

The Creator and Creation

Week 1

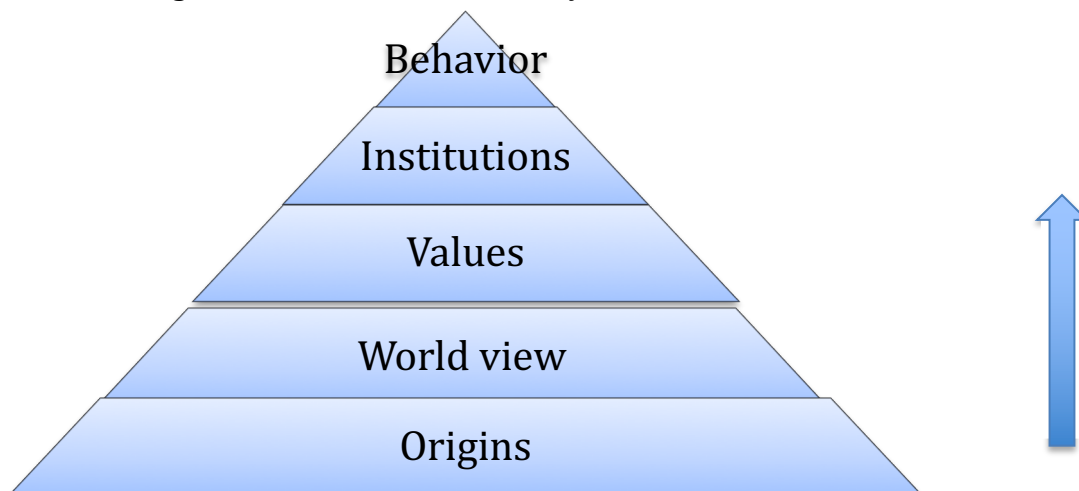
Why is It Important to Have a Biblical View of Origins?

1. Why was it important for Ancient Israel (original audience of Bible)?

- Israel's situation when Moses chose to start Pentateuch with Creation.
- In Egypt, the twelve tribes had practiced pagan worship (Joshua 24:14; Ezekiel 23:1-13). Israel surrounded by pagan cultures.
- First commandment: Don't prefer other gods over I AM. There is no other authority. (Deuteronomy 4:39)
- Once in Promised Land, they repeatedly fell into pagan worship (1 and 2 Kings, for example).
- After exile, nature deities replaced by anything that gives a person life, security, and significance

2. Why is it Important for Us?

A. Origins inform our view of reality



From Bruce Nichols, Contextualization: A Theology of Gospel and Culture (citing G. Barney)

B. Creation reveals God to us. That revelation begins at creation.

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims the work of His hands. Day after day they pour out speech; night after night they communicate knowledge. There is no speech; there are no words; their voice is not heard. Their message has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world. HCSB Psalm 19:1-4

*Romans 1:20 For His invisible attributes, that is, His eternal power and divine nature, **have been clearly seen since the creation of the world**, being understood through what He has made. HCSB*

*Romans 1:25 They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and **worshiped and served something created instead of the Creator**, who is praised forever. Amen. HCSB*

C. Eleven authors tell us Who God is, What He is like, and Why we and the universe are here