

Unit Two

What Do We Believe? What Do I Believe?

Lesson 3

True God and the Source of Everything

heart to Heart

Knowing God

Here I Am, Lord, p. 39

God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten and not made; of the same nature of the Father, by whom all things came into being in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible.

Asdvadz hAsdoodzo, looys ee looyso, Asdvadz jushmareed, hAsdoodzo jushmardeh, dzunoont yev voch araradz. Nooyn eenkn ee punooteneh Hor vorov amnenayn eench yeghev hergeenus yev ee vera yergree, yereveleek yev anerevooytk.

Աստուած յԱստուծոյ, լոյս ի լուսոյ, Աստուած ճշմարիտ՝ յԱստուծոյ ճշմարտե, ծնունդ եւ ոչ արարած: Նոյն ինքն ի բնութենէ Հօր, որով ամենայն ինչ եղև յերկինս եւ ի վերայ երկրի, երեսելիք եւ աներեսոյթ:



A Backward Glance

1. (Fill in the blanks) We believe in one God, the _____, _____, maker of heaven and earth, of things _____ and _____. And in One _____ Jesus Christ, the Son of God, _____ of God the Father, only begotten, that is of the _____ of the Father.

2. Name 3 life events of Jesus and where in Scripture you might read about it.

a.

b.

c.

3. Look up Matthew 6:14-15 and copy the verses here:

Verse Master

“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows his handiwork.”

Psalm 19: 1



By Whom All Things Came Into Being

The second statement of the Creed forcefully summarizes the first two statements. What do we have so far?

We believe in one God who created everything.

We believe in his Son, Jesus Christ, who even as he is Son, is also the same one God as the Father.

God the Father and God the Son= one light, one Truth, and the source of all life.

In a scientific age, some people think that faith and science are an either/or proposition. Either life came about through *evolution*, with higher life forms evolving from lower life forms OR God created Adam and Eve and set everything in motion. But if we understand the creation story of Genesis we know immediately that there is no conflict. Here's why.

People have wondered about the beginning of things for as long as they were capable of wondering such things. For eons, even in the modern world, people have had a feeling that there is something greater than the human mind at work in the world.



One explanation of how things began is referred to as "**First Cause.**" This asks us to suppose that whatever we look at, we can ask the question, "who created or caused that?" For example, a piece of sculpture, or even the universe. Take evolution. You might ask "where did life come from?" An explanation could be the process of evolution. But a question can be raised "who caused the first step of evolution?" Every time you provide an answer, there is always the question, "but who caused *that*?" Finally, you get to the "First Cause": God.



Very similar to this is the argument of "**The Unmoved Mover.**" Since the whole universe is in motion and evolving (even an atom's electrons are moving), the question arises: where did all this movement start?

Scenic Overlook

Armenia has actually yielded important archaeological evidence from past civilizations! In 2010, the oldest known shoe in the world was discovered in a huge cave in Armenia. Made of cowhide and tanned with oil from a plant or vegetable, the shoe is about 5,500 years old, older than Stonehenge and the Egyptian pyramids. It is part of a treasure trove of artifacts that provide unprecedented information about an important era: the Chalcolithic period or Copper Age, when humans are believed to have invented the wheel, domesticated horses and produced other innovations. Along with the shoe, the cave has yielded evidence of an ancient winemaking operation and what may be the oldest known intentionally dried fruits: apricots, grapes and prunes.



Remember

God is the source of all life; the discoveries and understandings of science are not at odds with this fundamental truth.

Another explanation you might have heard is “**Intelligent Design.**” This simply means that if you look around and see how complex life forms and systems are, how could they possibly be explained by evolution? Not only the universe, but so many other things – the human digestive system, for example – are masterpieces of design.

But whatever theory attracts you, in the end, the story of beginnings in Genesis is about one simple Truth, told in various ways, from poetry to anthropomorphic fable: that God created the world and everything in it, as we say regularly in our creed: “by whom all things came into being, visible and invisible.”

In the first chapter of Genesis, we read a beautiful, hypnotic, chant-like account of the origins of life. God spoke and he brought all things into being. The writers and editors of the Bible were not concerned with science, they were concerned with Truth. They did not explain the hows of creation, only that God created the world. It is not the faith of the Armenian Church to dwell on the number of days or to calculate the number of years ago that this might have taken place based on other events in the Bible (this would come to 4,000 years as opposed to the billions of years ago that modern science calculates). Rather we understand that the writers of Genesis were not interested in giving a scientific treatment of creation. And, therefore, *we don't expect it!*

The church is only too happy to hear of new scientific discoveries. After all, each one helps us know more about



God. Every single scientific revelation accomplished through research, experiment, and discovery has only affirmed the revelation of God through Scripture, the world, and the community of believers.

Read Genesis 1 – 2: 3, then discuss these questions:

1. What repeated words or phrases do you hear?
2. What did God create on each day?
3. What's special about the creation of humankind?

Dilemma: What Would You Say?

A friend of yours thinks that the religious view of God creating the world is unscientific, just a lot of “superstition.” As a person of faith, how would you respond?

Write your answer here:

