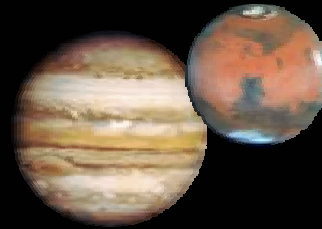


**Creation Myths
Have A
Common Origin**



Creation Myths Have **A** Common Origin



I would like to personally thank you for watching the Origins program. Origins was a special program, near to the heart of my late husband, Russell Bixler.

I trust that the information in this presentation will be helpful in your study of creation science. Thank you for your prayerful and financial support of Origins... you're making the television production of this program possible.

Norma Bixler



Basic Classes of Creation Myths

- Creation stories are commonly classified into a few basic groups.
- Evidence that most creation myths had their origin from an actual set of events.

1. Creating From Nothing

- The Creator “calls forth” the creation.
- Examples: Navajo and Mayan.
- Christianity traditionally taught creation was from “nothing” *ex-nihilo* (Genesis states six times “and God said...and so it was”.)

2. Creation from Chaos

- Earth and living things formed from an existing chaos.
- Examples: Greek, Chinese, Finnish, Indian, Japanese, and Egyptian creation myths.
- For the Chinese creation was reducing chaos to order.

3. Emergence Myths

- God creates the raw material *ex-nihilo*, then **shaped** it into life.
- The formation of man from the dust of the earth, and woman from Adam's side.

God a Potter

- The Scriptures often refer to God as a *potter*, molding a substance into something (Jer. 18: 1-9).
- The potter metaphor is commonly used to describe God's creative activity in ancient African and other creation myths.

4. Separation Myths

- Here, divisions or a separation of something occurs (such as the division of day and night).
- Creation by division is common in myths.
- Polynesian myth teaches light and darkness were separated by God.

5. Creation From Cosmic Seed

- Some creation myths include the *Cosmic Seed* idea out of which God made humans, animals, plants, and the earth.
- Examples include Indian, Phoenician, Egyptian, Orphic, and Chinese myths.

Basis For Creation Myths

- This history was oral in most cultures, therefore would be embellished as society developed.
- Many mythologies added elements for a particular audience or reigning king.
- The historical basis presumed by the storyteller, but lost to us.

Basis For Creation Myths

- All of the creation myths appear to be derived from the events on which Genesis is based.
- In many cases large remnants of the original story remain.
- Genesis, though, stands in contrast to all other creation accounts because it contains only the basic historical events.

The Tower of Babel

- Among the aspects found in Genesis that also appears in many (or most) creation stories is the confusion of tongues at Babel.

The Serpent Myth

- Another example is the *serpent myth*, (Gen. 3:1-15.)
- Serpents (snakes) have been a major religious symbol in almost every society throughout history.
- Serpents provoke innate, often irrational fears, from most humans.
- Is this due to a past event?

Flood Stories Found in Nearly Every Culture

- Strickling concluded that “nearly all” flood accounts “are variations of the biblical account ...”
- However, evidence of corruption exist in all other accounts.

Flood Stories Found in Nearly Every Culture

- Syrian, Sumerian, Greek, Babylonian, Chinese, Irish, Persian and even the Estonian creation stories all include a variant of the flood story.
- The American Indian flood caused “universal destruction” because the world grew “extremely sinful.”

Table I: World Flood Myths

Event	% Contain
1. Catastrophe a flood only, not other type	95%
2. flood global	95%
3. favored family saved	88%
4. the geography local	82%
5. rainbow mentioned	75%
6. animals play any part	73%
7. survival due to a boat	70%
8. animals also saved	67%
9. flood due to wickedness of humans	66%
10. were they forewarned	66%
11. survivors land on a mountain	57%

Epic of Gilgamesh

- Gilgamesh flood account remarkably similar to Biblical.
- Gilgamesh, embellishes known historical events for the sake of immortalizing a hero.
- Americans have done the same (Johnny Appleseed).

Why The Similarity in Creation Myths?

- Van Over concludes, "The surprising and perplexing fact is that the *basic* themes for [creation] myths in **widely different geographical areas** are *strikingly similar*."
- The 300 North American Indian creation myths have a "small number of myth-types."

Understanding the Meaning in Ancient Creation Myths

- In contrast to Genesis, many creation myths written by “philosophers and teachers” and only *incidentally* refer to creation.
- Their primary purpose not to discuss origins.

Why Similar?

- Some claim that myths are similar because they express fundamental feelings common to humans, as love, hate, or revenge...
- ... or that they try to provide explanations for things that we cannot otherwise explain – astronomical, meteorological, and such.
- But these societies are also acquainted with empirical explanations.

Ancients Not Stupid

- The ancients had a tremendous amount of insight and knowledge, and we are selling them short in viewing their creation myths purely as the product of ignorance.

Current Times



- In spite of an increase in knowledge, much still exists about which we remain ignorant.
- And many problems we are no closer to solving today than were the ancients.
- Speculations about the origin of the life.

Current Times

- Life has not changed in many important ways since humans arrived on this planet.
- Eating, sleeping, working, loving and hurting have all been much the same since the start of recorded history.
- Except for lacking modern gadgetry, the ancient life was very similar to today.

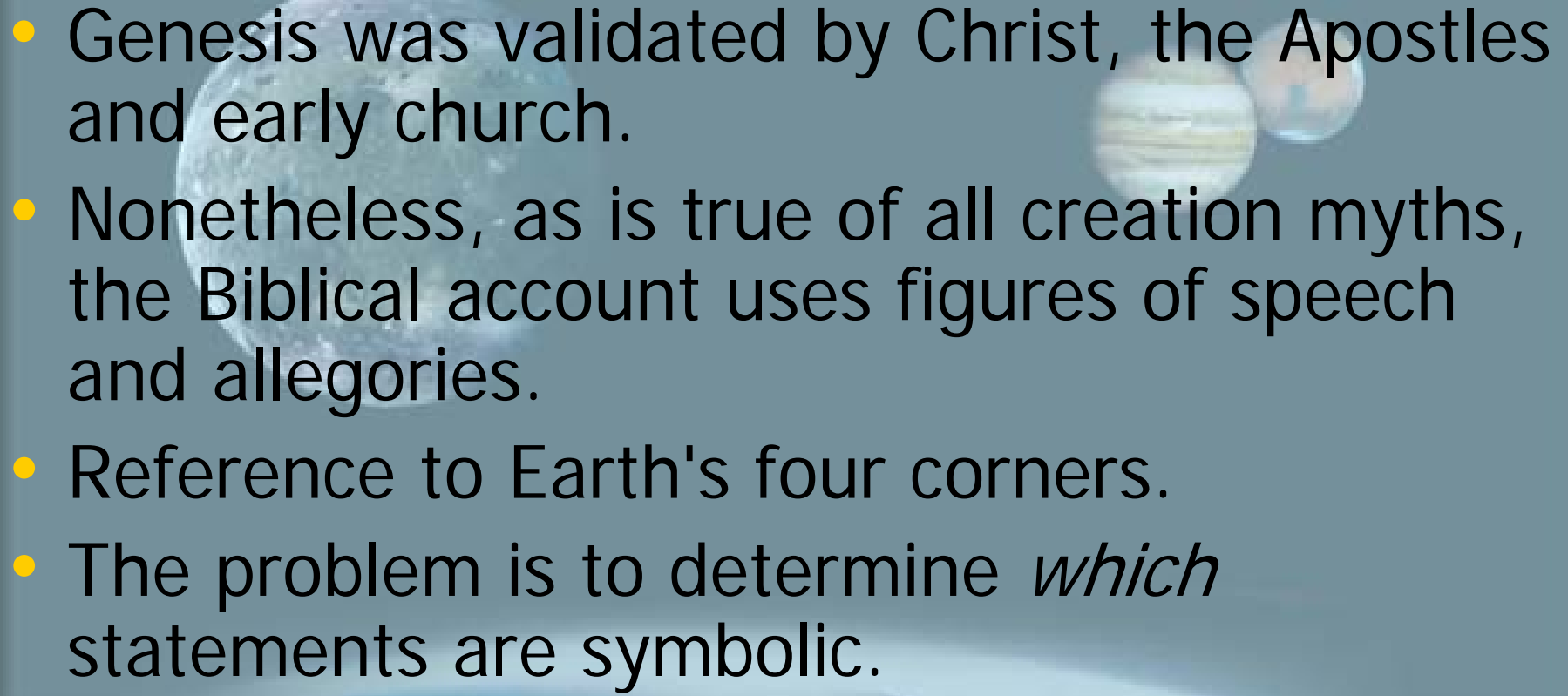
Symbolism

- The problem of understanding symbolism also exists in interpreting the Hebrew creation account.
- A major advantage today in understanding ancient Hebrew and Greek writings is we have a huge body of literature about them compared to dead cultures.

Evidence for Creation Story

The background of the slide features a large, detailed image of the moon on the left side. To the right of the moon, there are two smaller, circular images of planets, likely Jupiter and Saturn, set against a dark, starry space background. The overall color palette is a mix of blues, greys, and whites, giving it a celestial or scientific feel.

- The extant manuscripts for Genesis are far more complete than all other ancient creation accounts.
- Genesis has also been more extensively studied than any other ancient creation account.

- 
- Genesis was validated by Christ, the Apostles and early church.
 - Nonetheless, as is true of all creation myths, the Biblical account uses figures of speech and allegories.
 - Reference to Earth's four corners.
 - The problem is to determine *which* statements are symbolic.

Hebrew Account Stands Apart

- Genesis myth is a simple description of events void of pagan embellishments.
- Genesis a stark contrast to comparable ancient concepts.
- The origin of these myths is from actual historical events.

Genesis: A Matter-of-Fact

Summary of Creation

Darwinist and outspoken atheist Isaac Asimov concluded :

- The Biblical writers...labored to produce something that was as reasonable and as useful as possible. In doing so, they succeeded wonderfully. There is no version ..., preceding the discoveries of modern science, that is as rational and as inspiring as that of ... Genesis.

Comparative Study of Creation Myths

- Can be a very beneficial part of curriculum.
- Universality of creation myths points to human need for *causal* explanations of our world.
- Schools have an obligation to meet this legitimate educational need.



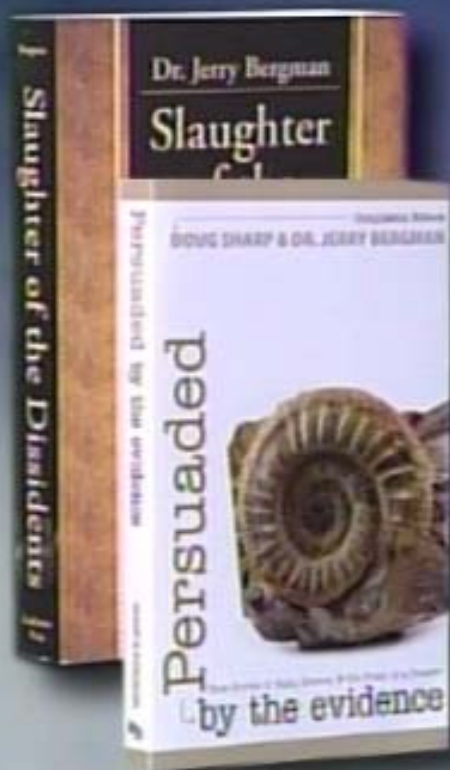
Monarch Butterfly

Miraculous Metamorphosis!

The Monarch butterfly has some amazing abilities that any designer would be proud of! As a caterpillar, it increases it's weight 2,700% in 20 days, ingesting only one type of plant, the milkweed, which is poisonous to other animals.

The female butterfly can smell a male butterfly up to 2 miles away. It navigates alone to a never before-seen location over 2,000 miles away.

Random chance processes explaining this unusual creature is beyond the realm of reason.



"Slaughter of the Dissidents"

"Persuaded by the Evidence"

by Jerry Bergman, Ph.D.

For more information
about our guest write to:

NW State Comm. College

22600 State Route 34

Archbold, OH 43502

jbergman@northweststate.edu

Book Orders go to:
Amazon.com



Download

a pdf file



ORIGINS prog.# 914

www.originstv.org

For a DVD of this series write to:

ORIGINS Program # 914

Cornerstone TeleVision

Wall, PA 15148-1499

Send a \$12.00 donation for shipping & handling

ORIGINS

is made possible by the faithful
prayers and financial support of YOU
our Cornerstone TeleVision family.

© 2009 Cornerstone TeleVision Network