

# A Sure Foundation

The beliefs that we build our lives on

## GOD'S CREATIVE GENIUS

## MONTH 1

## WEEK 2

### READ:

John 5-9

Genesis 1-2

Psalms 104

"You are worthy, our Lord and God! You are worthy to receive glory and honor and power. You are worthy because you created all things. They were created and they exist. That is the way you planned it." Revelation 4:11

Knowing that God is the Creator of us and the universe around us is a basic building stone of our faith. Knowing even a small bit of the perfect, and intricately simple design with which He did that increases our awareness of His Supreme Majesty. Seeing His Creative Genius also helps us understand ourselves as part of that Divine Creation. We were no accident. God carefully and intentionally created us with a calculated intent, and therefore we must realize that God's creative work was very purposeful and we have a role in that purpose.

God began the creative process with sorting and separating. God separated the light from the dark, the sky from the water and the land from the sea. As He created plants and fish and birds and animals, He is specific about each being according to their kind, with distinct separation. When He gets to mankind however, we see a shift in emphasis. Mankind is separate from the rest of the world in that he is given dominion over it, but separation is not the focus. It is only men and women that are made in God's image. Nothing else in all of creation is granted that privilege, or responsibility. Nothing else in all of creation was brought about in order to have relationship with God. In fact, everything else was set in place to be ready for the arrival of God's beloved. That's us. God, us, and the relationship between the two are the point of the creation story, which continues in the book of John. In John 5:21-30 we have the Father and the Son giving life and restoring relationship. God's original plan for man is still in motion. God is still in charge of His creation. Miracles still occur. Bread is multiplied, and the sea and the storm submit to their Master. Jesus came to earth to fill God's purpose and mission. What was that?

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

John 1:1





## CREATION

Trying to squeeze the creation of the universe into two little chapters of Genesis leaves us with a lot of unanswered questions. What was the light and dark that was separated on the first day? Since the sun and moon weren't created until later, was this a spiritual light and dark, a separation of good and evil? Was this when evil came to be? Was this when Satan fell? Is this the light and dark referred to in John 1:4,5? And then on day 4 (Gen. 1:14), if this is when days and years were created, then what were days 1, 2, and 3? Was the entire system of stars, planets and solar systems just so man would know when to have religious festivals? Do you think we will ever discover an end to the universe? Is it finite, or infinite? Then on the 7<sup>th</sup> day, did God really rest, or does it mean that He sat back and enjoyed the Creation and plan that He had set in motion? Is a day of rest really a season of relationship?

“Because God created  
the Natural – invented it  
out of His love and  
artistry – it demands our  
reverence.”  
C.S. Lewis

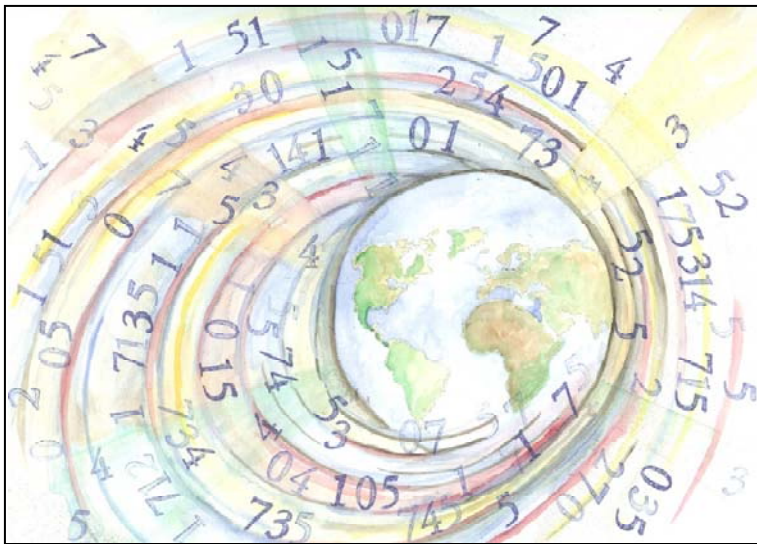
## HOW, OR WHO?

It is easy to get caught up in arguments about how exactly God pulled off His creation of the world. There are many details that He just hasn't made us privy to, and lots of room left for disagreement. But we must be very careful here to not lose sight of the greatest part of the issue which is **WHO** created the world.

Can Paul's advice to Timothy in 1 Tim. 6:4 be applied here?

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## THE GOD OF ORDER

Those of you who are not math fans, hang in there, because this is really cool. For some, the orderliness of the universe is a compelling argument for the existence of God. Botanists, historians, physicists and theologians alike have long been in awe of the complexity of the universe, yet there is also a simplicity of design that holds true across creation.

Take for example the golden mean, also called the divine proportion in recognition of the divine Creator who set it in motion. It is really quite simple: The largest part is to the whole in the same proportion that the smaller part is to the larger part. It can be proven with numbers, and is evident throughout nature. It is imitated in art and architecture, and even in poetry and music. Every part has a relationship to the whole. The design of our bodies, the spiral of a seashell, and the core of an apple all follow the formula for this ratio. Even the instructions that God gave Moses for the design of the ark of the covenant (Exodus 25:10) follow the divine proportion. (Hemenway 1-15,85)

Fibonacci was an Italian mathematician who discovered number patterns in nature. For example, if you look closely at a sunflower, you notice that the seeds occur in spirals. There are 34 spirals that spin counterclockwise and 55 that spin clockwise, larger heads have 55 and 89 spirals. (Knott 7) It turns out that these numbers follow a pattern. Each of the Fibonacci numbers is formed by adding the two numbers just before it. Try filling in the missing numbers:

1, 1, 2, \_\_\_\_, 5, 8, \_\_\_\_, 21, 34, 55, \_\_\_\_, 144, 233, \_\_\_\_

The ratio between the successive numbers approaches the Divine Proportion! God is an **AWESOME** Creator!

## JOHN 5-7

What did Jesus say about what He and His Father were doing?

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What witnesses testified to Christ's identity? \_\_\_\_\_

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How did Jesus compare Himself to manna? \_\_\_\_\_

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Why do you think His own brothers did not realize who Jesus was? \_\_\_\_\_

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## WANT TO READ WHAT I READ?

p. 2

Lewis, C.S.. "Some Thoughts." God in the Dock. 1948.

p. 3

Hemenway, Priya. Divine Proportion. New York: Sterling Publishing Co., 2005.

Knott, Ron. "Fibonacci Numbers and Nature." 123 JUNE 2007 7. 01 DEC 2007

<<http://www.mcs.surrey.ac.uk/Personal/R.Knott/Fibonacci/fibnat.html>>.



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