

In the Beginning

Genesis 1:1-5

12/02/07

Intro

Mark this date because we are now starting once again in Genesis. We are going through chapter by chapter through the entire bible. For those new to the church, it's important to understand that at the Wednesday evening service we will go through every verse and chapter and then on Sunday mornings we will look deeply into a section of scripture from what we study on Wednesdays.

Paul wrote that he "did not shrink back from declaring to you the whole counsel of God." We cannot give the whole counsel of God without giving the whole of God's Word.

Genesis is a book of beginnings. In fact, the word, 'Genesis' actually means beginning. Here we understand the answers to some of the greatest questions people wrestle with, such as how did I come into being, who is God, what is His plan for the ages?

The book begins with a powerful statement that we should carefully note because it has great importance to the rest of God's Word...

I. In the Beginning - God

- Yes it says, "In the beginning God created," but we have to start with just these four words and look carefully at what is behind them.

A. Even before the creation - God

- God existed eternally before creation. That one statement is more than our minds can comprehend.

- God is infinite – God is only limited by His own character. For example, these two verses are both true...

Luke 1:37, "For nothing will be impossible with God."

Hebrews 6:17-18, In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie,

- We also know that before the creation God was already committed to loving us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 1:4-5, He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,

B. No one created God

- This is actually a common question, "Who created God?" I have been asked this many times.
- I always give the same answer. If God was created, then He isn't God.
- It seems that some people like to come up with questions that they think trap Christians into denying God.

Illus – Another question they think proves that God doesn't exist is, "Can God make a rock so big that even He cannot lift it?" The answer is straightforward – no.

God cannot make something finite greater than that which is infinite -- Himself.

- The problem is that some people are looking for an excuse to not believe in God, because if there is a God, then they are accountable to Him for their lives.
- But God has made Himself known so that no man will have an excuse.

Romans 1:18-25 No excuses before God!

C. How great is our God!

- “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth” also helps understand who God is. He is revealing Himself to answer the question asked by the Pharaoh of Egypt...

Exodus 5:2, But Pharaoh said, “Who is the Lord that I should obey His voice...?”

- God answers that for us as for all men, that He is not some local God made from wood and stiled with silver and gold.

Note: The god of Mormonism is also a local deity, by the way, He is the god of this planet only, assigned here by a counsel of gods residing on the planet Kolob.

- No way! He is the creator of the universe! There is none like Him and none beside Him.

Isaiah 40:21-31 Who could be His equal?

Illus – How amazing is God’s creation! 1 million earths would fit into the sun! But Antares is 700 times larger than that! There is even a star in the southern hemisphere that if you traveled at the speed of light, it would take just over three hours to pass through it!!

App – It puts our life and our problems in perspective.

Psalm 138:7-8, Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You will revive me... Your right hand will save me. The Lord will accomplish what concerns me; Your lovingkindness, O Lord, is everlasting;

II. God Makes Something Out of Nothing

- Only God can make something out of nothing.
- How did this happen? The scripture answers with...

A. God said... and it was so

- First there was God, and then God spoke and He created the heavens and the earth. By faith we understand this is true.

Hebrews 11:1-3, Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the men of old gained approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.

- It is logically reasonable that if there is a God, He can make something out of nothing.
- It also takes faith to believe that *something came out of nothing*. However, it is not logically reasonable to believe that there was nothing and

then there was something. *Therefore, it takes more faith to be an atheist than to be a Christian.*

- But by faith we understand that God created the vastness and greatness of the universe, but that He also had us in mind as the crowning glory.

Psalm 8:1, 4, O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth, who have displayed Your splendor above the heavens! ...When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained; what is man that You take thought of him, and the son of man that You care for him?

Isaiah 49:15-16, “Can a woman forget her nursing child and have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, but I will not forget you. Behold, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands;”

App – God, who knows each star by name, is the same God who said that He would never leave you or forsake you, that He would supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus, that He would come again to receive you unto Himself.

B. And it was good

- Another statement we see in Genesis is, “And it was good.”
- The word means beneficial, good as in complete.
- There is of course a great debate about whether we developed through evolution. The creation account tells us that God created by His Word and it was good – complete.

- It seems straightforward that if there is an amazing design, then there must be an amazing designer.

Illus - Charles Darwin, in his Origin of Species, said, “If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications, my theory would absolutely break down.”

- The theory breaks down completely with the principle of irreducible complexity.

Illus - Biochemist Michael J. Behe, Ph.D. explains, “...a system or device is irreducibly complex if it has a number of different components that all work together to accomplish the task of the system, and if you were to remove one of the components, the system would no longer function.”

Illus – Some examples of this are easily seen. i.e. “Don’t pick that scab,” our moms would say, and if it weren’t for scabs we would die. The mechanism cannot evolve because everything prior would be extinct even before it lived!

Bombardier beetle - hydrogen peroxide and hydroquinone explodes at will...

Woodpecker must have everything in place or he dies.

- God formed the earth that was formless. He shaped what was good out of that which was nothing.

Isaiah 45:8-12 He is the potter