

The God of Creation, part 2

Genesis 1:1-5

(preached Pine Grove 1/21/18; Sunday PM)

Introduction

The more I grow in my walk with the Lord, the more I am amazed at the power of sin in the world..

The more I read the Bible and understand the human nature, the more I am shocked at how sin touches every part of us as people..

Sin truly blinds our eyes, our hearts, and our minds in so many ways...

That is why you can have men and women of incredible intelligence who speak like fools in regards to who God is, what He does, or even if He exists...

That is what the big bang theory and theory of evolution truly are...

They are works of foolishness invented by foolish men who are blinded to the truth how this universe was truly created...

They are the product of bad science by men who are excellent scientists in other fields...

So how do incredibly intelligent people produce such foolishness?

Well, it gets back to the tragic consequences of sin...

Think of Charles Darwin....

He was a brilliant scientist...

Nobody questions that fact, but you see Charles Darwin had the same problem that all of us have...

He was born a sinner in need of a Savior...

And all people come to realize their sin due the fact that God wrote his law on every human heart and then gave us a conscience that sounded when we broke his law...

Everyone who has ever lived sees their sin...

And there are really a couple options when you realize that you are a sinner..

One is to respond to the conscience and seek a Savior...

Some people see their sin and realize their need to have it forgiven, and they seek to find that solution to sin in the gospel of Christ...

Others see their sin and try to silence their conscience...

Alcohol, drugs, immoral relationships, jobs, money are all attempts by people to shut up their screaming conscience...

Others, like Darwin, see their sin and try to outthink it...

And the best way to outthink your sin is to make it seem like it really doesn't matter...

So what people do is attack the existence of God...

You see, if you have a universe without God, then there is no one to answer to in terms of your sin..

Darwin said that if his theory were accepted, the whole structure of creation would collapse and man would be no more than the highest animal..

And if man were nothing more than a product of evolution, he could not be accountable to God.

Though Darwin produced much deceit, he was telling the truth there...

The foundation of the theory of evolution was to find a way for Charles Darwin to not be accountable to God..

And there are many who support his theory today that do so for the same reason...

You see, man has a sin problem, and his conscience tells him that every day...

And if he doesn't silence his conscience through salvation in Christ, he has to silence it through artificial ways or he has to eliminate God...

And many like Darwin have taken the last option...

You see that is the power of sin...

It can take a great scientist and cause him to act like a horrible scientist all because he wants to find a universe that wasn't created by God....

Think of the kid with his hand in cookie jar when his mom walks in...

He can ...

- a) Admit his sin and ask for forgiveness.
- b) Run in opposite direction while making excuses.
- c) Pretend you aren't there.

You see, there are people who developed and support the theory of evolution because they are trying to find a way to pretend God isn't there...

Now, they may say things like evolution is good science..

Evolution is supported by this or by that...

But behind the smoke and mirrors of their foolish view is the the hope that they can rid their consciences of the existence of God..

Now if you are someone like that, where do you begin your attempt to erase God?

Well, you begin with the explanation that God gave for how the universe came into existence, and that explanation is the first chapter of Genesis...

And you hope to deceive people enough with foolish science that the words of Genesis 1 lose their power...

Well, hopefully that doesn't describe you tonight...

But if it does, understand this...

Nothing will silence your guilt conscience until you admit your sin and respond in repentance and faith in Christ...

Because no scientific theory, no drug, no relationship will cause God to disappear along with your accountability to Him...

You are accountable to your creator regardless of what foolish scientists say...

And here is why, - God created you and the universe in which you live, and you are accountable to Him...

So let's continue our look at the opening chapter of Genesis tonight...

We didn't get completely through verse 1 last week, but my plan tonight is to at least get us through the first day of creation tonight...

So, let's go bak to the real and true way that this world came into existence and that is found in verse 1..

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

Now remember, this first verse is simply a summary statement of what happened in the first 6 days of creation..

It is the main idea of what is to follow in verses 2-31 of Genesis 1...

And last week, we almost finished verse 1 in our look at this miraculous supernatural event of God creation the heavens and earth out of nothing...

I also want to remind that as we look at these verses, we don't come to the word of God as skeptics...

We come to the story of creation with trust in the inerrant word of God..

We dont come looking for holes in the verses, we come knowing that God has given us the truth of creation...

So as I preach these verses, I don't preach them trying to defend the word of God...

The word of God needs no defense...

It is like a lion in a cage...

You simply let it out and it defends itself..

So I refuse to approach these verses as the skeptical and scientist...

As Romans 3:4 says...

Let God be true and every man a liar..

Therefore, as I preach through the days of creation, my aim is not to create doubt but create confidence in the trustworthiness of what is written...

So just like last week, I want us to approach of creation to see what each day reveals about God...

Instead of approaching each day seeing how we can doubt God..

And last week, we were reminded of some things that we already know about God....

#1 - Genesis 1:1 reveals that God is eternal...

If God created everything in the beginning, he was clearly before the beginning...

#2 - Genesis 1:1 reveals that God is three in one..

The Hebrew word for God here is Elohim in the plural form...

So, the triune nature of God as Father, Son and Spirit was active in the creation of the universe...

We will see more about that today..

#3 - Genesis 1:1 reveals that God is a Creator.

The Hebrew verb here is bara, which describes the making of something out of nothing which is only a quality of God...

God is a Creator and he creates not with a magic wand or lasers by by his Word...

Now what did God create in the beginning?

Well, the end of verse 1 tells us....

God creates the heavens and the earth...

That phrase 'the heavens and the earth' is simply a way of saying God created the entire universe..

Now remember the book of Genesis is first being read by Israel in 1500-1400 BC.

They is no space exploration or telescopes to let them know what is beyond the place that they live...

They know two things about their environment...

There is the ground on which they walk and there is the sky above them...

So, the phrase 'the heavens and the earth' would entail everything around them...

What Moses is telling them in verse 1 is that God has created everything that they know about...

Now, I think we all understand the idea of God making the earth but what is this concept of the heavens?

Well, the term heavens in Hebrew is hasamayim..

It is a plural word, so the idea is that God created the heavens..

Now what is this idea of the heavens include?

Well, the first heaven would be the atmosphere of the earth...

The second heavens would be all of outer space beyond our atmosphere..

And the third would be the heaven beyond our sight where God dwells....

And at creation, God created all 3...

In a sense, the creation of the heavens is a creation of space...

Space around our planet but also space for other planets and stars and other heavenly bodies..

So notice the order of what God does here...

He creates the space first and then he fills the space with stuff...

If you look at the days of creation, the flow is to make some room and then to fill that room with things...

In the same way that you build the house first, and then you fill it with furniture and fixtures and other things...

God is a God of order...

He is going to create the place for the things and then he is going to create the things to go in the place...

IV. God is a Shaper (2)

Now, we must leave verse 1, but we are still in day 1 as we come to verse 2..

Which says this..

2 The earth was [a]formless and void, and darkness was over the [b]surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was [c]moving over the [d]surface of the waters.

The question about verse 2 is what is going on here?

Is this idea of formless and void and darkness a sign that something isn't good?

And the answer to that is no...

There is no sin yet...

The darkness isn't a result of evil, but rather it is a result of light having not yet been created..

The formlessness and void isn't a result of evil, but rather a result of God not being done with it yet...

This is the picture in my mind of the play-dough on the plate in front of the kid...

Everything he needs is there...

He just has to pick it up and shape it into something like a duck or a house or a car...

This is the picture of the potter and the potter's wheel with a lump of clay...

Nothing is wrong with the lump of clay, it is just ready to be fashioned into a piece of pottery...

The same is true here with the first day of creation..

God has before him all the material he needs to create...

It is simply formless and void and all of it is covered in darkness....

Now, we need to make a note that the raw material of the earth must have been a circle of water that was pretty deep...

And all of it is engulfed in darkness..

Now, a lot of critics of a 6 day creation say this...

Why didn't God create the earth just as we see it today with dry land and water already separated...

With day and night already formed?

With cows and birds and fish already in place?

Why did he take 6 days to do it all?

Why did he take time to give it form and fill the void of verse 2?

Why did he create it with our form?

Well, once we have to get into the mind of God to know for sure, but let me offer you a thought here..

I think God delights in seeing things take shape...

Think of your own life as a believer?

When God saved you, he could have just made you into super-Christian right at the moment of salvation...

He could have taken away all your sinful temptations and removed all your bad habits..

But instead what does God do?

He saves you and he begins a good work in you..

His Spirit works to form you and to fill the void of your old life with new habits and new desires....

As believers, we are still under construction...

Now, let me be clear...

I am not in the process getting more saved, but I am still being shaped by God into the image of His Son...

In that respect, the formlessness and void of the earth served a purpose in helping us understand more about God...

It illustrates his transforming power...

God could have created a world that needed no transformation, but he created one that was formless and void for a day to show us that he has the power to not only create but also the power to form and fill...

In fact, I would offer that as a fourth characteristic of God that we see on Day 1 of creation...

God is a shaper of life..

And how does God shape the earth?

Well, God takes an active part in it.

Look at the second half of verse 2..

the Spirit of God was [c]moving over the [d]surface of the waters.

So, we have a world covered in water and darkness, but above that watery and dark world, the Spirit of God is moving...

I actually prefer a better translation here...

The word for moving is actually the idea of hovering..

Some translations actually use the word hovering here, which is much better...

Now, Tonya hates the idea of something hovering over here...

In fact, if you aint a ceiling fan, you better not hover over Tonya or she will slap you away...

But the idea of hovering here in verse 2 is not the picture of annoyance but just the opposite...

The picture of God's Spirit hovering is a picture of concern and care...

The same word is used in Deuteronomy 32:11 for a eagle who builds a nest and hovers over her young...

The picture of the Spirit hovering over the dark waters is not a picture of evil but of a God caring for his yet unfinished creation...

Which reveals another aspect of who God is...

V. God is Near (2)

He is not a detached God that is far off and unconcerned about his creation...

Instead, he creates and he cares and His Spirit is at work giving shape to the creation...

Again, what a picture of our lives at salvation...

God doesn't save us and depart...

He saves us and gives us His Spirit, and what does the Spirit do?

He cares for us and shapes us and protect us and transforms us into a better creation...

This is the Spirit of God in creation hovering over a formless and void earth in order to shape it and change it..

What a picture of God's compassion!

There are people in world who call themselves deists...

A deist is someone who acknowledges the existence of God...

But he doesn't think God cares about His creation..

A deist would say that God created it all but he turned his back and left it all alone....

Therefore, man is to do the best he can with what he has...

But verse 2 proves that deism is wrong...

God created but God also cares...

He has not abandoned His formless and void creation, but He is right there bringing form to it and beginning to fill the void...

But before the earth is shaped and filled, we need some light, and that brings us to verse 3, where we read this..

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. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.

The first day of creation was finished, it would make sense that we need to know what a day is...

So God created day and night before the first day was completed...

Now, darkness was already present in creation as we saw in verse 2...

So in a sense, God had the material to create nighttime, but He lacked the material for day so he created light..

Was this the sun?

No, it clearly wasn't the sun since it wasn't created until day 4...

So what was this light?

Well, I believe it to be the light of God...

All throughout the Scriptures, God is described as a God of light...

Jesus called himself the light of the world...

When we go into eternity future, there is no need for the sun or moon because the glory of God will be the light of the new heavens and new earth...

Now did God take some of his light to provide for the newly created earth?

I don't know how this happened specifically because the Bible doesn't say..

God simply said let there be light in the world and there was light...

But not only did God create light, he divided it from the darkness...

And in that division of light and dark, we have day and night...

Now, it doesn't say this, but I think it is safe to assume that the watery world is now rotating on its axis so that half of the world is in darkness while the other half of the world is in light...

And that rotation continues today....

We are rotating into darkness as I speak right now at about 1000 miles per hour...

And through that rotation, we experience day and night...

Now, this is clear evidence of why a day right here in Genesis 1 is a 24 hour period...

It is not a representative of a longer period of time...

The word that Moses used here for day is the word “yom,” which means a literal 24 hour day...

Now, could “yom” mean a longer period of time..

It could and sometimes it was even used to represent a longer period of time...

But most often, “yom” meant a 24 hour day...

Now on top of that, there is another note to make about “yom”..

Every time, the word “yom” was used in conjunction with a number, it meant a literal day...

Right here at the end of verse 5, Moses writes “yom ehad”...

Ehad is the word for one in hebrew...

So here you have a number used beside the word “yom”, and therefore the evidence of the language used points to a 24 hour day...

And that is exactly what day 1 of creation was like..

It was a literal 24 day where God created an formless and void earth covered in water and all the water was hovered over by His Spirit....

Then he created light, and separated it from the darkness and day 1 of creation was complete...

And notice a word in verse 4 that God is going to use often in the opening chapter of the Bible...

God saw that the light was good...

You see, the record of creation is the record of God's goodness in how he created the heavens and the earth...

There is no evil in the 6 days of creation...

There is no death or sin or violence or evil...

Satan is still a heavenly angel...

Evil is still locked out of creation..

Things in the universe are good because the One who is creating them is good...

And though that may seem obvious, Christians who endorse evolution and say that God used evolution have a huge problem in the word "good"...

And here is their problem...

Evolution says that things change over time as they grow and mature and change into something better...

And what is a necessary part of evolution?

Well, you have to have death...

Things must die over millions of years if God were using evolution...

But that is an issue for two reasons...

One, death is the result of sin, and there has been no sin...

And the other issue is this..

How could God dealer the goodness of all he is doing is things are dying all in his creation?

How is death and disease good?

Certainly, light wouldnt be good because it would only allow God to see all this death and decay...

You see, the reason God can declare light good and the reason HE will eventually declare all of creation good at the end of day 6 is because it was all good....

There was no evolution occurring in these 6 symbolic days according to the Christina evolutionist...

God wasn't forming the earth through natural selection and evolution...

No, God created in 6 days, and each day was perfect and good because the One who created on each day was perfect and good...

God is good, and he doesn't need the ugliness of the death and decay of evolution to create the heavens and the earth...

He did it in 6 literal days, and each day was good...

Conclusion

Well, we made it through day 1 at least...

But there are 5 more days of creation to go before a 7th day of rest...

Oh by the way, one interesting note to leave you with tonight...

I will never forget having a conversation with a lady who was critical of me of studying on a Sunday....

She said that God made Sundays to rest and that she didn't do anything on Sunday...

No housework, cooking, cleaning, etc...

And that studying on a Sunday was work, and I was wrong fro doing it...

Well, I took her to the book of Colossians first which says that no one is to be your judge in the church in regards to the Sabbath...

I also took her to the passages in the NT that take about Jesus being our Sabbath rest...

And that speak of Jesus as Lord of the Sabbath...

And to Mark 2:27 where Jesus says that the Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath...

Then I thought of Genesis 1:1-5 which speaks of the first day of creation, which in the Jewish mind is what day?

Well, Jews see Sunday as the first day of the week...

Their Sabbath is on Saturday, so Sunday is a work day for them...

And where do they get that pattern?

From the words of Moses in the book of Exodus and right here in Genesis...

In the Jewish reckoning of things, God's first day of creation was a Sunday and he rested on Saturday...

I explained some of that to that lady and she said, "You are telling me that God worked on Sunday?"

I said, "I can't prove that by what is written here, but it seems that may be a great possibility."

And then I went back to studying...

Let us pray...