

## Towards a Biblical Worldview

A Biblical worldview begins with Genesis 1:1. “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

1. How does the view of world expressed in this verse compare/contrast with:

- Eastern (Hindu, Buddhist) monistic/spiritual (only the spiritual is real) world view?
- Greek/Egyptian/Canaanite polytheism?
- Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century monistic/materialist (only the material is real) world view?
- Early 21<sup>st</sup> Century Postmodern worldview?

2. The Psalms are thoughtful reflections on God as creator and contain mind-shaping and soul-refreshing meditations on what it means to think biblically. Read Psalm 19:1-6. How does viewing the world as created, as opposed to evolved, shape both our view of God and the world?

- The psalmist views the world as we might view a work of art. How does seeing the world in this way help us to appreciate God's glory?
- How does viewing the world as a work of art affect the way we see the world?
- The psalmist says the creation speaks in every language and in every corner of the world. What can anyone in the world know about God through creation?
- What can't be known about God through creation?

3. As in Psalm 19, we see the glory of God associated with creation in Psalm 8:1-9. The psalmist moves quickly from a reflection on the heavens in general, to human nature, vv. 3, 4.

- What is the extent of human dignity, vv. 5-7?
- What are the limits of human dignity?
- Compare and contrast the perspective on human nature from this passage with contemporary views on human nature—how are they different?
- Genesis 1:26 describes humanity as made in the image of God. In what ways is our view of humanity inter-related to our view of God?
- How might a biblical view of humans as stewards of creation be different than a “green” perspective on the environment?

- In many ways we are socialized into our world view—that is we catch it from those around us. In light of the present socialization of an evolutionary worldview, how do you really think of yourself, as “evolved” or “created”?
- What can you do to more fully embrace the biblical world view in regards to yourself and the world around you?

4. Every culture of the classical world consisted of idol worshipers. How do idols compare with the reality of God's power, Isaiah 40: 18-24?

- Idols are material expressions of that which we supremely value. What kind of idols do we worship in our culture? How do contemporary idols shape both our thinking and our actions?
- For many, throughout history and in many varied cultures, worshiping idols has been preferable to worshiping the living God. Why?

5. Read Isaiah 40:24-31. Eighteenth Century deism proposed that God was an uninvolved Creator who stood at a distance to watch his world. What does verse 26 reveal about God's involvement?

- How can the presence of an engaged and active God be both comforting and threatening?
- How might the presence of an engaged and active God, as revealed in the scriptures, shape our politics? Education? Recreation? Ethics? Psychology?

6. Any survey of significant scriptures on a biblical worldview would not be complete without Genesis chapter 3:1-19. What is the fundamental problem of all the world?

7. Compare and contrast the origins of suffering and evil with the following:

- The Eastern monistic worldview proposes that the difference between good and evil is an illusion and that suffering is merely a matter of perspective.
- The early 20<sup>th</sup> Century evolutionary worldview proposed that evil and suffering were due to ignorance and that education was the solution.

8. A biblical worldview begins in Genesis and finds completion in Revelation. Please read Revelation 21:1-8.

- Describe the essence of the biblical hope for world.

- Contrast the “globalism” of Revelation with the developing globalism of our current electronic and economic systems.

## **Conclusion**

9. At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century there was growing hope based on Enlightenment Rationalism. At the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century this is growing despair based on (among other things) ecological complications and terrorist threats. Based on a biblical worldview, what would you say to each position?

How does a biblical worldview shape the way you will engage with pain, conflict, evil, and suffering?

Write down one element that each of the preceding scriptures contributes to a biblical worldview.

- Genesis 1:1
- Psalm 19:1-4
- Psalm 8:1-1-9
- Isaiah 40:18-31
- Genesis 3:1-1-9
- Revelation 21:1-8