

Sermon Outline and Questions

Pastor Dave – Sun 30th July 2023

Genesis Ch 1 – Back to The Beginning

Introduction – Apologetic in nature.

- 2 aspects.
- We need to take a look at what we read, hear and are taught – through the filter of God's word and not the other way round filtering God's word through what we read, hear and are taught.
- This can be a problem that we struggle with.

Read all of Chapter 1.

Genesis 1 Christian Standard Bible

The Creation

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.^[a]

2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. **3** Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. **4** God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. **5** God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." There was an evening, and there was a morning: one day.

6 Then God said, "Let there be an expanse between the waters, separating water from water." **7** So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above the expanse. And it was so. **8** God called the expanse "sky."^[b] Evening came and then morning: the second day.

9 Then God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. **10** God called the dry land "earth," and the gathering of the water he called "seas." And God saw that it was good. **11** Then God said, "Let the earth produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds." And it was so. **12** The earth produced vegetation: seed-bearing plants according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it

according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ Evening came and then morning: the third day.

¹⁴ Then God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night. They will serve as signs for seasons^[c] and for days and years. ¹⁵ They will be lights in the expanse of the sky to provide light on the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶ God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule over the day and the lesser light to rule over the night—as well as the stars. ¹⁷ God placed them in the expanse of the sky to provide light on the earth, ¹⁸ to rule the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ Evening came and then morning: the fourth day.

²⁰ Then God said, "Let the water swarm with^[d] living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky." ²¹ So God created the large sea-creatures and every living creature that moves and swarms in the water, according to their kinds. He also created every winged creature according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² God blessed them: "Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the waters of the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth." ²³ Evening came and then morning: the fifth day.

²⁴ Then God said, "Let the earth produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that crawl, and the wildlife of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so. ²⁵ So God made the wildlife of the earth according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that crawl on the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man^[e] in^[f] our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl^[g] on the earth."

²⁷ So God created man
in his own image;
he created him in the image of God;
he created them male and female.

²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth." ²⁹ God also said, "Look, I have given you every seed-bearing plant on the surface of the entire earth and every tree whose fruit contains seed. This will be food for you, ³⁰ for all the wildlife of the earth, for every bird of the sky, and for every creature that crawls on the earth—everything having the breath of life in it—I have given^[h] every green plant for food." And it was so. ³¹ God saw all that he had made, and it was very good indeed. Evening came and then morning: the sixth day.

- A very familiar passage from which many of us have been taught.

Question – Why is Genesis so important – especially the first couple of chapters?

1. It clearly establishes our relationship with God.
 2. It helps us to understand our uniqueness in creation.
 3. It establishes our purpose and responsibilities as human beings.
- We will inevitably when we read through the passage reflect upon previous teachings.

Discussion – first 2 chapters.

- Hebrew Poetry.

Some think along the lines of "well its poetry – illustrative – just waxing eloquent, you can't take it literally."

Reference made to other Hebrew Poetry – example Psalm 136

- God's work in creation is reiterated, over and over and over again throughout scripture.
- The message of God's creation is said by person after person, chapter after chapter.

Psalm 136 – history of the Israelite people.

- Special reference to (He) – God – mentioned some 10 times throughout this psalm – and in-between that (His) – His faithful love – again mentioned throughout this psalm.
- Talking about God here – sounds a lot like Genesis

- Jewish History.
- Illustrated by recounting God's work in creation.

Genesis Chapter 1 – an historical event.

Nehemiah 9 – recording the same history – Ch 9 verse 6 – one of many verses.

Nehemiah 9:6 Christian Standard Bible

⁶You,^[a] LORD, are the only God.^[b]

You created the heavens,
the highest heavens with all their stars,
the earth and all that is on it,
the seas and all that is in them.
You give life to all of them,
and all the stars of heaven worship you.

The same history – that God created the heavens and the earth.

Coming from the perspective that God did this in 6 literal days – complete and that God made it to look mature. (Reference being a young earth creationist).

- And he rested on the seventh day – this being modelled for us for our work week – specified in Exodus 20:8-11.

The earth and the universe being no older than about 10,000 to 15,000 years old.

2 options available to us.

- Look at scripture and filter everything through scripture.

Or

- We look at what man and science says and then filter scripture, my bible that

There is a big difference between the two!

And in order to understand our relationship to God makes a big difference on how we are going to understand if God really created everything or not and how God created it and wonder what God says in his word is actually true or are we going to say no and adjust that based on what man says is true?

Progressive Creation. – Scientists give ...

- Long periods of time to history so we have to fit scripture into long periods of time!
- But scripture says that to God 1000 years is a day and a day is a 1000 years!
- The morning and night of day one is really 1000's of years!

Question – Why are people trying to fit long periods in a day – when it clearly states a literal day – there was morning and evening, day one. Time frames we understand – we know what a 24-hr period is.

- Unless we are trying to fit long periods into this thinking?

(Here is the problem, the ancient earth numbers called into question)

Theistic Evolutionary Process.

- Inclined to evolution – but they don't want to discount scripture.
- Thinking – God started and then just left it and that is how we have what we have.
- More of a spiritual idea.
- Problem – this undermines the significance of human beings as being a special part of creation, because if all we are is a higher form animal then we are no longer special in God's creation - then there is no reason for us to look at it and

say “I was uniquely made by God as a human being and that I have a unique relationship to God, over and above the rest of God’s creation.

God made us all unique – with a special purpose and relationship with us.

- If we evolved from something lower, then this isn’t the case – we would not be unique – with a special purpose and relationship with God.

3rd – discount God and the bible from this.

“In the beginning matter and energy came together”.

- No god in the picture.
- No relationship.
- No responsibility to God.

Reference made to a story of a small village in Derbyshire – where a mass grave of Vikings was found.

A mass burial of 250 to 300 skeletons was discovered in the Derbyshire village of Repton, England, in the 1980s. It seemed likely they were the remains of the Scandinavian Vikings of the Great Heathen Army who wintered in Repton over a millennium ago during 873–874. Eyewitness accounts indisputably reported the army’s historical presence during the latter 800s, so many modern historians concluded that these mass-grave skeletons were those very Vikings.² However, a team of empirical science investigators, using routine carbon-14 radiometric dating methodology, rejected that historical timeframe, arguing instead for dating the skeletons a century or so older based upon residual carbon-14 found inside the bones.¹

For full article go to - <https://www.icr.org/article/viking-bones-contradict-c14-assumptions>

- Carbon dating shown to wrong again and again – but yet this is where we get the dating of the earth.

Created – in the Hebrew – (Bara) – newness of renewal - ex nihilo – created out of nothing – there are instance where this word is used, and it means just that.

- When God spoke, there was nothing and then there was something.

Sometimes this word is used as renewal – newness of renewal.

- Only God creates no one else creates.
- Only God renews.

Reference made to David – Psalm 51

Psalm 51:10 Christian Standard Bible

[10 God, create a clean heart for me and renew a steadfast^{\[a\]} spirit within me.](#)

Here using the exact same word, as only God can create a new heart, a right spirit.

Paul preaches this in Acts 17:22 onward.

- The people spoken of as, extremely religious in every aspect.

We need to know that Darwinian evolution is not actually fair to say that Darwin came up with it because he only popularized a thought that other people had throughout the centuries and some of those people were Greek philosophers.

- Greek philosophers believed that everything came from nothing.

Their thinking.

- “I don’t want a God who rules over me”, but they recognise there is someone over them!
- People that were wanting to cover all of their bases!

The Apostle Paul wanting to tell them about the one true God.

Acts 17:24 Christian Standard Bible

[24 The God who made the world and everything in it—he is Lord of heaven and earth—does not live in shrines made by hands.](#)

He is talking about God when he’s going to introduce them to the Lord Jesus Christ, he says that God made all things, the heavens and the earth and everything in it including you, I want to tell you about the God that you are accountable to, the God that you don't know yet, but I want to introduce you to.

Paul continues...

[25 Neither is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives everyone life and breath and all things. 26 From one man^{\[a\]} he has made every](#)

nationality to live over the whole earth and has determined their appointed times and the boundaries of where they live.

Question – Who is the one man? – Adam!

Paul going back to creation event.

²⁷ He did this so that they might seek God, and perhaps they might reach out and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸ For in him we live and move and have our being, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also his offspring.' ²⁹ Since, then, we are God's offspring, we shouldn't think that the divine nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image fashioned by human art and imagination.

Question – What is Paul saying here? – Our whole purpose, who we are is found in God.

We understand our uniqueness in creation and we understand our purpose and responsibility, Paul is saying there's a God and you are accountable to him this is your relationship to God, God is almighty, he's all powerful, he's everywhere present all the time, he's eternal, he is outside of time, he's transcendent, he's immense, he's loving, he's holy, he's merciful, he's just, he is righteous he's good.

³⁰ "Therefore, having overlooked the times of ignorance, God now commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has set a day when he is going to judge the world in righteousness by the man he has appointed. He has provided proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead." The language of Genesis – all things created with maturity.

- As human beings we are unable to say, "there is a plant and their it is"!
- We are not able to speak a plant into existence as God did – we plant the seed.

God created plants, before he created the sun, so he could give them what they needed to grow.

We need kinds to create those kinds.

- God created plants on day 3.
- Sun, Moon and Stars on day 4 – after the plants – then he gave them what they needed.

It would not work with 1000 years in a day – creating the plants – then the Sun, Moon and Stars and a 1000 years later providing what the plants needed to grow.

God is the designer and creator – there is a plan.

Question – Are we going to take the eyewitness account that God provided for us or are we going to take what man has said and ignore the eyewitness account.

John 1:1-3 Christian Standard Bible

Prologue

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was with God in the beginning. **3** All things were created through him, and apart from him not one thing was created that has been created.

- The word – a description of Jesus Christ – God the Son.

John goes on...

10 He was in the world, and the world was created through him, and yet the world did not recognize him. **11** He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. **12** But to all who did receive him, he gave them the right to be^[e] children of God, to those who believe in his name, **13** who were born, not of natural descent,^[f] or of the will of the flesh, or of the will of man,^[g] but of God.

14 The Word became flesh and dwelt^[h] among us. We observed his glory, the glory as the one and only Son^[i] from the Father, full of grace and truth. **15** (John testified concerning him and exclaimed, "This was the one of whom I said, 'The one coming after me ranks ahead of me, because he existed before me.'")

Revelation 4:11 Christian Standard Bible

11 Our Lord and God,^[a]

you are worthy to receive

glory and honor and power,

because you have created all things,

and by your will

they exist and were created.

- You created all things.

Question – How do we respond to a God like that?

- Our responsibilities.
- Our Purpose.
- Our uniqueness.

Question - Are we going to filter all things through the bible or are we going to filter the bible through all things man says?

Is our confidence in the truth of God? And His word and not infallible man.

Recommendation for us to read Genesis Chapter 1 and 2 as we work through it – start to look at what we hear around us and filter it through the lens of scripture – not the other way around.

Question –re we doing what God calling me to according to what his word tells me to do?

Do we really believe that we are uniquely created by God, with a plan and a purpose, that He has for us, or would we rather live like I am an atheist believing that we came from a lower life form and that we get to determine our life and direction.

Question – How will this go for us if we chose this path?

Whenever we live like we are God our lives are a mess.