

Genesis 1: v.2 – 31. – God’s wonderful creation week.Introduction

Two weeks ago we had a short introduction to the book of Genesis.

We only covered Genesis Chapter 1 v. 1. “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...”

We discovered that Genesis was the Bible in miniature and was the book of origins. In Genesis we have the beginning of many things that continue right throughout the Bible.

We discovered last time that God is one God, but has a threefold identity. He is God the Father, God the Son, that is Jesus, and God the Holy Spirit. They are all equal within the one God head. They just have different functions.

We also discovered that God created “Time”. The Japanese Railway system would be in utter chaos if we didn’t have “Time”. Praise God that He created “Time”.

We discovered that God created “Everything” from nothing. He didn’t have any pre-existent material to work from. God doesn’t need any pre-existent material to make things with.

That is amazing. Man needs pre-existent material if he wants to make something.

We also discovered how big our Universe is. It would take 100,000 years travelling at the speed of light just to travel across our galaxy. After that there are billions of galaxies.

Our Universe is so big that our minds can’t even understand its greatness.

Today we are going to get a glimpse of God’s wonderful creation week.

We are going to scan the verses of Genesis 1: v. 2-31 to discover what I believe God wants us to know.

I would like us firstly to turn to Exodus 20: v. 11.

¹¹ For *in* six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that *is* in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

It is very clear that God created the world in 6, literal 24 hour days.

The writer is talking about working for 6 literal 24 hour days, then he talks about the 7th day which is a literal 24 hour day, and then he gives an example about how God created the world in 6 literal 24 hour days and then rested.

The example is only relevant if God created the world in 6 literal 24 hour days.

To me this is a full proof confirmation of 6 day creation by God, and I have never doubted God’s word on this subject.

It is at this point that you might ask the question, who wrote the book of Genesis?

Let us look up Numbers 33: v. 2

² Now Moses wrote down the starting points of their journeys at the command of the LORD. And these *are* their journeys according to their starting points:

Also look up Deuteronomy 31: v. 24.

²⁴ So it was, when Moses had completed writing the words of this law in a book, when they were finished, Jesus authenticated Moses’s writing, which includes the book of Genesis, look up

John 5: v. 46

⁴⁶ For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me.

Finally Moses spent 40 days and 40 nights with God up on the top of Mount Sinai.

Exodus 34: v. 28.

²⁸ So he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he neither ate bread nor drank water. And He wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments.

Until you have spent 40 days and 40 nights up a mountain with God, which can be confirmed by 2 million people, I not interested what you have got to say about the book of Genesis that is different to what Moses clearly tells us.

So with this information in mind let us dive into God's wonderful creation week.

I would like to take all the different days of creation separately and say a little about each one.

1. Day One – God created Light. V. 3-4.

The first thing we need to notice is that when God created "Light" it was NOT light from the Sun. The creation of the Sun came later in v. 16. Therefore the Darkness was not the absence of Sunlight. So what exactly was this light that God spoke into existence?

The only clue that we get from the text is that the light was good and it was separated from the darkness.

The one thing we do know from scripture is that God is LIGHT.

(1 John 1: v.5)

⁵ This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

Some Jewish scholars have suggested that this light might be the visible Shekinah Glory of God. We are told in revelation 22 v. 5 that in heaven there will be no need for sunlight because God will give His own light. Perhaps there is a clue here to the light God talks about in day one of creation.

However what we do need to know is that the light was good. It was not corrupted in any way.

We also learn that God divided the light from the darkness. God called the light day and the darkness He called night.

We are told that the evening and the morning were the first day.

It may seem strange to us for evening plus morning to represent a day. However 38 times outside of Genesis chapter 1, evening and morning always represents a normal length day. There is absolutely no reason to suggest that this creative act by God was done in any other time scale.

This is the reason that the Jewish day begins at sundown. Sundown is when an old day ends and a new day begins. The fact is that before we can enjoy the new day we need some rest and sleep.

Throughout the Hebrew Bible the normal Hebrew word for a day is the word "yom".

This is "always" a day of the week.

To name something in the Bible is to assert sovereignty over it. Here God is clearly defining the role of day and night.

In other words God is setting the 24 hour clock or the 12 hour day and 12 hour night as the norm of His creation.

God does this for lots of reasons as it will become clear throughout the Bible and throughout history. God created a 24 hour day that is clear from the Bible.

2. Day Two – God created an expanse – which He called Heaven. (Sky) v. 6-8.

When the Bible scholars were translating the King James Bible they had a difficult problem to translate a Hebrew word namely “shamayim”. In the King James Bible it is translated “firmament”, which also means “expanse”. In the context of passage the word means “what you can see above you”. This is why some translators refer to these two creative acts as “Sea” and “Sky”.

As there are at least 17 references in the Bible to this creative act by God, I think we can clearly say with Isaiah “....He stretched out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in. (Isaiah 40: v. 22b)

(Other references are Job 26: v.7, Psalm 102: v. 4, Zechariah 12: v. 1)

You may notice if you are very observant that after the creative act on the day two, God didn't call it good. The probable reason given by many scholars was that God was in the middle of a creative act which finished in day three.

3. Day Three- God created fertile earth and put waters into one place – v. 9-13

Day three has two major events. Firstly there is the separation of land and sea, and secondly there is the creation of land plants.

God makes two declarations in day 3 that His work was good. Perhaps this makes up for God not making any declaration in day 2?

The only question for many Christians arising out of the day three creation is, was the earth created into one land mass, or did God create continents and other small islands etc.

The only clue that we do have in scripture that might help us to answer this question can be found in 2 Peter 3: v. 5-6. (the New Living Translation)

⁵ They deliberately forget that God made the heavens long ago by the word of his command, and he brought the earth out from the water and surrounded it with water. ⁶ Then he used the water to destroy the ancient world with a mighty flood.

It does appear from the 2 Peter text that God created one land mass, from the water.

God may have used the water to create the land, this is scientifically possible, as the great creation physicist, Dr. Russel Humphreys suggests.

However what is really important here is that the great apostle Peter confirmed the Genesis account in creation.

The greatest commentary that you can have on the Bible, is the Bible itself.

When you have a problem with a verse in the Bible that you don't fully understand, then if God wants you to have that problem solved, then He will provide light elsewhere in the Bible to confirm or enlighten you further.

Before we move on into day four of God's wonderful creation week we need to notice a phrase that appears 3 times in v. 11-12. The phrase also appears in v. 21 concerning the living creatures.

The phrase is “according to its kind”. Whenever the Bible repeats a phrase it does so because it is important. The question we need to ask is WHY is it important?

The reason that this phrase is important is that it contradicts the theory of evolution.

God is saying that He created different kinds of plants and animals. When these plants and animals reproduce, they reproduce the same kind of plant or animal.

Even if you cross breed dogs you will always get a resemblance of each breed in the cross bred dog.

A famous German scientist by the name of Professor Johann Heinrich Blasius said this;

“ I have seldom read a scientific book that makes such wide ranging conclusions with so few facts supporting them...Darwin wants to show that kinds come from other kinds. I regard this as a somewhat highhanded hypothesis, because he argues using unproven possibilities, without even naming a single example of the origin of a particular species..... Zoologists who engage in empirical research would generally regard as valid only that which can be observed in an experiment or in free living nature. And what one observes there is that the offspring of a plant or animal inevitably resembles their parents. This means that they belong to the same kind.

The immovability of the boundaries of the kind is, for most of us, a law of nature.”

So what this famous German scientist is saying is that there is NO EVIDENCE for Evolution, but there is every evidence, for God creating different kinds, based upon what we can observe in our world today. So the evidence that the Bible is true is in everything we can see and observe in NATURE.

To believe in the lie of “Evolution” you would need to be blindfold to NATURE.

(Romans 1: v. 18-20)

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹ because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

It is clear from these verses in Romans that people who declare themselves either to be evolutionists or some other title that denies God’s creation of nature, are suppressing the truth. God is trying to speak to these people through His creation, but they are ignoring Him.

One day God’s wrath will be revealed from heaven against these people if they do no repent. (v. 18)

4. Day Four - Sun, Moon and Stars – v. 14-19.

In day four God created the Sun, Moon, and stars. We must remember that in day one God had already created light, but it was not the light of the sun, moon or stars.

Now God is creating things that will dispense light. God here is instituting His order in creation. He creates the “Sun” for His purpose and He creates the “Moon” for His purpose, and He creates the stars also, for His purpose.

In v. 14 we are told that God created these lights for signs, seasons, days, and years.

Let us briefly examine the purpose of these lights that God created.

- a) Signs – These signs refer to navigational signs. For centuries before the compass, travelers and sailors navigated by the stars.

It wasn’t until 1764 that John Harrison of London England invented a sea going navigational system that was accurate to within 8 miles even if you went around the world on a ship. James Cook used his system to navigate the world by ship.

It is amazing that God created a world that enables us even today to travel vast distances, just using either the stars, the moon or the sun.

b) Seasons - Seasons began in creation week. (Psalm 104: v.19)

It is very easy to explain why we have seasons and how God's creation of the sun affects those seasons.

Many people think that some parts of the world are hotter than others because they are nearer to the sun. This is wrong. The real reason is that the earth is tilted. We have seasons because the earth is tilted as it makes its yearly journey around the sun.

The earth's axis is tilted at an angle of 23.5 degrees. This means that the earth is always pointing to one side as it goes around the sun. The varying amount of sunlight during the year creates the seasons. The earth takes 365.24 days to orbit the sun. As we move around the sun during the year the amount of light each area receives varies in length. This gives us 4 perfect seasons, spring, Summer Autumn and winter, in both the northern and southern hemisphere.

What a wonderful God we have who created the world and tilted it 23.5 degrees so we can enjoy the Cherry Blossom season soon. Life would be very boring if we didn't have seasons?

c) Days and Years – We have already discovered that it takes 365.24 days to orbit the sun. So what does that make? Yes you are right it makes 1 year. So we measure our days and years by the sun.

No wonder in v. 18 God said it was good!!!! It was amazing.

5. Day Five - God creates the creatures that live in the water and in the air.

(Chapter 1: v. 20-23)

Day 5 challenges people who view Genesis as poetry and not historical narrative, and also evolutionists who believe that sea creatures came from land animals.

God created sea creatures on day 5, not on day 3 when He created the sea. It stands to reason that if Genesis was a poetry book, you would include the sea creatures on the day that the sea was created, not 2 days later.

The problem with evolutionists who believe that our birds evolved from land creatures is that the lungs are totally different in birds compared to land animals. It would be impossible for a land animal to become a bird. So many changes would need to take place that the process would be impossible if you follow the evolution theory.

Of course we still have birds that continue to be birds, and land animals that continue to be land animals.

There is one bird that God created that evolutionists have a problem with.

The bird is a "Peacock". The Peacock tail was the one thing in nature which seemed to give Charles Darwin doubts about the validity of his theory of evolution.

(a picture of a Peacock's tail feathers)

Charles Darwin once said "The sight of a feather in a peacock's tail, whenever I gaze at it, makes me feel sick."

Why was Charles Darwin, the father of evolution, so challenged by the Peacock's tail?

Basically it was because of the absolute beauty of the tail feathers of a Peacock.

It was the beauty of the peacock's tail feathers that pointed to intelligent design and destroyed Charles Darwin's theory of evolution.

An adult peacock has an average of 200 tail feathers, and these are shed and re-grown annually. There are 170 “eye” feathers, these are the beautiful feathers that look like a giant eye. Then there are 30 T feathers.

When a Peacock displays his tail feathers, a magnificent fan formation of feathers forms a beautiful backdrop to the body of the peacock.

To produce this fan like arrangement, the feathers must be very accurately aligned.

Another remarkable feature of the displayed feathers is that they are deployed into position by muscles in the peacock’s tail. Not only can the peacock deploy the feathers, but he can also make them vibrate and produce a characteristic hum.

Another beautiful feature of the displayed feathers is that the eye feathers are spaced apart with a remarkable degree of uniformity. All the eye feathers are visible because the feathers are layered with the short feathers at the front and the longer feathers at the back.

There are at least 30 other unique things about the peacock’s tail feathers that point to intelligent design. Six of those things have to do with the eye feather itself. We do not have time to discuss these other unique features. However we do have time to say that God created the peacock not just to attract a mate with its wonderful tail feathers, but to display beauty for all to see.

It is no wonder that Charles Darwin couldn’t stand the sight of the beauty of a peacock’s tail feathers.

Every time he saw these peacock feathers, his theory of evolution was destroyed.

Darwin had to acknowledge that the peacock’s feathers were very beautiful, and beauty always comes from intelligent design.

6. Day Six – God created Land Animals and Man. – v. 24-31.

On day six we have the final creative day of creation week. On this day, God created the land animals and then man.

It is significant that man was the very last part of creation to be made so that he was introduced into a home that was complete in every way.

It is also important to note that the whole of creation had an appearance of age, with fully mature plants and creatures, even though the universe was only 6 days old.

We only have time to look at two verses in this section and that is v.26- 27 where it says that God created man in His own image.

Q. What does this mean?

On the last day of creation God said “Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness...” God finished His creation work with a personal touch. In Chapter 2: v. 7 we are told that God formed man from the dust and gave him life by sharing His own breath.

This is a remarkable statement. Man is unique among all of God’s creation. He has both a material body and in addition he has a soul/ spirit.

Having the image or likeness of God means, in the simplest of terms that we are made to resemble God.

Adam did not resemble God in the sense of God having flesh and blood. The Bible tells us that God is “Spirit” (John 4: v. 4) and therefore He exists without a body.

However Adam’s body did mirror the life of God in so far as it was created in perfect health and was not subject to death.

The image of God refers to the immaterial part of man. It sets man apart from the animal world. Man is equipped to have dominion over the earth. Man is also able to have communion with his maker.

The likeness to God is mentally, morally and socially.

Man was created with reason. He can make choices. This is a reflection of God's intellect and freedom. When man invents something, he is displaying a quality that God has given him.

Morally, man was created in righteousness and perfect innocence. This was a reflection of God's Holiness. In Chapter 1: v. 31 it says "Then God saw everything that he had made and indeed it was very good."

Our conscience or moral compass is a part of that original state. When anybody feels guilty, or even praises good behavior then they are confirming the fact that we are made in God's image.

Socially man was created for friendship/ fellowship. This reflects God's triune nature.

Initially man's primary friendship was with God. It was only later that God made woman for man because He felt that it was not good for man to be alone. (Gen 2: v. 18)

Every time we make a new friend or interact with people for fellowship, we are saying that we are created in the image of God.

So very briefly that is what it means to be made in the likeness of God. We need to put some application into our message today.

Application

Genesis Chapter 1 shows us that the world was not just made wonderful but that it was made in a wonderful way.

The method of creation is an encouragement because the length of the creation process and the order of creation demonstrate that the universe was made for the sake of mankind.

Yes God made this wonderful world of nature for us.

The method of creation is also an encouragement because it demonstrates God's infinite power.

The Bible teaches that the method of creation described in Genesis chapter 1 should lead to a great respect for God.

Psalm 33: v. 8-9.

Let all the earth fear the LORD;

Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.

⁹ For He spoke, and it was *done*;

He commanded, and it stood fast.

One of the reasons why modern man does not want to believe in creation is because this belief automatically leads to an acknowledgement that God is Lord over us.

It is only those people who believe that Genesis chapter 1 as literal history can really appreciate the wonder of God's power in creation.

Finally in Genesis Chapter 1 we see God's Fatherly love.

This chapter reveals to us that God has infinite wisdom and infinite fatherly love towards mankind.

God created this world for us because He loves us.

In fact He loves us so much that when we disobeyed God and caused this world to be cursed and man to be cursed, God made a way that we could get back to Him.

God provided a way that we might have a right relationship with Him once again.

Also to look forward to a new and better world that will not be spoiled by sin.

If you want to look forward to that world and be in a right relationship with God, so that He is your real friend, then there is something that you need to do today.

You need to say sorry to God for your sin and put your faith and trust in God's Son Jesus Christ, who died to take the punishment for your sin.

The evolutionist today will tell you that you are worth nothing. However your creator God will tell you that you are worth everything to Him.

He sent His only Son to sacrifice His life for you that you might enjoy all that God has for your future.

Why not consider a personal relationship with your creator God today?

Let us pray.