

Lesson 3: The Creation

Purpose: To feel gratitude that God created all things for our benefit and that we are created in his image.



My lessons take a different path than the Gospel Doctrine lesson manual. The lesson outline looks closer at the doctrinal topics that the lesson purpose and scripture block review. They are designed to challenge mature, active Latter-Day Saints who have a solid Gospel foundation and are looking for insights into the scriptures that will broaden their faith and understanding.

If you are interested in the Powerpoint file to use or copy from, you can contact me at stevemplan@gmail.com. Your suggestions or comments about the lesson plan is always appreciated and can be emailed to the above address.

At the April 2000 Annual General Conference, Elder Russell D. Nelson gave a talk on The Creation. In his talk, he divides his discussion of The Creation into five parts. Watch in the video for how he portrays each segment of his talk.

- Components of the Plan
- Phases of the Creation
- The Creation Testifies of a Creator
- Purpose and Destiny of the Earth
- Our Responsibilities

As the remaining class time allows, we will review the important elements of each segment.

The following link will take you to the webpage that includes both the written text of Elder Nelson's talk and the ability to download the talk. If you have access to video presentation, I suggest using the video as the major part of your lesson. It is suggested that you download the video and play it either from a laptop or burn it onto a DVD to use in a DVD player. Do not rely upon the availability and strength of your building's wireless internet to stream the video.

<https://www.lds.org/general-conference/2000/04/the-creation?lang=eng>

Components of the Plan

“The plan required the Creation, and that in turn required both the Fall and the Atonement. These are the three fundamental components of the plan. The creation of a paradisiacal planet came from God. Mortality and death came into the world through the Fall of Adam. Immortality and the possibility of eternal life were provided by the Atonement of Jesus Christ. The Creation, the Fall, and the Atonement were planned long before the actual work of the Creation began.”

Phases of the Creation

“Each phase of the Creation was well planned before it was accomplished. Scripture tells us that “the Lord God, created all things ... spiritually, before they were naturally upon the face of the earth.”

The physical Creation itself was staged through ordered periods of time. In Genesis and Moses, those periods are called days. But in the book of Abraham, each period is referred to as a time. Whether termed a day, a time, or an age, each phase was a period between two identifiable events—a division of eternity.”

The Creation Testifies of a Creator

“I testify that the earth and all life upon it are of divine origin. The Creation did not happen by chance. It did not come ex nihilo (out of nothing). And human minds and hands able to build buildings or create computers are not accidental. It is God who made us and not we ourselves. We are His people! The Creation itself testifies of a Creator. We cannot disregard the divine in the Creation. Without our grateful awareness of God’s hand in the Creation, we would be just as oblivious to our provider as are goldfish swimming in a bowl. With deep gratitude, we echo the words of the Psalmist, who said, “O Lord, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches.””

Purpose and Destiny of the Earth

This earth is but one of many creations over which God presides. “Worlds without number have I created,” He said. “And I also created them for mine own purpose; and by the Son I created them, which is mine Only Begotten.” Grand as it is, planet Earth is part of something even grander—that great plan of God. Simply summarized, the earth was created that families might be. Scripture explains that a husband and wife “shall be one flesh, and all this that the earth might answer the end of its creation.”

“Though our understanding of the Creation is limited, we know enough to appreciate its supernal significance. And that store of knowledge will be augmented in the future...Yes, further light and knowledge will come. The Lord said, “If there be bounds set to the heavens or to the seas, or to the dry land, or to the sun, moon, or stars—”

Our Responsibilities

“Meanwhile, brothers and sisters, we should understand our significant responsibilities. Both the creations of God and the creations of man teach us the importance of each component. Do you think that the absence of one piece of granite from the face of this building would be noticed? Of course it would!”

“The Creation, great as it is, is not an end in itself but a means to an end. We come to the earth for a brief period of time, endure our tests and trials, and prepare to move onward and upward to a glorious homecoming. Our thoughts and deeds while here will surely be more purposeful if we understand God’s plan and are thankful for and obedient to His commandments.”

“I testify that God lives! Jesus is the Christ and Creator! He is Lord over all the earth. He has established His Church in these latter days to accomplish His divine purposes..., in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.”