

Connection with Unit Theme: To complement the small group study of *Unvarnished Truth: Life's Greatest Story* these sermon outlines will use the same Scripture passages as the small group study, so the pastor can reinforce the study from the pulpit.

Introduction: A humorous story has often been told. A group of scientists got together and decided that man had come a long way and no longer needed God. So they picked one scientist to tell God that they were done with Him. The scientist spoke to God saying, "God, we're to the point that we can clone people and do many miraculous things. So we've decided that we no longer need You."

God listened patiently and then said, "Very well, how about this, let's have a man making contest."

To which the scientist replied, "OK, great!"

But God added, "Now, we're going to do this just like I did back in the old days with Adam."

The scientist said, "Sure, no problem" and bent down and picked up a handful of dirt.

God stopped him and said, "No, no, no. You get your own dirt!"

Creation came into being out of nothing, *ex nihilo*. The universe did not begin with God *and* something else (like dirt in the story above). Behind everything there is God and God alone. Only God creates something from nothing.

1. God is the source of all creation (Psalm 33:6-9).

Everything you see—the heavens, the stars, the waters of the sea, the depths, the whole earth, all the inhabitants of the world—was created by God. The word *made* (v. 6) literally means became or has become. It communicates the idea that creation—you, me, and the entirety of the created order—wasn't just created but *came into being* (v. 9). Not one single thing was made that God did not make. Everything—everything was made by Him.

God is the Source, but the *word* (v. 6) is the living agent, the vehicle, through whom He created. The word "spoke, and it came into being" (v. 9). When God spoke or commanded (v. 9), He brought into being immediately and instantaneously matter which did not previously exist. God spoke and the heavens and the earth came into existence. In addition, He shaped, combined, and transformed existing materials, as when God created Adam from the dust of the ground (Genesis 2:7), and Eve from Adam's rib (Genesis 2:21–22).

Since God is the source of all creation, He lays claim to all creation. This world is not ours; it is God's. Like the old hymn says, "This is my Father's World." A city girl was

taken to the country. When she saw the bluebells in the woods, she asked: “Do you think God would mind if I picked some of *His* flowers?” She got it right. We should always use the pronoun *His* when we speak of creation and the created order. It is His. This is God’s world. All things belong to Him.

2. God is the creator of all creation (Col. 1:15-16).

John reinforced this same reality: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. All things were created through Him, and apart from Him not one thing was created that has been created” (John 1:1-3).

The universe is not self-produced. God’s divine order and activity is seen throughout all creation. It demands an absolute Being as the first cause of all things. Therefore, as we look at the glory of the heavens and the handiwork of the earth, as we examine the expansiveness of the universe through the telescope and the minuteness of that same universe through a microscope, we have to stand back with adoring worship. We need to “tremble before the Lord” and “stand in awe of Him” (Psa. 33:8).

Consider God’s creation in contrast to man’s inventions. Man makes a jet aircraft whine, an outboard motor roar, a locomotive toot, a siren screech, a radio squawk, a foundry bellow; God makes a baby laugh. Man lights a “great white way;” God lights a Milky Way. Man erects a steeple spire, a rocket gantry, an 80-story skyscraper, a television antenna to jut into the heavens; God fashions a towering redwood to stretch toward the cooling rains and warming sunshine, and a mountain peak encircled by a halo of clouds. Man paints a landscape on a canvas; God paints a landscape on every horizon. Man built the Seven Wonders of the World; God created the world itself.

3. God is the sustainer of all creation (Col. 1:17).

Paul added, “He is before all things, and by Him all things hold together” (Col. 1:17). The writer of Hebrews further elucidated: “The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact expression of His nature, sustaining all things by His powerful word” (Heb. 1:3). All things were created through God’s spoken word and all things are sustained through His power. It requires as much power to conserve as to create.

Think about His sustaining power at work now. We do not fly off the face of the earth because of the law of gravity. The earth does not spin out of its orbit because it is held in place by powers we can’t begin to emulate. We don’t burn or freeze to death because the earth revolves at the exact right distance from the sun.

4. God cares for all creation (Psalm 33:13-17).

God sees us, and knows our ways, and moves in our hearts. God is a caring God. He has not left creation alone. He is intimately involved with the masterpiece of His creation—humans. He has not abandoned us or forgotten us. He is an involved God.

Not only does God hold the universe together; He holds our lives together. God is the universe maker and sustainer, and He will hold us together, too. Why? Because He cares. He is acquainted with all of our circumstances, problems, worries, and situations. His face is turned toward us and His heart is tender. He knows us and cares.

Conclusion: Once a man was asked where he was going. “To church,” he replied.

“And, what are you going to do there?”

“To worship God.”

“Is your God a great or a little God?”

“He is both.”

“How can he be both?”

“He is so great that the heavens cannot contain him; and so little that he can dwell in my heart.”

God is big enough to create and sustain the universe, small enough to deal with our problems and concerns.

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