

CREATION, THE FALL, AND RESTORATION

(Series: Studies in Genesis)

I. IN THE BEGINNING (GENESIS 1)

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

A. The book of Genesis discusses beginning of the universe

1. The existence of God is assumed (Heb 11:6)
2. Genesis 1 is not about creation, but the Creator. The word “God” appears 35 times. It’s not just about how the world came to be, but about who made it come to be. In the beginning God..
 - a. Genesis does not explain the beginning of God because God is God. No one created Him. He is God. He is the Uncreated One.
 - b. God’s name in Hebrew is “Yahweh” it means: “to be.” He is. He always was, and is.

B. God created something out of nothing.

Psalm 19:1-2 The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. ² Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge.

Gen 1:31 God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning-- the sixth day.

II. GOD BRINGS FORM TO THE EARTH AND FILLS IT

Genesis 1:2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

- A. In the first 3 days, God brings form to the earth. God creates varied environments with sharp contrasts: light from darkness, sky from ocean, and land from sea. On the 3rd day, He begins to fill the land with plants.
- B. On the 4-6th days He sets out to fill the environments He has created in the first 3 days.

Day 4: sun, moon, and stars – corresponding to light and darkness of day 1

Day 5: birds and fish fill the sky and sea created in day 2

Day 6: animals and Adam to occupy land created on day 3

III. SCIENTIFIC CONSIDERATIONS

- A. The Creation Account in Genesis is very realistic and not like the myths of other “creations stories.”
- B. There is broad agreement with modern scientists and the order of Genesis 1: e.g. creatures appeared in the sea before they appeared on the land. Man appeared last.
- C. The Hebrew word translated day (“Yom”) can mean a 24-hour day, 12 hours of light, or an era of time.
 - 1. Some have suggested that there is a gap of time between v. 2 and v.
 - 2. Others say that the flood would change the apparent age of rocks.
 - 3. Others say that it is God’s days – eras of time. E.g. 7th day has no end in the text, it is not a 24-hour day.

IV. ALL THREE MEMBERS OF THE GODHEAD ARE INVOLVED IN CREATION

- A. Vs. 1, The word used for “God” is a plural word for God (*Elohim*), hinting at the idea of the Triune God. One God, three persons. Father is the one who initiates. In the beginning God. Jesus is the Word of God that is spoken (John 1:1-3, 10). They work and cooperate together in unity.
- B. Vs. 2 Holy Spirit. The Spirit (ruach: wind, breath, Spirit) of God was hovering over the waters (Job. 33:4)

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- C. Vs. 3 the Word of God, Jesus (Heb. 1:2; John 1:1-3; Col. 1:16-17)

Col. 1:16-17 For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

V. MAN IS GIVEN A PROMINENT ROLE IN GOD’S CREATION (GENESIS 2)

- A. In Genesis 1, man is created in God’s image. God rules the universe. God gives authority to mankind to rule the earth. God’s instruction to Adam was to conquer the earth, rule over God’s creation. In Gen. 2, God puts Adam in the garden to tend and keep it.

Gen 1:28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

- B. God creates woman out of man to help him fulfill God's mandate. God gives Adam a helper (KJV: help meet) (Gen. 2:18).
- C. Origins of marriage. It is not a social, cultural thing, but God's original design. Biological, spiritual, relational, it's the way God created it to be and He blessed it (Gen. 2:23-24)

VI. THE FALL (GENESIS 3)

- A. After God finished creating the world, God says it was very good. Few people would say it is very good today. What happened?
- B. The serpent comes to deceive Eve. The serpent goes against the authority that God has established, and goes to Eve. What was Adam doing? Why wasn't he helping her, arguing against the Serpent? Later God holds Adam accountable.
- C. The serpent adds to, takes away from, and changes what God's had originally commanded Adam (compare Gen. 2:16-17 with 3:3)
- D. Adam blames Eve. Eve blames the serpent. Judgment for sin follows. Birth will be painful, the ground is cursed, life will be difficult.
- E. Even in judgment, God is merciful. 2 Things in this chapter look forward to the redemptive work that Jesus would accomplish through the cross. God promises that the seed of the woman will crush the serpent's head (Gen. 3:15, 21). God sacrifices an animal and clothes Adam and Eve with skin to cover them.
- F. God, in order to limit the damage that man has caused, banishes him from the Garden of Eden.

VII. GENESIS AND REVELATION: ALPHA & OMEGA

Redemption Fulfilled. All that was lost in The Fall, Jesus came to restore through the Cross. God is not only the Alpha, He is also the Omega.

- A. New Heaven and New Earth

Revelation 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

1. Heaven and earth will be renewed. There will be a New Jerusalem. This is the city that Abraham saw and believed God for.
2. Heaven and earth will be joined together.

Eph 1:9-10 And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, 10 to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment-- to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.

B. Marriage of the Lamb

Rev. 19:7-8 Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. 8 Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)

C. Ruling and reigning with Christ. Not only does God want to be with us, God wants us to rule and reign with Him.

Rev. 22:5 There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

2 Tim 2:12 if we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us;

Rev 3:21 To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne.

Luke 19: 17 "'Well done, my good servant!' his master replied. 'Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.'

D. The Bridal paradigm of authority and reward is based on our desire to be with Him where He is and to do what He is doing. In other words, we want to be involved in what He calls precious. We will cherish and enjoy working closely with the One we love in the details of discipling the nations and in bringing people we love to the fullness of blessing under the Father's authority. This paradigm is established on love. If we view authority in the age-to-come as a way of walking in close partnership with Jesus, then we will deeply value and desire it. We will have great joy in being rewarded with the privilege of close partnership with Jesus.

Matt. 25:21 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness (enjoyment)!"