

Gen 1 vs 1-5 for 1/7/18

Bible – is a book that presents the redemptive-historical narrative of mankind. It begins and ends with man in fellowship with God in paradise or Kingdom of God (Gen 2 and Rev 22).

Bible is the history of man's salvation – how he was created – how he fell – and then long story to get to Cross. The story continues through the resurrection of Christ and eventually the return of Christ – then our resurrection – at which point our redemption is complete and we live eternally in the presence of God – That is the summary from Genesis to Revelation.

So, the Bible is God's word and his truth, but it is not an exhaustive narrative of our history. It focuses on the reasons and the method of our salvation.

Pentateuch- It is the foundation of our faith- from it we learn who we are, where we came from, where we are going, and how we should live.

Every current issue we face is addressed in the Pentateuch. In some cases it seems the cultures Israel was evicting from the Promised Land were even worse than what we are today – causing us to think we have not yet degenerated to the level of some of the pagan traditions. However- consider the parallel of how they burned their children as offerings to God to the methods of abortion today. Consider the slippery slope can in fact cause our abortion to lead into infanticide and beyond-something beyond its original intention.

Last week Pastor Eric talked about worship and these chapters tell us who to worship – why we should worship – and how to worship.

Many so called ancient religions were actually established after Moses wrote the Pentateuch – Consider the fact that all mankind knew the truth at one time and that the truth was corrupted throughout the ages – one of the reasons there is value in philosophy because it questions the validity of traditions about reality and cosmology –

One example of such corruption is Greek version of where heaven and earth came from – Black bird sat on a golden egg that hatched after unknown number of years –the top half became heaven and the bottom became earth – they came together and gave birth to the rest of the creatures - (compare the truth of Holy Spirit hovering over the face of the deep) –

This study is important enough to your walk that I want to encourage you to keep up – if you miss go to the web site and listen –

We will also be doing an apologetics study in our Wednesday small group. The study will help us in defending our faith – not arguing or debating but as Peter put it – in the face of conflict we will be prepared to answer why we have hope in a world that is seemingly falling apart.

Plan to take these same studies to Middle & High school students in Sunday School next month.

Illus – lee strobil – case for Christ (note on AMA journal on death of Christ – Roman soldiers put the spear there for a reason – they were looking for evidence that he was dead and confirmed his death to Pilate)

Genesis

One of the reasons we have the first eleven chapters is to show that there are at least three occasions when all of mankind knew God and openly rejected Him

Note it is written in such a way that readers of that day would be able to verify it.

Note the first section – ch 1-11 – introduces the characters – then once Abraham is introduced much more time on him and it culminates with Jacob coming into Egypt with whole family

Then continues with Israel as the people of God bringing glory to God – revealing God to the world – intent that world looks at them and sees Israel has a great God (cp Matt 5:16).

Intro to **today's** passage **Gen 1:1-5**

From nothing to something

From darkness to light

I. From Nothing to Something vss 1-2

In the beginning God – that is all there was – our earth did not even exist – only God

In the beginning – our beginning not God's -

I AM – God is saying he is the one who is – the one who exists – the one who brought the world into existence- He is the source of all existence - Ex. 3:14 – tells of God as existence – Matt 22:32 used to signify God as living – eternal being – John 8:24 and 58 Jesus is the I AM – God in the flesh – The same phrase sealed his death on the cross for the Pharisees

Elohim – plural of elhovah (Jehovah) implies Trinity from the very first verse – remember this is written and accepted by Jews/Israelites – who insist upon penalty of death – there is in One God and God is one – Deut 6:4 –Shows God as personal – relational – God of love – Eternal. Point is God did not need humanity – he already had relationship and love.

In the beginning God created – He is the source – there is no other source

God brought the world into existence – He already existed

– He cannot cause something to happen if he does not exist

– see also John 1:1-3 Christ is eternal – He is God

– Jesus is Creator – see also Col. 1: 16-18

Therefore Jesus is God.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth

- earth is not some reshaped meteorite
- there was nothing and then God made something – ex nihilo – out of nothing – brought it into existence

Hebrew word use is 'bara' and notes bringing something into existence that did not already exist. In OT this word is always associated with God

Illus - versus big bang theory which has something creating **itself** out of nothing which is impossible since it did not exist in order to create.

Arg - It is God's glory to bring something from nothing – But assumes God existed first.

Appl – No shame in believing in creation - only creation account makes sense in terms of rational thinking – black bird on the golden egg does not account for the bird or the egg – big bang does not account for source of the explosion – looks at universe today and assumes it always did that – makes universe eternal – in the end the decision is moral not scientific or rational – other accounts leave no place for purpose – do not answer the questions of life. The facts are laid out in historical fashion – note generations and names of places even described. It is imperative for humanity to understand its origin in order to properly flourish in this world.

II. From Darkness to Light vs. 3-5

Once God created the mass of the earth He saw it as without form and void and darkness covered it

- so then God began to shape it
- not the forces of the universe-

God was intimately involved in the forming of the earth

The Spirit of God hovered over it – shaping it and bringing it to life –

Darkness – so he said- “Let there be light.” When God said it, is when it happened.

- and God saw that the light was good
- and God divided it from the darkness

Time? Did not exist before God created

- time is for our understanding
- time is a means for us to measure
- a tool to help us know when to work or when to sleep
- based on time for earth to rotate – not sun and moon
- the seasons we will see later are an extension of that time and tell us when to plant or harvest.

But note that time exists and God uses it to help us understand the events of creation. These are measured in days

- no evidence that this is an allegory
- no evidence of metaphors – it does not say ‘like’ a day – it says ‘day’.
- note the references to ‘night and day ‘
- certainly a reference at least to the separation of light and darkness

– Remember our day is measured by how long it takes to make an entire revolution. Anyone can measure it now by when the sun comes back up. However, there are parts of the world where days pass, but the sun may not come up for longer periods than the time for the earth to revolve. (rotate on its axis)

We may need the sun to measure a day, but God never did. God created the earth and set it in motion even before He brings the sun into the picture. God set a duration for its rotation.

Time then is somewhat scientific, but also a very social entity. We use it to interact with the rest of our world. God calls the time periods for the sum total of rotation as evening and morning.

Illus - – even though Alaska may have a season where the sun does not shine they still have morning and evening. Still have to figure out their work, play, and sleep times even without it.

Arg – shows accountability – if light is missing still held responsible – point of Rom. 1-2 & 10.

Appl – - Jesus is creator and He is light -brings light into dark heart of sinners.

– God’s glory when sinner comes out of darkness into the light of Christ and becomes a child of God

– Receive the light John 1:12 (versus refusing the light in John 3:19-21)

– Church must be the light as Matt 5:14-17

– Since all still accountable imperative that we get the light out to the ends of the world.

Concl

These verses and the following chapters and books are great encouragement for us.

The Bible is an instruction manual – telling us why we are alive and how we should live.

We do not need to be ashamed of what we believe in Christ – there is historical, scientific and philosophical evidence for the veracity of scripture. The Bible does not set out to prove itself though – It is simply God speaking to his creation – The Bible is not an exhaustive history or science book – but since God is its author the content will not contradict truth as God is truth.

We should be encouraged because in Christ we have the power to overcome sin, overcome the void in our hearts, to overcome loneliness. Christ generates hope while everything in our world is crying out despair and devastation – Christ is the only one who can bring peace to this world- most other religions are not even offering peace unless it is by the sword. Christ does it by changing hearts.

Why would we be ashamed of the Gospel of Christ when it is the power to save others?

The questions people are trying to answer are addressed in these pages.
We need to know the questions and we need to know how God answers them.
People are people throughout history and throughout the world today.

We celebrate uniqueness but God speaks from a top down view – overseeing all people and shows our commonalities – especially our common purpose and our common needs and how they are met in Christ.