

Genesis Chapter 1: v. 1.

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Introduction

We are about to study one of the most important books in the Bible. I would like to give you 3 reasons why it is important to study this book, methodically and systematically, and scientifically.

1. Genesis is the very word of God, communicated to us for our instruction to teach us what God wants us to know about:
 - a) The origin of the universe and the world we live in.
 - b) The origin of man and woman and their purpose in creation.
 - c) The origin of sin and why the world is a terrible place to live in.
 - d) The origin of God's judgement upon sin.
 - e) The origin of God's chosen people, the Israelite nation.

2 Timothy 3: v. 16 informs us that Genesis is inspired by God and it was written to benefit us personally. In other words we are going to get something from this book that will be good for our souls.

We are also told that this book of Genesis will correct our thinking, if our thinking is wrong about anything contained in the book of Genesis.

We live in a world today that wants to correct God about His words. If that is the case, then God wants to correct your thinking and put it in line with His thinking.

The book of Genesis does not tell us everything that we want to know about how God did what He did.

However God tells us what He wants us to know. We should be content to leave the unanswered questions until we get to Heaven and not write a book about what we think God has missed out.

2. The second reason for studying Genesis is that everything that happens in Genesis continues to happen throughout the Bible.

In other words the book of Genesis is like the Bible in miniature. We are introduced to Satan in Genesis and discover his character. Throughout the whole Bible we discover Satan operating in a similar way. The things that we discover in Genesis provide a platform to stand upon so that we can understand the rest of the Bible.

When you start reading a book, you always should start at the beginning. The reason for this is that if you don't then you will miss important facts and characters that may lead you to miss-understand the rest of the story. If you want to understand the New Testament, you need to understand first of all the Old Testament. If you want to understand the Old Testament then you need first of all to understand the book of Genesis.

3. The third reason for studying Genesis is that nearly every school in the world teaches children the theory of evolution.

The biggest lie that is told in this world every day in our schools is that there is no creator, Holy God whom we are accountable to.

Although there is no evidence for this theory, nevertheless millions of people believe it because it suits them to live a life independent of a Holy creator God.

In order to expose this lie and correct people's thinking we do need to start in the book of Genesis. The book of Genesis will give us a preaching platform to expose the lie and hopefully encourage people to at least consider both the real evidence from the book and from what scientists have discovered today to correct the evolution theory.

There is more evidence to prove the origin of design that you could possibly imagine.

Many books have been written by the top scientists in the world to prove that humans did not come from apes and that there is a unique super human designer behind everything that we have in our world today.

I would like to give you a small example of purposeful design in nature, after that one example from the human knee that proves that we don't come from Apes or monkeys.

The Arctic Tern Bird

One of the longest migratory paths possible is that of a return journey between the North and South Poles. This route also involves the greatest changes in temperature. Despite the extreme nature of this route, it is the exact migratory path followed by the Arctic tern bird.

These birds spend the short northern summer in the Arctic, where they rear their young. After this, they fly south over 15,000 Km to the Antarctic to stay in the southern summer.

Even though these birds weigh just a few tens of grams, it is able to travel these vast distances every year.

These birds live for 30 years or more and therefore will travel nearly a million kilometers in their life time.

One of the remarkable aspects of their journey is how they could possibly navigate without a sophisticated satellite navigation system?

What a remarkable brain this tiny bird has. However I should say, what a remarkable person must have created this tiny bird to do such things?

What is more remarkable is that this bird didn't go to Kyoto University to learn about these things. The bird's creator must be something special. For a bird to be so intelligent in design, it must have an intelligent designer. That designer is the person I would like to introduce to you in the book of Genesis.

However before we come to that I want us to look at the human knee.

I am going to make something that could be quite complicated, very simple.

The human knee joint requires four parts to exist, simultaneously, and in an exact assembly to be able to perform its basic function.

The knee joint assembly forms within the first 12 weeks of pregnancy. It doesn't change it stays the same, it just grows slowly.

The four parts of the knee joint are inter-dependent on each other. In other words they can't operate unless they all work together at the same time. If one ligament is removed then the knee can't function.

Within the 4 main parts of the knee there are 16 essential characteristics that are present in order to make the knee work.

Now the knee joint of a monkey or Ape are totally different from the knee joint of a human.

It would be absolutely impossible for a monkey or an Ape to evolve into a human based upon the actual biological evidence of the knee joint alone.

The Evolutionist will tell you that the Ape gradually became a man. This is absolutely impossible and we have the evidence in the human knee joint.

So why is it that the lie of Evolution is taught in most of our schools all over the world?

The simple answer is that this is the way that the devil likes it. He is a liar and the Father of lies. (John 8: v. 44)

People who don't know the Lord Jesus as their own personal savior are under the control of satan. Therefore the people who teach evolution are doing the devil's business.

Only as people believe the TRUTH about the creator God of the Bible and His love for mankind will they be set free from the teaching of Satan.

John 8: v. 32 says that when you know the TRUTH, you will be set free.

Let us start at the very beginning in Genesis chapter 1: v. 1.

The very first verse in the Bible is the most important verse in the Bible. If we believe this verse, then no other verse in the Bible should be a problem for us.

If God can create the whole "Universe", then raising people from the dead and causing a virgin to conceive a supernatural baby would be easy.

If we believe this verse then all other "Religions" are rejected.

Also we must reject Evolution in all its shapes and sizes. In fact anything that doesn't fit in with this verse must be rejected, no matter how convincing or scientific it might appear.

I would like to draw out three things from this first verse.

1. God created time - "in the beginning."

Please turn with me to John Chapter 1: v. 3

³ All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

We are told that everything was made through God. Therefore it is quite Biblical to say that God created "Time".

When we read "In the beginning.", we discover that God lived beyond time. He existed in eternity past, when there was no such thing as time.

It is very difficult for us to imagine a time when there was "No Time". This is because everything we do is subject to "Time".

In Ecclesiastes Chapter 3 the wisest man that ever lived tells us that there is a "Time" for every purpose under heaven. (Eccl. 3: v. 1-8)

God had to create "Time" so that He could be sovereign over those things that happen in "Time". The reason that God can control the things that happen in this world is that He is outside of time.

2. God created..... v. 1.

The next word we come across in v. 1 is the word created. This special Hebrew word is only used of God's creative acts, and never of man's work. (Hebrew word= Bara) This word is always used to describe something that has never existed before. Before God created the Heavens and the earth it never existed.

The whole of the Old Testament is littered with verses describing God as the creator of the Heavens and the Earth. Let us look at some.

- a) Psalm 89: v.12 says "The North and the South, you have created them..."
- b) Isaiah 40: v. 26 says "Lift up your eyes on high and see who has created these things..... Q. What things was Isaiah talking about? Well you need to go back into chapter 40 and discover that he was talking about the Heavens and the Earth.
- c) Notice Isaiah 40: v. 12.

Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, Measured heaven with a span And calculated the dust of the earth in a measure? Weighed the mountains in scales And the hills in a balance?

- d) Isaiah 42: v. 5 "Thus says the Lord God, who created the heavens and stretched them out.....

All the Old Testament Prophets identified God as creator.

In fact the Apostles creed that goes back to 3rd century starts with " I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of Heaven and Earth.....

Nicene Creed of the 4th century says "We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

One thing we must not forget before we leave this topic and that is that God is our creator owner.

Psalm 95: v. 3-6.

For the LORD *is* the great God, And the great King above all gods. ⁴In His hand *are* the deep places of the earth; The heights of the hills *are* His also. ⁵The sea *is* His, for He made it; And His hands formed the dry *land*. ⁶Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.

Isaiah 45: v. 9 in the N.L.T.

"What sorrow awaits those who argue with their Creator. Does a clay pot argue with its maker? Does the clay dispute with the one who shapes it, saying, 'Stop, you're doing it wrong!' Does the pot exclaim, 'How clumsy can you be?'

Whether we like it or not, God is our creator owner and He has a right to make decisions in our lives that honor His Glory.

4. In the Beginning GOD.....

Before we move on to identify the world that God created, we need to identify first who this God is?

The Hebrew word that is used here in this verse is the word "Elohim". It is a plural word that denotes God as three persons in the one divine nature. The Bible describes three equal persons within one Godhead.

Therefore the Father is God, the Son is God and the Holy Spirit is God.

They are all co-equal within one Godhead.

There are over 50 passages in the Bible that tell us that God is "One".

Here are just a few.

Deuteronomy 6: v. 4 (N.K.J.)

⁴ "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD *is* one!

Isaiah 45: v. 5

I *am* the LORD, and *there is* no other; *There is* no God besides Me. I will gird you, though you have not known Me,

1 Timothy 2: v. 5

⁵ For *there is* one God and one Mediator between God and men, *the* Man Christ Jesus,

Although God is "One" He often uses plural pro-nouns when speaking of Himself.

Genesis 1: v. 26,

²⁶ Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

Genesis 3: v. 22,

²² Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever" —

Isaiah 6: v. 8.

⁸ Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here *am* I! Send me."

It is difficult for us to understand the "Trinity" of God with our small minds, but the New Testament is very clear that:

- a) The Father is God – Romans 1: v. 7
- b) The Son is God - Hebrews 1: v. 8.
- c) The Holy Spirit is God – Acts 5: v. 3-4.

We have already learnt from John Chapter 1: v. 3 that Jesus created everything in this world and He declared Himself at one point to be God.

This is amazing and yet true.

Now let us come to the final two points of v. 1.

5. In the beginning God created the HEAVENS and the EARTH.

Now I want you to imagine that you are going to enter a spaceship with me.

This spaceship travels at the speed of light. Jump in please, fasten your seat belt, were off.....

We have just circled the earth 7times in 1 second, how did you enjoy your trip?

Now we are heading out into space, we are still travelling very fast, at the speed of light.

We have passed the moon in 2 seconds, the planet Mars in 4 minutes, and Pluto in 5 hours.

Even at this vast speed we have only begin to enter what we call our “Milky Way”.

It will take 4.3 years travelling this speed to reach our first star. This means each second of these 4.3 years we will need to travel 300,000 kilometers. (186,000 miles)

Travelling at this speed it is going to take 100,000 years to cross the Milky Way.

The Milky Way is only one Galaxy. There is an estimated 100 billion Galaxies.

Yes God has created a vast Universe that our small minds can't begin to understand.

From v. 2 through to v. 25 we are told exactly how God went about creating His wonderful world and next time we will look at these verses.

However before we close I just want to say one important thing.

This amazing creator God, who has created EVERYTHING, in the world, also created you and me.

He desires a personal relationship with you.

However He is a Holy God and He can't stand SIN. Sin is going our own way in life and ignoring our creator. Eventually we will be punished by our creator God.

However God in His love and mercy has created a way to punish your sin and rescue you at the same time.

In His love and Mercy, He sent Jesus into the world to take the punishment for your sins.

If you put your faith and trust in Him, you will be rescued.

John3: v. 16.

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Let us pray.....