus or plague destroyed them.
 3. Some think that plants evolved that the dinosaurs could not eat and they starved to death.
 4. Many believe that a huge asteroid struck the earth, causing the sun to be blocked out and the climate to change so drastically that the dinosaurs could not survive.
- E. As mentioned before, the Bible indicates that the world was changed by the Flood during the days of Noah (2 Peter 3:6).
- F. Thus, dinosaurs could no longer survive and thrive as they once did.

Conclusion:

1. Dinosaurs were a part of God’s great creation.
2. Their existence does not contradict the Bible.
3. However, many theories of modern evolutionists do contradict the Word of God.
4. We must be willing to examine the evidence and investigate the truth about dinosaurs.

Lesson Five: Investigating the World's End

(2 Peter 3:1-14)

Introduction:

1. We have learned much about God by investigating His creation.
2. We have investigated the days of creation and learned about the power of God.
3. We have investigated the creation of man and learned of God's love.
4. We have investigated the flood and learned of God's holiness and justice.
5. We have investigated dinosaurs and learned of the truthfulness of God's Word.
6. All of these lessons have emphasized that God is real and His Word is Truth.
7. Thus, it is important for us to investigate what God has told us about the end of the world.

I. God Is the Beginning and the End

- A. In the book of Revelation, Jesus describes Himself as the beginning and the end (1:8; 21:6; 22:13).
- B. This reminds us that God was present at the beginning of the world, and He will be present at its end.
- C. In fact, since He created the universe, maintains the universe and controls the universe – He will be responsible for the end of the universe.
 1. As children, we might build a sand castle or a building from Lego blocks.
 2. After it had served its purpose, we would tear it apart.
 3. We would not get into trouble for doing this because we had built it – thus, it was in our power to destroy.
 4. As adults, we may build a house on a piece of land.
 5. If we choose, we have the right to tear down that house without the fear of being arrested.
 6. In the same way, the universe belongs to God – it serves His purpose and is under His authority.
- D. In spite of what evolutionists believe, the universe is not eternal, nor was it ever intended to be.
 1. Our world exists as a proving ground for man.
 2. By creating this world and providing a Savior for man, God has demonstrated His great love.
 3. Man's challenge is to return that love by obedience and service.
 4. When God great universe has served its purpose, it will be destroyed.
- E. Thus, it is not enough just to believe in a Creator – we must recognize that we are responsible and accountable to Him.
 1. If God created man, then man must be here to fulfill God's purpose (Ecclesiastes 12:13).
 2. If God gave man his moral nature and provided moral instruction, then it is to God that every man must answer (2 Corinthians 5:10).
 3. If God made man, then it is to God that man must look for guidance, instruction, help and hope.
 4. If God designed the universe, then He knows what is best for His creation.
 5. Thus, God must reveal Himself and His will to man.
 6. Thankfully, He has done that in His inspired Word, the Bible.

- F. The end of the universe is the Day of Judgment (Matthew 11:22, 24; 12:36; 1 John 4:17; etc.).
 - 1. This is the day when all men will give an account of the way they have lived their lives on earth.
 - 2. We will be judged by the standard of God's Word (John 12:48).
 - G. God, who created the universe by His great power, will destroy it by that same power.
- II. The World Will Be Destroyed by Fire
- A. For many, it is frightening to think about the destruction of the world.
 - B. However, God has provided His Word so that we may know about and be prepared for that Day of Judgment.
 - C. In fact, there are many lessons we can learn from Noah and the Flood.
 - D. First, there always will be those who make fun of God's Truth (2 Peter 3:1-4).
 - 1. Of all the people on the planet when the Flood came, only eight were saved from destruction – Noah and his family (1 Peter 3:20).
 - 2. Many heard Noah's preaching and saw the building of the Ark, but they rejected God's Word (2 Peter 2:5; Hebrews 11:7).
 - 3. Peter tells us that the same thing will happen in our day – people will not listen to the truth about the end of the world.
 - E. Second, people will reject the Bible's teaching about the Flood (2 Peter 3:5-6)
 - F. Also, the Flood was just a warning of the final destruction that will come at the end of time (2 Peter 3:7-10).
 - 1. As terrible as the Flood was – *"the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished* – it was not as devastating as the final Day of Judgment will be.
 - 2. On that day, God will use fire instead of water.
 - a. It does not matter when that day comes.
 - b. God is faithful to His promises no matter how long He may wait to fulfill them.
 - c. He does not keep time the way that we do.
 - 3. On that day, the heavens – atmosphere, sky, and space – will pass away with a loud noise.
 - 4. On that day, the elements – fundamental building block – will melt (come apart) with a powerful heat.
 - 5. On that day, the earth and everything in it will be consumed by fire.
 - G. If we know that this world is going to be destroyed, we should live pure and holy lives (2 Peter 3:11-12).
 - 1. In spite of the destruction of the world during the Flood, Noah and his family were able to be saved.
 - 2. This was because they heard, believed and obeyed God's Word.
 - 3. It is also because they did not allow themselves to become attached to the world that was to perish.
 - 4. Thus, they lived holy and godly lives as they waited for the day of God's punishment and destruction.
 - 5. Peter says that we should do the same, knowing that this world will not stand forever.
 - H. Finally, we know that when this world is destroyed, God has prepared a new home for us in Heaven (2 Peter 3:13-15).
 - 1. Our time on earth is not the limit of our existence.

2. Man possesses an eternal soul that will continue to live when this world is destroyed.
 3. What great hope God has given us by telling us about our home in Heaven.
 - I. In the Flood, God punished the wicked – but, He also delivered the righteous.
 - J. He will do the same at the Judgment at the end of the world.
- III. The Church Is Man's Ark of Safety
- A. How was Noah saved?
 1. By Grace (Genesis 6:8)
 2. By Mercy (Genesis 6:13; 8:1)
 3. By Faith (Hebrews 11:7)
 4. By Righteousness (Genesis 7:1; Ezekiel 14:14; 2 Peter 2:5)
 5. By Obedience (Genesis 6:9, 22; Hebrews 11:7)
 6. By Water (1 Peter 3:20)
 - B. God's grace and mercy provided Noah with the warning of the coming Flood and the instructions for the Ark, by which he could be saved.
 - C. Noah's faith and obedience to God's Word enabled him to build the Ark and save himself and his family.
 - D. It is also important to notice the role that water played in Noah's salvation.
 1. Peter said that eight souls were saved by water.
 2. This water destroyed the world and punished the wicked.
 3. However, this same water lifted up the Ark and carried from a world filled with sin into a new world free from iniquity.
 4. Thus, the water was the separating factor between the wicked and the faithful.
 5. Peter then said that baptism was a "like figure" or comparison (literally, antitype) with the waters of the Flood.
 6. He said that baptism also saves us.
 7. The waters of baptism carry the sinner from a lifestyle of worldliness and wickedness into a lifestyle of pure, holy worship and service to Christ.
 8. The waters of baptism separate the righteous (those who will obey God and be immersed in the water) from the wicked (those who refuse to believe and obey).
 - E. Baptism is essential to man's salvation.
 1. It is for salvation (Mark 16:16).
 2. It is for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38).
 3. It is for washing and cleansing (Acts 22:16; Ephesians 5:25-27).
 4. It is for providing new life (Romans 6:3-4; Titus 3:4-7)
 - F. Baptism is the point at which the Lord as men to His body, the church.
 1. The body is the church (Ephesians 1:22-23).
 2. There is only one body (Ephesians 4:4).
 3. Christ is the Savior of the body (Ephesians 5:23).
 4. The Lord adds us to His body at baptism (Acts 2:38, 41, 47; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:27).
 - G. The church is God's place of safety today.
 1. Jesus is the Savior of the church (Ephesians 5:23).
 2. The church will be taken to Heaven (1 Corinthians 15:24).
 3. Thus, the saved are in the church and any outside of the church are lost.

- H. We do not have to fear the Day of Judgment or the end of the world.
- I. God has provided us a way to escape the destruction.
- J. God has promised us an eternal home with Him in Heaven.
- K. He did this at tremendous cost – the death of His only-begotten Son on the cross.
- L. God, our Creator is also God, our Savior.

Conclusion:

1. As we conclude this series of studies, we should be motivated to believe that God is real and that His Word is true.
2. However, we also should be motivated to love and serve our holy and righteous God.
3. He created this universe – and, one day, He will destroy it.
4. Are you ready for that day?