

Ir-ot-03  
Gospel Doctrine 2010  
Old Testament, Lesson # 3  
The Creation  
By Lenet Hadley Read

**Testifying Statement:** (Write on blackboard or say orally in own words). Neither the earth nor the universe came about by accident or chance. The creation was an astounding work performed by God to meet the physical and spiritual needs of us and all mankind.

**Scripture study and Discussion:** Ask class to look up these three sets of scriptures. Moses 1:27-35; Abraham 3:24-25; also quickly review highlights of Moses 2:1-27. What important things do these scriptures teach us about the creation?

**Discussion Question:** While these scriptures tell us some things, including *why* God created all things, does it reveal much about the complexities of the creation?

Make the following point and give some of following information after class comments.

I. We understand only a very small portion of the tremendous works of “The Creation”

Many scientists have written books to show how enormously complex God’s creations are. Each highlights amazing features in their own field of study. The results are an astonishing portrayal of how unlikely things in the universe could exist at all without a highly intelligent creator. It has been shown by many different scientists that any slight change from any one of myriads of “things as they exist now” would have left only a void where the universe, the earth, and life now stand.

**Quote to be read by class member:** “One scholar has said, ‘Both astrophysicists and microphysicists have lately been discovering that the series of events that produced our universe had to happen in a ... precise way... if they were to produce life as we know it... We have reason to be impressed by the astonishing fact our existence.’” (Holmes Rolston III, “Shaken Atheism: A Look at the Fine-Tuned Universe,” *The Christian Century*, December 3, 1986.

Other scientists, speaking of these same kinds of facts in their own separate fields of study, use such terms as the “staggering precision”, the “stunning accuracy”, the “exceedingly delicate tuning of values”, the “crucial ratio” of elements, the “totally astounding” balances, the “exquisite precision, ” all leading to the realization that if there were the slightest variations in *any* of these precisions or balances, the earth and universe itself would never have come into existence or would collapse into oblivion.

**Quote to be read by class member:** One example of incredible balance is given in regard to the distance of the earth to the sun: “Just a bit nearer to the sun, and Planet

Earth's seas would soon be boiling; just a little farther out, and the whole world would become a frozen wilderness." (Alan Hayward, *God Is*, p. 63.)

**Quote to be read by class member:** "The earth is at the ideal position from the sun to receive sufficient energy to activate climactic processes and support life, but it is far enough from the sun to avoid fiery death by sudden bursts of energy." (Melvin Frost, *Improvement Era*, January 1970, p. 36.)

[Additional examples can be obtained from *Improvement Era*, January, 1970. Also see above cited books and others such as *Billions of Missing Links*, by Geoffrey Simmons.]

II. The creations of God help us to know that He exists.

**Story:** Whittaker Chambers lost his faith in any God because his family and the world were in chaos, the whole world being at war. But after having a baby daughter, he described what changed his life. "I was sitting ... watching her eat. She was the most miraculous thing that had ever happened in my life. I liked to watch her even when she smeared porridge on her face or dropped it meditatively on the floor. My eye came to rest on the delicate convolutions of her ear --- those intricate, perfect ears. The thought passed through my mind: 'No, those ears were not created by any chance coming together of atoms in nature. They could have been created only by immense design.' The thought was involuntary and unwanted. I crowded it out of my mind. But I never wholly forgot it or the occasion. ... If I had completed it, I should have had to say: Design presupposes God. I did not then know that, at that moment, the finger of God was first laid upon my forehead." Because of recognizing the significance of God's creations, he later came to believe again in God. (Whittaker Chambers, *Witness*, p. 16.)

II. God's amazing creations were also established to help us *understand* truth.

**Scripture:** Have class read together Moses 6:63, which teaches all things were made to bear witness of Christ.

**Statement:** It is not just the existence of things in creation that testify of God. Through His creations, the Lord gave us "likenesses" to help us understand His great truths.

**Supporting Scripture:** Romans 1:20. Paul taught, "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made." That is, God created the things of the earth to help us understand the spiritual truths we need to know. Therefore, things of this earth were created to help us understand not just that there *is* a God in Heaven, but even many things *about* God and about His works.

Christ has been called a master teacher precisely because He was so adept at illustrating truths from the things of the world. But this tribute does not do Him justice. Truly *He is the Master Teacher*, because as *Creator*, He *made* the things of the earth and heavens to teach of truth. Then, when upon the earth, He used them to teach. He created the Sun and

then used it as a symbol to help us understand that He is the Light of the World, and, more than the Sun, can bless our lives with great light and thus, precious growth.

**Object Lesson:** Use a plant which shows it has turned toward the light. Or use two plants, one grown in adequate light and one which has received little light. (You could even plant seeds in advance). If using the first example, point out how plants naturally turn toward the light, witnessing that we also need to do so. Recite these words from a song. “Why don’t men respond to light, like the flowers do?” Or you can compare the two plants, showing how each has grown, or suffered in growth, as a result of their exposure or lack of exposure to light. Point out that God’s creation of the sun and the effects its light has helps us to understand our need for the Light of Christ in our lives.

**Another Example:** Christ created the differing light powers of the sun, the moon, and the stars and used that symbolism to teach us there are three degrees of glory in His kingdom, and that the glory of the sun is the greater.(1 Corinthians 15:40-42).

**Example:** Christ created earth so most of it would have seasons, and used the symbols thereof to teach that while death will come upon living things, rebirth will follow, just as resurrection will follow our death --- because of Him.

**Example:** Christ created deep fountains of water beneath the earth to teach He is a Fountain of Living Water which came out of the earth in resurrection to bring us Life.

**Example:** Christ created the pure-white, simple, but beautiful lilies. Then he used them to teach of the spiritual beauty most desirable to God. (“Consider the lilies of the field... They toil not, neither do they spin”... yet... Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.” (Mat. 6:28-9.)

**Example:** Jonathan Edwards, an early president of Yale, understood the symbolic purpose of creation. He showed how the daily rising of the sun, and its awakening us in the process, is a witness that when Christ, the True Sun, comes, He will awaken us all from death. “As the sun, by rising out of darkness and from under the earth, raises the whole world with him, raises mankind out of their beds, and by his light, as it were, renews all things and fetches them up out of darkness, so Christ, rising from the grave and from a state of death...raises all his church with him....And as all the world is enlightened and brought out of darkness by the rising of the sun so by Christ’s rising we are begotten again to a lively hope, and all our happiness and life and light and glory and the restitution of all things is from Christ rising from the dead, and is by his resurrection.” (Quoted in Perry Miller, *Images and Shadows of Divine Things*, p. 60).

**Testify** that the Creation in every way bears witness that God exists. His creations were also given to help us understand His wonderful truths. It is a joy to search for all the marvelous witnesses found in God’s creations.