

DATE: April 6, 2008

TEXT: Genesis 1: 1-25

TITLE: “Genesis II: Creation”



This morning we begin digging into the book of Genesis. We are looking at six and a half days this morning. Again let me say we will not be doing a verse by verse study... that would take years. We are looking at overall lessons from our text each week.

I will begin with a brief word about the structure of the text. The text begins with an introduction which is 2 verses long and then is broken down into 6 days of creation. In the six days 8 acts of creation take place. Day 3 and day 6 have two acts of creation. There are two main sections of creation. On days 1, 2 and 3 the earth is created and prepared for life. On days 4, 5, and 6. The earth is populated with life.

Before I turn to our main lesson, I want to share some preliminary observations.

Preliminary observation # 1. There is a debate over the interpretation of the word “yom”, in Hebrew, translated as ‘Day’ in English. The question is this: Was the earth created in 6 literal 24 hour days or did God take millions of years to create the earth? This all depends on how you

interpret the word “yom” or day. There are two interpretations:

Interpretation # 1 Yom means 24 hour days.... therefore the earth was created in 6 days.

Many Biblical scholars hold this position. This is called the “Young Earth argument.” Their argument is two fold. First, they point out that the most common meaning of “yom” is 24 hours.

Again and again this word is used to mean an ordinary day.

Second, they believe the geological evidence and the scientific evidence that is used to prove old earth is explained by the fact of the great flood and by an age of volcanic activity. In studying the aftermath of Mount St. Helens the stratification of layers of earth and layers of life is seen and the carbon dating is seen as a result of ash and lava.

Interpretation # 2 “Yom” means eras and creation could indeed take millions of years.

These are called “old earth creationists.” This is called the “frame work hypothesis.”

Advocates of this position state that upon occasion in scripture “yom” does indeed mean long periods of time. Scripture itself says for God “a day is like a thousand years.”(2 Peter 3:8).

They state Genesis does indeed tell of God’s creation but God took millions of years to carry out

His plan. Which view is true? I'll let you decide. If you want more information, I have more in my library.

Preliminary observation # 2 How do you balance the theory of evolution and Biblical creation? This is a little bit tricky because “evolution”. has become such a broad theory.

Biblical Christians have no problem with “micro evolution.” Change within a species. For example, early in the 6th day God created dogs. Did God say I'm going to make Collies, and St. Bernards, and wolves, and Poodles? Maybe ... but maybe not. Withing the species of “dog”, over many years many breeds developed. However, I also believe this disproves natural selection... if natural selection were true, there would be no such thing as a poodle.

However, if evolution means macro evolution.... species developing without the guidance of a Supreme Being... this is rejected by Biblical Christians. *M. R. DeHaan states...*

There is, of course evolution and change within the various species of animals and plants, but never a crossing over from one into the other... Not one single proven example of an evolution from one species to another has ever been found.

No matter how many times a dog breeds over 10,000 years, a dog will never become a cat.

Genesis 1: 24 makes this point very clearly. It states....

And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so.

“According to its own kind.” Fish do not suddenly grow lungs and turn into amphibians.

Cross species evolution has never been seen in the fossil record.

Finally, evolution is never seen in life. Truthfully, the opposite is seen. If you leave something alone for a long period of time it does not develop upward...it rots. If left to itself, nature does not move upward, it devolves into chaos and death. God's hand is constantly needed to sustain life. I have here 25 pennies. I want to create a tower of pennies and they must be arranged perfectly by year - oldest minted to youngest minted. Here I Go. (Throw pennies.)

How many times will I have to throw the pennies to accomplish this task? A million, a billion, a hundred million... never. To accomplish this task I would have to take 5 minutes and stack them using intelligence and ability. A human DNA strand is made up of 23 pairs of chromosomes. Each chromosome has 1000's of bits of information. They must be in perfect order or you have a major birth defect. This can only happen by intelligence and ability...God.

O.K. Lets now turn to our main lesson. The central focus on the creation story is God.

Not on the creation, but on God. I am going to share three lessons we can see on God in our text.

Lesson # 1 God is... or God is not. *Genesis 1:1, states....* **“In the beginning God...”**

You see the problem with evolution is that it begins with “In the beginning was chance.”

And then later for non-theistic evolutionists there is “At the center of everything is man.” Every single person on the face of this earth has got to decide if they are man centered or God centered.

You cannot have it both ways.

Notice the very first thing created on Day one. *Genesis 1:3 states....*

And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. 4 God saw that the light was good, and He separated the light from the darkness.

What was this light? Its source was not the sun. The sun and the moon were created on the 4th day. What was this light? It was the light of God Himself. It was His glory and presence on the earth. The *New American Commentary* states it this way...

This “light” on the first day then is indicative of the presence of God both at creation and among the people of Israel, a light that both reveals and conceals the presence of God. The light at creation was the first word, the word that is indistinct from God’s personal presence. Yet in contrast to the incompleteness of Moses now the “true Light” has come who is the very first “Word,” not distinct from God. (This is taught in John 1: 9-18)

We also see this lesson clearly taught by Paul in *2 Corinthians 4:1-6*

4The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 5For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. 6For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness,"made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

This is the Gospel. It is seen in Genesis and seen in the New Testament. Light is in the world. Chance is not god. Man is not god.... only the Creator is God. And the work of the Creator is evident. The presence of the Creator is promised. But that work and that presence has to be acknowledged and worshiped. Look at this last verse... he gave us..."the light of the knowledge of the glory in the face of Christ." We gain His knowledge. We experience His glory. We see His face. We are children of the Light. God created and began by placing His presence on earth.

Lesson # 2 God created by the power of his word. Day after Day after Day scripture says.... "And God said... " and then the act of creation took place.

Let me say this: everybody believes in eternal existence. The question is this: what do you believe existed eternally? Non-theistic evolutionists believe in the existence of matter and energy

eternally. Christians believe in the existence of God eternally.

In our text two words are used for creation. The first word in Hebrew is “bara”. It is translated “created”. It is found in verses 1, 21 and 27. The second word in Hebrew is “asah”. It is found in almost every other verse in our text and is translated “made.” The difference is this... bara ... create means create out of nothing. “Ex nihilo.” This is testified to in the New Testament. *Hebrews 11:3 states...*

By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

This shows the mighty power of God. We have an almighty, all powerful God. We have another example of God’s power in our text. *Verse 5 of our text says...*

“God called the light “day” and the darkness he called “night”

To name something indicates power over. God renamed Jacob to Israel. Jesus renamed Simon to Peter. God named the day and the night. God is over all of creation. This will become important next week when we see the creation of man.

Again this text is linked to the New Testament by the Apostle John. In *John 1* he states..

1In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was with God in the beginning. 3Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4In him was life, and that life was the light of men. 5The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. 9(Jesus is) the true light that gives light to every man who was coming into the world. 10He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. 11He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God..... 14The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Do you see the language that is the same? Jesus is the Light. Jesus is the creator... all things were made through Him. Jesus is Savior. Jesus is the Word. Jesus is the power of the world today who desires to save His people.

Lesson # 3 God not only made the world, he made it “good.” At the end of every day

God looked back upon His creation and “Saw that it was good.” Allow me to share a quote from

the *Pulpit Outline*

God wants man to know His goodness and grace. God wants man (believers) to experience all the splendor and facets of his glory and grace throughout all the ages. This is the very reason God saves us and gives us eternal life, the very reason he is going to create a new heaven and a new earth.

It is good. The creation is good. We are the new creation of God and we are good.

Allow me to conclude with this quote from *Col. 2*

15He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16For 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. 17He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.... 19For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, 20and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. 21Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. 22But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation— 23if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

We are the “new creation” in Christ....reconciled to God by the cross of Christ. God is not only the creator... He is the sustainer. He “holds all things together.”

We were born by the power of God.

We were reborn in the Christian family by the power of God.

We continue to be faithful to our Lord by the power of God

God is the center of the universe and the center of our lives. Praise be to Him.

AMEN