



THE SOURCE OF LIFE

SECTION I. Introduction

All cultures have ideas about the beginnings of life and especially about the origins of human life.

- A. What are the most common beliefs in your culture about how life on earth began?

- B. How do you personally think that life began?

SECTION II. The Bible makes very clear statements about the origin of all things, non-living things as well as living things.

- A. Read Genesis 1:1, Nehemiah 9:6 and Hebrews 11:3.
 - 1. How do these passages say the universe began?

- B. Read Nehemiah 9:6 again.
 - 1. What is included in what God created?

 - 2. Which words specifically say that God is the source of life?

C. Read Hebrews 11:3 again.

1. How were all things created?
2. From what did God make the universe and all that is in it?
3. Can we understand or prove how this happened only through scientific evidence?

SECTION III. The Bible says that God created all things. First He created the heavens and earth, then animals and then man.

A. Read Genesis 2:7.

1. Describe how God made Adam.
2. How did God bring Adam's form to life?

B. Read Genesis 5:1-2.

1. What is special about humans?
2. What do you think shows that God really did treat Adam and Eve as special beings?

C. Read Job 33:4. Which words here show that God's gift of life is continuous?

D. Read Psalm 139:13-14.

1. How does David describe what God did when He created David?

NOTES

2. What was David's reaction to God's creation of his body and soul?
3. What is your reaction to the creation that is your body and soul?
4. If you believe that God is personally involved in your life, how does it change how you live?

SECTION IV. The Bible has much to say about God and His relationship to His creation. David clearly believed that God created him personally and knew him intimately.

Read Psalm 104:24-30.

1. How are things created? Which word shows that this creation is continuing? (verse 30)
2. To whom does the universe and everything in it belong? (verse 24)
3. Where does everything we personally have come from? Is it ours?
4. Who controls life and death? (verse 29)
5. How does what these verses say conflict with some of our ideas about our possessions, what we are able to do, and our lives and deaths?

6. What is one change that you can make in everyday life that would show clearly that you want to give God control of your life?

His image. But God did not create anything else in the universe, not even angels, in His image. In addition, God blessed Adam and Eve. We are not told that God specially blessed anything else when He created it. Clearly, humans were in a special category because they were made in God's image—they reflected God spiritually. That image, however, was lost at the time of Adam and Eve's fall.

In Job 33:4, Job speaks in the present tense when he says, "The breath of the Almighty gives me life." The verse says *gives* which shows that the gift of life is continuously being given. God did not only do it once and then ignore us.

SECTION IV.

In Psalm 104:29 it states, "You take away their breath and they die and return to dust." Clearly God not only created Adam and Eve and each of us, but is constantly involved in maintaining our very lives—every breath we take.

Question 1. Present tense verbs *send* and *renew* tell us that the action is habitual and on-going. The idea that God, rather than humans, is the creator and owner of all that is in the universe conflicts with the human desire for personal power over our lives.

We are tempted to believe that we are responsible for what we have in life—either through our families or through our own hard work. This is a clear contradiction to what the Bible says. However, we all act and live, at least sometimes, as if we ourselves are in control of our lives. We want to have that control, instead of allowing God to be at the center of our lives. Actually allowing God's loving control in our lives means that we ourselves can no longer take God's rightful place—the first place in our minds and hearts.

THE SOURCE OF LIFE LEADER'S NOTES

SECTION I.

Many internationals who are agnostics or atheists may not have encountered any explanation of the origin of the universe except a scientific one such as the *Big Bang* theory. Even many individuals who claim a faith background may not have thought much about the question of the origins of the universe. The discussion may open up new lines of thought for many individuals. Observations about the complexity, diversity or wonder of creation, as well as questions about the source of the original materials for the *Big Bang* may get people interested in the discussion. It may open them up to exploring the possibility of an answer to the question that goes beyond scientific evidence.

SECTION II.

In Genesis 1:1, the word *heaven* is used in the broad sense. God created all the heavens, the universe and all that is in it.

In the Nehemiah passage, LORD represents the Hebrew name for God. *Armies* is often translated as *hosts* referring to other created spirits—angels and archangels, who continually worship God in heaven. *Heaven* is used in the narrow sense of the place where God lives, rather than as the skies or space.

The Hebrews passage clearly states that God only spoke and the creation happened. Also check Genesis 1:3, 6, 9, 14, 20, 24, 26. Look at the first few words in each verse. This is in contrast to items that we say we create. We create things out of what already exists—not out of *nothing*.

SECTION III.

Some people may think that God created everything but that after He “set the universe in motion” He no longer interferes or is interested in it. The Bible clearly says that God continues to be involved with his creation.

Genesis 5:1-3 says that God created humans, male and female, in

THE SOURCE OF LIFE VOCABULARY

Genesis 1:1

created	made something new from nothing
heaven	the place where God, all His holy angels and saints (believers in Jesus Christ) live

Nehemiah 9:6

LORD (see notes)	represents the Hebrew name for God—It shows that God has honor, dignity and majesty. God is the owner of the earth, and has complete power and control over everything.
heaven (see notes)	place where God lives
armies (see notes)	hosts, other created spirits – angels and archangels

Hebrews 11:3

faith	belief that does not rely only on logical proof or material evidence
convinces	causes someone to believe

Genesis 2:7

formed	to give shape
dust	fine, dry particles of dirt
breath	air that is taken into and out of the lungs

nostrils external openings at the end of the nose

being something living, person

Genesis 5:1-2

account record

descendants generations of people who come after us, such as our children, our grandchildren or our great-great grandchildren

humans people

likeness to look like, image

blessed made holy

Job 33:4

Spirit Holy Spirit, third person of the triune God

Almighty God

Psalm 139:13-14

inner being inside of the person

knitted woven together, put together

amazingly wow, very impressive

miraculously unexplainable

Psalm 104:24-30

wisdom understanding of what is true, right, or lasting

creatures animals

countless too many to count

Leviathan sea monster

look to expect

gather to bring together

blessings good things (either physical or spiritual) that God gives us

terrified very afraid

renew to make like new