

Postgraduate Seminar: Biblical Creationism (7/8/10)
Central Baptist Theological Seminary

July 14–16, October 4–5, 2010
Instructor: Robert V. McCabe, Th.D.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A seminar designed to develop a biblical theology of creation by evaluating differing evangelical interpretations of key creation motifs with special emphasis on current issues in young-earth creationism.

OBJECTIVES:

In this seminar the student will

1. become conversant with the current issues on biblical creationism,
2. demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge of the current literature on each assigned article and book,
3. objectively evaluate the various articles and books assigned as reading in the seminar,
4. articulate a coherent view on the various creation motifs developed in the seminar, and
5. critically and humbly interact with the views of others on each assignment.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Critiques—**45% of grade**

- a. Each student will do a critique of the following articles/books (the total amount of reading is 3,709 pages). At the end of each class, I will collect each student's critique. For example, at the end of the class on July 14, I will collect each seminar participant's critique of Hasel, along with each student's critique of Kulikovsky, Rooker, Sarfati, and Snelling. If I do not have many distractions, I will grade all the critiques each night and return to the student the next day. I will do the same thing on July 15 and 16.

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| July 14 | Hasel, "The 'Days' of Creation in Genesis 1," pp. 5–38— 2 page limit
Kulikovsky, <i>Creation, Fall, and Restoration</i> , pp. 13–285— 2 pages
Rooker, "Genesis 1:1–3—Creation or Re-creation? (Part 1)," pp. 316–23— 2 pages
Sarfati, <i>Refuting Compromise</i> , pp. 13–395— 3 pages
Snelling, <i>Earth's Catastrophic Past</i> , vol. 1, pp. 1–417— 4 pages |
| July 15 | Feinberg, "The Doctrine of Creation" in his <i>No One Like Him</i> , pp. 537–624— 2 pages
Hagopian, ed., <i>The Genesis Debate</i> , pp. 11–314— 3 pages
Mortenson, ed., <i>Coming to Grips with Genesis</i> , pp. 15–210— 3 pages
Rooker, "Genesis 1:1–3—Creation or Re-creation? (Part 2)," pp. 411–27— 2 pages
Snelling, <i>Earth's Catastrophic Past</i> , vol. 2, pp. 467–1042— 4 pages
Wise, "What Science Tells Us about the Age of the Creation," pp. 4–15— 1 page |
| July 16 | Collins, <i>Genesis 1–4</i> , pp. 1–278— 3 pages
DeYoung, <i>Thousands Not Billions</i> , pp. 13–183— 2 pages |

Garner, *The New Creationism*, pp. 13–242—**3 pages**

Jordan, *Creation in Six Days*, pp. 9–256 —**3 pages**

Mortenson, ed., *Coming to Grips with Genesis*, pp. 211–457—**3 pages**

Wise, *Faith, Form and Time*, pp. 3–244—**3 pages**

b. The article and book critiques are to be treated in this fashion.

- 1) On the top of the first page, you should have the name of seminar, date, article or book being critiqued, and your name.
- 2) Page numbers should be placed in the top right corner of each page of a paper.
- 3) Each paper should be single spaced with a one-inch margin on all sides of a page, in a 12-point Times Roman font with one to four page maximum limit, as indicated with each entry above (if additional bibliographical entry is needed, this can be placed on the following page).
- 4) The references should be in parentheses (Hasel, “Days” p. 5).
- 5) Excluding the sources listed in the “Course Bibliography” at the end of this course outline, you may include additional bibliographical entries. The additional bibliographical entries may be placed on the following page at the end of your critique.
- 6) Here is what the content for each paper should include: (a) explicitly state the **final** thesis for an article or book (not all authors do this as clearly as I want you to do); (b) concisely provide the major supporting arguments for each thesis of an article or book; (c) give a concise biblical evaluation of an article or book, which should include positive and negative features of an author as well as pertinent presuppositions of an author.

Some variation of a normal critique for a book/article written by one author should be noted. For example with *Coming to Grips with Genesis*, you should note the book’s overall thesis and evaluate whether or not all of the chapters fit in with this thesis. Your primary evaluation focuses on each chapter with each author’s final thesis, major arguments and a brief evaluation (note since your critiques for the first half of the book as well as the second half cannot go beyond three pages, you need to develop the skills of an effective reductionist).

2. Short paper—**25% of grade**

Each student will write a two to three-page paper that is single-spaced with a one-inch margin on all sides of a page, in a 12-point Times Roman font (if additional bibliographical entry is needed, this can be placed on the following page). The objective with each paper is to briefly summarize key positions along with the most important supporting argument(s), key criticisms, a tentative conclusion along with an explicit one-sentence thesis, and a bibliography of the most important sources. Rather than employing footnotes, you should use parentheses (as noted above). Below are the topics that each student will write a brief paper. One of the students will be listed to read his paper followed by him leading a discussion of the paper that includes meaningful interaction with his colleagues.

Oct 4 Is Genesis 1:1 a Summary Statement?

The Relationship between Genesis 1:1–2 & Genesis 1:3–2:3
The Significance of Day 7 in the Creation Debate

- Oct 5 The Water Vapor Canopy Hypothesis
When Were the Plants in Genesis 2:5 Created
The Second Cainan: Genesis 11:12 Compared with Luke 3:35–36

3. Discussion Leader—**10% of grade**

When a student is called on to lead the discussion or read his paper, he will be evaluated as to his ability to direct the discussion and interact with his colleagues. The discussion leader should have a list of questions to guide the discussion. This list of questions should also be given to me before every discussion.

4. Class Participant—**20% of grade**

Each student will be evaluated on the quality and quantity of his class participation.

SCHEDULE:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Article/Book</u>	<u>Discussion Leader</u>
July 14	Hasel, pp. 5–38	Mark Bruffey
	Kulikovsky, <i>Creation</i> , pp. 13–285	Brett Williams
	Rooker, “Part 1,” pp. 316–23	Mark Bruffey
	Sarfati, pp. 13–395	Brett Williams
	Snelling, vol. 1, pp. 1–417	Chris Watson
July 15	Feinberg, pp. 537–624	Mark Bruffey
	Hagopian, pp. 11–314	Mark Bruffey
	Mortenson, pp. 15–210	Chris Watson
	Rooker, “Part 2,” pp. pp. 411–27	Brett Williams
	Snelling, vol. 2, pp. pp. 467–1042	Mark Bruffey
	Wise, “Science & the Age of Creation,” pp. 4–15	Brett Williams
July 16	Collins, pp. 1–278	Chris Watson
	DeYoung, pp. 13–183	Chris Watson
	Garner, pp. 13–242	Mark Bruffey
	Jordan, pp. 9–256	Brett Williams
	Mortenson, pp. 211–457	Chris Watson
	Wise, pp. 3–244	Brett Williams
<u>Date</u>	<u>Subject for Short Paper</u>	<u>Discussion Leader</u>
Oct 4	Is Genesis 1:1 a Summary Statement?	Brett Williams
	The Relationship between Gen 1:1–2 & 1:3–2:3	Chris Watson
	Day 7 in the Creation Debate	Mark Bruffey
Oct 5	The Water Vapor Canopy	Brett Williams

Plants in Gen 2:5
The Second Cainan in Gen 11:12

Chris Watson
Mark Bruffey

COURSE BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Collins, C. John. *Genesis 1–4: A Linguistic, Literary, and Theological Commentary*. Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian & Reformed, 2006.
- DeYoung, Donald B. *Thousands Not Billions*. Green Forest, AR: Master Books, 2007.
- Feinberg, John S. *No One Like Him: The Doctrine of God*. Foundations of Evangelical Theology. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2001.
- Garner, Paul A. *The New Creationism*. Webster, NY: Evangelical Press, 2009.
- Hagopian, David G., editor. Crux Press. *The Genesis Debate: Three Views on the Days of Creation*. Mission Viejo, CA: Crux Press, 2001.
- Hasel, Gerhard F. “The ‘Days’ of Creation in Genesis 1.” *Origins* 21 (1994): 5–38.
- Jordan, James B. *Creation in Six Days: A Defense of the Traditional Reading of Genesis One*. Moscow, ID: Canon Press, 1999.
- Kulikovsky, Andrew S. *Creation, Fall, and Restoration: A Biblical Theology of Creation*. Ross-shire, Great Britain: Mentor, 2009.
- Mortenson, Terry and Thane H. Ury, editors. *Coming to Grips with Genesis: Biblical Authority and the Age of the Earth*. Green Forest, AR: Master Books, 2008.
- Rooker, Mark F. “Genesis 1:1–3—Creation or Re-creation? (Part 1).” *Bibliotheca Sacra* 149 (July–September 1992): 316–23.
- _____. “Genesis 1:1–3—Creation or Re-creation? (Part 2).” *Bibliotheca Sacra* 149 (October–December 1992): 411–27.
- Sarfati, Jonathan. *Refuting Compromise*. Green Forest, AR: Master Books, 2004.
- Snelling, Andrew A. *Earth’s Catastrophic Past*. 2 vols. Dallas: Institute for Creation Research, 2009.
- Wise, Kurt P. *Faith, Form, and Time*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2002.
- Wise, Kurt P. “What Science Tells Us about the Age of the Creation.” *Southern Baptist Journal of Theology* 11 (Spring 2007): 4–15.