

Dr. Whitcomb Answers Your Questions (No. 6)

Note: The following is a written transcript of *Dr. Whitcomb Answers Your Questions (No. 6)*, which is available in audio form on Whitcomb.SermonAudio.com.

Paul Scharf: Hello again, this is Paul Scharf for Whitcomb Ministries. It's a great honor to be coming to you here at Whitcomb.SermonAudio.com. In fact, I'm here with Dr. Whitcomb. Right now we're going to answer some more questions that have been sent in through the Web site, WhitcombMinistries.org. And Dr. Whitcomb, people are anxious to get information that will help them understand the Bible, and so we're answering some of these *Frequently Asked Questions*.

And we'll get right to it with Dave's question, in which he says, "I'm a youth pastor and one of my students asked me, 'Why didn't God choose to take six days (excuse me), why did God choose to take six days to create the world? Why not just do it all at once?' I was just wondering how you would respond."

Dr. Whitcomb: That is a fascinating question, because it's obvious that God didn't *need* six days. Normally Jesus, the creator of the world, demonstrated in His public ministry that He could do things instantly – calm the storm, heal the sick, raise the dead – and that raises a question then. Why six days of creation, plus one to rest? Answer: He did not need the six days to work – He could have done it instantly. He didn't need one day to recuperate, to rest – He never gets weary. Never.

So what is taught to us in Genesis 1 is that God deliberately stretched out the work of creation over six days and rested – quote, unquote – one day to provide a model for the cycle of work and rest for Israel. God is not only powerful, He's gracious and merciful. He said to His people Israel, in effect, as you read in Ex. 20:11, "Six days shalt thou labor, and do thy...work" (v. 9, KJV) – "and rest one, because in six days (because of what I did) I created the heavens and earth and the sea and all that is in them and rested the seventh day."

That's a model, you see, so that God says to Israel, "I'm not cruel, unreasonable. I don't tell you to create, do your work instantly and never rest. No, let's walk together through life. I'll stretch out My work to provide a model for your cycle of work and rest, so we can walk together through this world." God is a God of grace and mercy, as well as a God of power.

Paul Scharf: Thank you, Dr. Whitcomb, and I want to remind our listeners – you can send in a question to Dr. Whitcomb at his Web site, WhitcombMinistries.org. Click on *FAQs* there, *Frequently Asked Questions*, and submit a question in one of various categories and we'll do our best to get an answer to you. We're answering the questions three ways, really, here. We're using Dr. Whitcomb's answers as audio here on our pages on SermonAudio and, Lord willing, in time, those will also appear as transcripts so you can read along while you listen here on SermonAudio.com/Whitcomb. And then we'll also try to fill those questions in with answers on the Web site *FAQ* section.

Dr. Whitcomb, our second question comes from Jerry. Jerry writes, "How long after Eve was created did Satan tempt her?"

Dr. Whitcomb: Things happened amazingly at the beginning of the world in terms of the timing, the duration, of events – the whole universe created in six 24-hour days. And it took Adam only one day to taxonomically classify all the animals and mammals and birds in the world – amazing for us to look back on that! So how long did it take for Eve to be tempted after she was created? A very short time. Why? Think of these at least three reasons.

First, God created Adam and Eve to have deep, genuine fellowship with Him, to worship Him in Spirit and in truth. That could not happen unless they had a choice. You can't really love someone unless you have an alternative to choose from. God didn't create robots, He created humans in His image and likeness. They made a choice. He said, "Here's your choice. Of all the trees in the garden, you may freely eat, except that one." No choice could have been easier, but Eve fell into Satan's trap, and therefore, the world

fell into sin. Now of course, the point is this – why would God wait for months and months to give them that choice? Think of it!

A second reason – the night that Adam and Eve were created as a couple – husband and wife – God commanded them “Be fruitful, multiply and fill the earth.” Question: under those conditions – a genetically, physically perfect couple in harmony with God – why would it take months for her to conceive a child? You say, what’s the point? The point is, that the first child they conceived, Cain, was conceived of a fallen mother who had a sin nature by then. And just like David said about his own mother in Ps. 51:5, “In sin did my mother conceive me” (KJV). That’s not a critique of his mother, a judgment on her. The point is that he inherited his sin nature from a mother who had a sin nature. And so, when Cain was conceived, his mother had already fallen into sin.

Another reason that it wasn’t a long time – Eve was tempted so soon after she was created, she hadn’t had even time yet to learn that animals don’t talk. Satan knew that, talked to her through the mouth of a serpent. If Adam had been approached that way, he would have said, doubtless: “Who’s in the bushes back there? Come out of there! Animals don’t talk.”

And so, I take these three reasons to be a clue, a little hint, that perhaps only a few days had elapsed after they were created before Eve and then Adam fell into sin against the Lord.

Paul Scharf: OK, and Dr. Whitcomb, our final question in this session comes from Peter. And he writes, “Why isn’t creation science taught in any major United States university?” That’s a big question! What do you have to say about that one?

Dr. Whitcomb: Well, let’s think of that in a bigger picture.

What is God's purpose for the church? What is His strategy, His plan? Is it gigantic, well-endowed, multi-billion dollar university campuses like the one I attended, namely Princeton University, in the early '40s?

No! In the early church, when the church was at its best, you had solid little congregations of people meeting in homes, house churches we call them, just like in mainland China today, by the way. That was a powerful means to reach out to neighbors, friends, family, the whole culture. But a gigantic institution, multi-billion dollar one – no. That kind of a system almost invites corruption of doctrine, of truth, where there is no longer the accountability to God, the Spirit of God, for how we maintain, perpetuate the truth of God. It's almost biblically impossible to imagine gigantic universities teaching the distinctives of the Bible.

Now, of course, 200 years before I came to Princeton University, which was back in 1942, Jonathan Edwards was the president. Well, of course, at that time it was a small school. The College of New Jersey it was called. It was under the tremendous authority, influence, control of God-honoring, Bible-believing churches. But that was true of Harvard and Yale. They were built to train pastors, ministers of the gospel. But you see, all that's gone now. And I say that almost no case (I may be wrong, I hope there's some exceptions) in the whole world today – not just the United States – in no case do you find reputable, endowed, respected, you know, schools of higher academic learning where God's precious infallible Word is honored from Genesis to Revelation.

That's because that is not God's strategy. It's more one-on-one and local house churches, small group things, where there's more accountability, more personal relationship with each other and with God. Those are thoughts that I say I hope there are exceptions for, but may God give us wisdom and real caution about institutionalizing the church of our Lord Jesus Christ in this generation.

Paul Scharf: Well thank you, Dr. Whitcomb, for the answers to these questions. And we pray that they are helpful to those who are listening in, and we ask friends, that you join

us again here on SermonAudio.com. And until such time, we bid you God's blessings, and have a great day. Thanks for joining us.

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