

FAMILY DEVOTIONS

Humanities/Physics

Lesson 1 Physics

GENESIS 1:27 So God created man in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

From the very beginning, when God created mankind, He chose to make them in His image. He breathed the breath of life into both man and animals, but only in man did he vest His image creating us with a spiritual nature. Therefore, humans are different than plants, animals, or inanimate objects. In this image from the Sistine Chapel, Michelangelo's famed *The Creation of Adam* artistically depicts this kind of parallelism, with an eye on the detail – the fingers do not touch. Our human quest, though guided, is not forced by God.



Scriptures illuminate God's concern for us and creation. Examples of His love, guidance, and instruction in scripture include observing and learning from: creatures great and small, ants, birds, bees, flowers, seeds, fruits and grains, the paths of the Sun, stars, weather, ocean, streams, rivers, and so much more. The universe was created by God for us. He doesn't need this physical world; we do! Clearly, God designed us to observe His creation, to understand his workmanship, and to learn from it. By imitating Christ, through Whom everything was made, AND by searching His Word, we find purpose and plans for our lives.

EPHESIANS 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

WORKMANSHIP – the degree of skill with which something is made, or a job is done. How can we know God's workmanship?

God created: everything – the universe, natural physical laws, us. Being created in God's image suggests He imbued us with creative abilities as well.

God knows: everything – the hairs on our head, every sparrow that falls, how to clothe or adorn a lily in beauty, and much more. Knowing God includes observing creation. Curiosity is a God-given characteristic essential to science and knowledge.

God worked: 6 days and rested the 7th day. He designed man/woman (and animals) to work and to serve. Work may be as simple as finding food and shelter, or as complex as designing a computer or robot. We were designed for "good works." God is love and He loves His workmanship.

TIMELINE (History): ~4500-4000 BC the beginning of time and humanities as we know it!

Genesis Chapters 1-3

Scripture indicates that God intended Adam and Eve to work as God Himself did. However, after sin subjugated everything to decay, the Garden of Eden's abundance was no longer

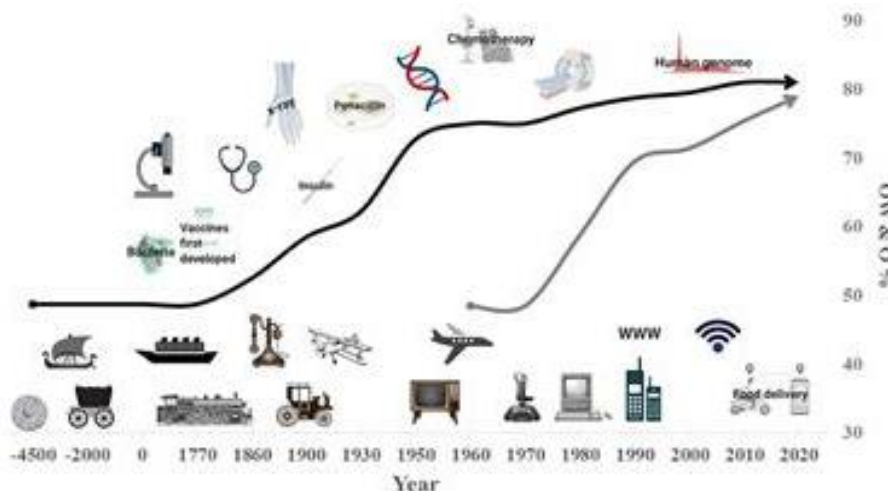


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accessible to mankind. Their expulsion from paradise, and from the presence of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, meant Adam and Eve must "tend" the Earth to have food, shelter, and opportunities. The fall of mankind broke the bonds God intended for His very good creation. Evil was allowed access through Adam's sin.

Immediately, Adam and Eve's work began. Shelter was necessary, weeds flourished so the land must be worked, animals must be domesticated for clothing or put to work.

Although we don't know the exact dates when simple tools and machines were employed, it's clear Adam's family/descendants used tools. Archeologists and anthropologist often have vastly different dates for specific tools. Some dates precede 6500 years ago (~4500 BC); however, the evidence for these "prehistoric" (earlier than recorded history) artifacts is contradictory or absent and is based on frequently revised frameworks. Tools originating from Mesopotamia (modern day Iraq), where Adam and Eve, Cain, Abel, Seth, and many other sons and daughters lived, are the oldest though few would have survived the global flood which occurred about 1600 years after creation.

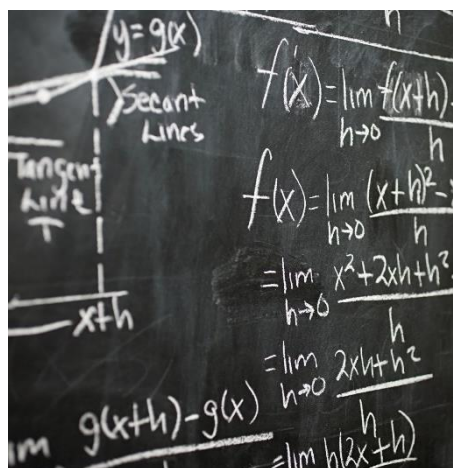


Keep in mind, Adam lived 930 years, dying about 750 years prior to the flood. During his lifetime, nearly all simple machines or tools were implemented to work the land, to provide food, shelter, clothing, and other conveniences. Examples include levers like hammers, wedges on sticks like axes, cultivators, or shovels, and inclined planes, wheels, etc.

GOT-IT/Apologetics:

Remember, science investigations often oppose God; that is, they “assume” nature, not God created the natural world around us. While purely naturalistic science can identify and describe God’s laws, it cannot identify first **CAUSES!** Scientists are handicapped in the most basic pursuit of the most important scientific endeavor, to discover the cause/effect relationship. While they succeed in identifying or describing the basic visible interactions of matter and energy, the underlying causes often remain unknown. Although we can describe gravity, electromagnetism, and nuclear forces, science cannot tell us where or how these forces originate. Thus, scientists must invent, speculate, or theorize untestable solutions whenever God’s action is the cause. The deeper scientists dive into the mechanics of life, the more difficult it becomes to theorize or believe that time and chance alone could be the creative force.

Whenever “man” omits God, foolishness takes over. Imagine if all man’s creative talents, work, knowledge, and understanding were applied to serving God and others, how different our world today would be. Through time, man devised many imaginative theories about how Earth is suspended in space. Some cultures suggested that the earth rested on the back of a huge turtle (Native Americans and Chinese), or on the backs of elephants standing on a turtle (Hindus), rather than on what scripture (Job 26:7) says, “the earth hangs on nothing.”



Although the laws of motion are known and accepted as self-evident principles, new theories advance the origins or causes of the earth, sun, and galactic motion as dark unknown matter. These ideas are supported by actual scientific laws, but the theories attempting to determine the **ORIGIN of galactic/stellar/planetary motion** are not “laws” but simply speculations. Unknown dark matter exists, but it fails to illuminate any foundational truths, or first-causes, such as where dark matter originated or how mass itself influences gravity. It’s much like “kicking the can” further into unknown territory. Every “solution” leads to more questions than answers. Be vigilant. Don’t unwittingly accept “theories” or speculations about causes or explanations about “laws” that go beyond testable, repeatable, observable phenomena.

2 COR 10:5 We demolish arguments and every pretense that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

WRAP-IT-UP:

Our workmanship should model our Maker’s. While we could never create the natural world and all the resources it provides, we can learn from it and use our God-given

ingenuity as God intended. The key to “good works” is that our work must align with God’s desires for us. We must acknowledge Him, or our ingenuity leads to futility.

Simple tools and machines are inventions that leverage the work God set before us. Though we’d rather live in the Garden of Eden, in full communion with God, our situation is vastly different and our challenges many-fold. We must bloom where we’re planted, in this day and age, with our personal God-given gifts, and within our specific set of circumstances. No one can be us (you, me, anyone else), so figure out how you can be the best you!

REMEMBER THESE THINGS

Throughout our lessons, remembering what we learn is key to understanding.



LEVERAGE (a hammer):

PHIL 4:13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Christ is our source of strength; the force enabling us to do good works. If we choose not to leverage our gifts and talents by seeking His will for us, we cheat ourselves and others. Learn to lean on Him for strength.

Levers are essential tools to do work. We use this physical or mechanical advantage everyday (our own arms, legs, or tools).

WORK (hands):

COL 3:23 Whatever you do, work heartily as unto the Lord, not unto man.



There’s nothing more liberating than working unto the Lord. Our workmanship extends to everything we do, each and every day. Brother Lawrence shares his insights in the book, *The Practice of the Presence of God*. Genuine joy fills a believer whose work is dedicated to God, not man.

Create your own “memory keeper” for instilling truth and understanding. It may be a box, a shelf, an altar, tree, mobile, almost anything that can hold or display your memory tools. Family altars, perpetual calendars, doorpost signs or other visible **MARKERS** are great help with memory retention. God’s workmanship and our call to be Christ-like. Make your own hands and hammer images using clay, markers, wood, or any medium to remind you of the goals from this lesson.