

12. Creation Out of Nothing

ONLY THE CREATOR GOD CAN MAKE SOMETHING OUT OF NOTHING

In the following verses, the God of the Bible says he is the Creator, and only he can create something out of nothing.

Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you know so much. Who determined its dimensions and stretched out the surveying line? What supports its foundations, and who laid its cornerstone as the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy? Who kept the sea inside its boundaries as it burst from the womb, and as I clothed it with clouds and wrapped it in thick darkness? For I locked it behind barred gates, limiting its shores. I said, “This far and no farther will you come. Here your proud waves must stop!” Have you ever commanded the morning to appear and caused the dawn to rise in the east? Have you made daylight spread to the ends of the earth. (Job 38:4–13 NLT)

When the Father God, the Intelligent Designer, decided to create everything, his Son, Jesus, spoke the universe and Earth into existence out of nothing. *Ex Nihilo* is a Latin phrase that means “out of nothing.” The following verses help us to understand this:

God stretches the northern sky over empty space and hangs the earth on nothing. (Job 26:7 NLT)

By faith we understand that the entire universe was formed at God’s command, that what we now see did not come from anything that can be seen. (Hebrews 11:3 NLT)

Mystery: In the beginning, nothing existed, so how did Jesus create something out of nothing?

CREATING THE NATURAL ELEMENTS: PERIODIC TABLE

The creation account reveals the Triune God’s majesty, unique power, and all-encompassing authority to design and create something out of nothing.

First Substances Created

I believe that before Jesus created anything, he first created the natural elements he would use for the entire creation. (This is an opinion based on my understanding of Scripture and chemistry.)

The Periodic Table

Today, we can identify the known natural elements in chemistry’s Periodic Table. There are currently 118 elements in the Table. However, only the first 92 elements naturally occur, so I believe Jesus created them. Elements 93 through 98 (neptunium, plutonium, americium, curium,

berkelium, and californium) occur naturally in tiny amounts due to human activities (for example, nuclear fallout) or naturally occurring radioactive decay. These six elements are found in uranium-rich pitchblende. Therefore, some periodic tables include them as naturally occurring. However, since the six did not likely exist at the creation of the universe and the Earth, I exclude them as having been created by Jesus.

IMPORTANT: Jesus Christ created all the natural elements out of nothing. This included the Earth. Once he did this, he created every living plant and animal, including people, out of these natural elements.

Elements 93 through 118 are sometimes called “synthetic elements.” Jesus did not create them. Scientists artificially created these by manipulating the fundamental particles of existing natural elements in a nuclear reactor, a particle accelerator, or by the explosion of an atomic bomb. No element with an atomic number greater than 99 has any value other than for scientific research. Instructional Comment: Elements in the Periodic Table are listed numerically by their assigned “atomic number” (1 to 118). They are identified as solids, liquids, and gases.

Website: The Periodic Table with 118 elements can be found on the following website: <https://sciencenotes.org/periodic-table-wallpaper-118-elements>

Elements, Atoms, and Molecules

A comparison of these is an advanced topic that I will simplify with some basic definitions.

Definition: *Elements* were created by Jesus or later synthetically made by scientists. They are the most basic substances on Earth or in space. They consist of only one atom or a certain type of atom.

Atoms are the smallest amount of an element.

Molecules are the result of combining two or more atoms of elements. For example, water is the molecule H₂O.

Molecule Example: Water

When Jesus created water, he combined two atoms of the Hydrogen element with one atom of the Oxygen element. This combination resulted in a “molecule” of water. In chemistry, we refer to water by its molecular composition, “H₂O.”

Mystery: How did Jesus know how to create molecules for everything that exists?

NATURAL ELEMENTS ON EARTH

The following verses indicate that Jesus made people, animals, and birds from natural elements he had already created. These elements were part of the “ground” that was made when Jesus created the Earth out of nothing (Genesis 1:1).

Then the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground. (Genesis 2:7 NLT)

So the LORD God formed from the ground all the wild animals and all the birds of the sky. (Genesis 2:19 NLT)

EARTH'S CRUST

The Earth's crust is the outer layer of our planet where plant, animal, and sea life reside. Beneath it is the mantle and core, which is molten lava. On average, the crust is about 25 miles deep. It is composed of solid rocks and minerals, which, theoretically, result from the cooling and solidification at the Earth's birth. Scientists can find all 92 naturally occurring elements in the crust at various places and levels of the earth's surface.

Following are the ten most common natural elements found in the Earth's crust (by weight):

- Oxygen (46.1 percent)
- Silicon (28.2 percent)
- Aluminum (8.23 percent)
- Iron 5.63 percent)
- Calcium (4.15 percent)
- Sodium (2.36 percent)
- Magnesium (2.33 percent)
- Potassium (2.09 percent)
- Titanium (0.565 percent)
- Hydrogen (0.140 percent)

NATURAL ELEMENTS IN SPACE

I believe the Father God designed everything to be made from the natural elements. Therefore, when Jesus created the universe and all its cosmic objects, he did so using natural elements. Since the universe was created out of nothing, Jesus would have made the 92 natural elements, and then he created the universe from these.

Astronomers and astrophysicists theorize that the vastness of the universe is mostly empty, a near-perfect vacuum. Evidence from observations with telescopes, mathematical calculations, and experimentations corroborates what we know from the Bible, that the 92 naturally occurring elements of the Periodic Table are found in space. Of course, when we say they occur in space, we include those found on planet Earth.

Following are the ten most common natural elements found in space (by mass):

- Hydrogen (70 percent)
- Helium (28 percent)
- Oxygen, Carbon, Neon, Nitrogen, Magnesium, Silicon, Iron, and Sulfur

Note: You will learn in the chapter, “Creation of the Universe” that solid matter (such as planets and stars) composes only 5 percent of space. The 95 percent that is not visible solid matter is theorized to be dark matter and dark energy.

ANGELS NOT CREATED FROM NATURAL ELEMENTS

You have already read that angels are supernatural beings that were created before the creation of the universe and Earth. Since they are supernatural, they cannot have been made from the natural elements in the Periodic Table. The devil and his demons were angels before their rebellion, so they are made out of the same supernatural substance as the angels of God.

Mystery: What kind of substance did Jesus create to make angels?

GENETIC TEMPLATES FROM NATURAL ELEMENTS

Our Father God is innovative in his designs for creation. It seems he took the natural elements to fashion genetic templates for making similar creation kinds. An article suggests that intelligent design is behind similarities in animal deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA). These creation out of nothing similarities reveal genetic templates for organisms with the same anatomical and functional components. For example, these templates can be seen in the genetics of animals for such things as bones, muscles, and organs. The above is from the article “The Untold Story Behind DNA Similarity,” “Science in Perspective” in the Answers, Building a Biblical Worldview (answersmagazine.com, May, June, 2017).

Definition: *Creation kinds* were created by Jesus rather than individual species of organisms we see today. I see these kinds as “master species” that carry all the genetic material needed for generations of reproduction, leading to a variety of species as they reproduce over time.

CHAPTER QUESTIONS

DQ1: What would you say to someone to help them understand what it means for Jesus to have created the universe and Earth out of nothing?

DQ2: How would you describe what “nothing” is?

DQ3: Why do you think the Father designed the universe to be mostly empty of solid matter?

DQ4: Why were angels created from a substance different than those natural elements in the Periodic Table?

DIG DEEP

DD1: Explain why the Periodic Table must represent the natural elements created by Jesus out of nothing.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

PA1: What have you learned about the Periodic Table and the natural elements of which your body is composed?