

GREATEST CHAPTERS IN THE BIBLE-01

Genesis, Chapter 01

I. INTRODUCTION.

A. Scripture text: **Genesis 1:26-31.**

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." [27] And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. [28] And God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." [29] Then God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you; [30] and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, *I have given every green plant for food*"; and it was so. [31] And God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

B. Genesis, chapter 1 is the recording of the beginning of creation.

C. God has not told us everything that we might want to know about this event, but He has told us everything we need to know.

II. THE CREATOR.

A. No scientist or historian can improve upon, "In the beginning God . . ." This simple statement refutes:

1. The atheist -- who says there is no God.
2. The agnostic -- who claims we cannot know God.
3. The polytheist -- who worships many gods.
4. The pantheist -- who says that "all nature is God."
5. The materialist -- who claims that matter is eternal and not created.
6. The fatalist -- who teaches that there is no divine plan behind creation and history.

B. God's personality is seen in this chapter, for He speaks, sees, names, and blesses. The scientist may claim that matter just "came into being," that life "happened," and that all complex forms of life "gradually evolved" from lower forms, but he cannot prove his claim.

C. Why did God create the universe? Certainly not to add anything to Himself, since He needs nothing.

Actually, creation limits God, since the Eternal must now confine Himself to work in time and human history. What does creation reveal about God? Creation reveals:

1. His wisdom and power (Job 28:23-27; Prov. 3:19).
(**Job 28:23-27**) "God understands its way; And He knows its place. [24] "For He looks to the ends of the earth, And sees everything under the heavens. [25] "When He imparted weight to the wind, And meted out the waters by measure, [26] When He set a limit for the rain, And a course for the thunderbolt, [27] Then He saw it and declared it; He established it and also searched it out.
(**Prov 3:19**) The LORD by wisdom founded the earth; By understanding He established the heavens.
2. His glory (Psa. 19:1).
The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.
3. His power and Godhead (Rom. 1:20).
For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.
4. His love for insignificant man (Psa. 8:3,4).
When I consider Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers, The moon and the stars, which Thou hast ordained; [4] What is man, that Thou dost take thought of him? And the son of man, that Thou dost care for him?
5. His providential care (Isa. 40:12-14).
Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, And marked off the heavens by the span, And calculated the dust of the earth by the measure, And weighed the mountains in a balance, And the hills in a pair of scales? [13] Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, Or as His counselor has informed Him? [14] With whom did He consult and *who* gave Him understanding? And *who* taught Him in the path of justice and taught Him knowledge, And informed Him of the way of understanding?

- D. Jesus Christ is the Author, Sustainer, and Goal of creation (see Col. 1:15-17; Rev. 4:11).
(Col. 1:15-17) And He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation. [16] For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created by Him and for Him. [17] And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.
(Rev 4:11) "Worthy art Thou, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for Thou didst create all things, and because of Thy will they existed, and were created."

III. THE CREATION.

- A. In order as expressed in, Gen. 1:3-31, we see God creating. The earth was formless, so God formed it and filled it up with what He wanted:
1. On the first day -- He separated light from darkness.
 2. On the second day -- He made the expanse of the heavens ("firmament").
 3. On the third day -- He caused the dry land to appear with filled it with plant life.
 4. On the fourth day -- He filled the heavens with stars and planets.
 5. On the fifth day -- He filled the earth with water and air animals.
 6. On the sixth day -- He filled the earth with land animals and created man.
- B. Man is the crown of Creation. Man was given the place of dominion over the earth, the highest position in Creation. "Elohim" created the man "in His image," referring to man's personality — mind, will, emotions, freedom — rather than his physical appearance (Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10).
(Eph 4:24) and put on the new self, which in *the likeness of God* has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.
(Col 3:10) and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him
- C. Four reasons to believe that the days of creation were 24-hour days as we know them:
1. The days are divided into evenings and mornings, according to the Hebrew custom; how, long could a period of time be that has an evening and morning?
 2. On the third day plants were made yet the sun did not appear until the fourth day; if a day was equal to "millions of years" how did plant life live that long without sunlight?
 3. The Hebrew day "yom" when used with numbers (cardinal or ordinal) always refers to a period of 24-hours.
 4. Adam was 130 years old when Seth was born making the time period between the sixth and seventh days of creation not millions of years long.
- D. There are 3 scientific laws that make evolution impossible:
1. The law of biogenesis.
 The law of biogenesis says that life must come from life and it is impossible for life to come from non-life (you can't get something from nothing). Evolution argues against this, the Bible argues for it.
 2. The first law of thermodynamics.
 This law says that no thing is being created nor is anything old thing being destroyed. Macro-evolution claims that new life was created. The Bible says that life has always existed; first in God and now in His creation. This law says that things may change form but are neither being created or destroyed. (Ex.: oil into gas, kerosene, and naphtha). This law says that the "quantity of life in the universe stays the same while the quality goes down." Evolution will try to argue just the opposite, has taken place. Evolution argues against this law, but the Bible supports it.
 3. The second law of thermodynamics.
 This is the law of entropy which says that when one product changes into another there is a loss of usable energy and there is irreversible heat energy. (Ex.: burn a log and only smoke, heat and ashes are left, which is less than what you started with). Evolution argues against this, the Bible supports it.
- E. Theistic evolution runs into the same problems as does the above.

IV. THE NEW CREATION.

A. Second Corinthians 5:17 make it clear that, in X, God has a new creation. Paul uses imagery from the Genesis creation account to illustrate this new creation.

Therefore if any man is in Christ, *he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*

B. Notice the following parallel's between the creation and the new creation.

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| 1. The earth was "formless and void" (Gen. 1:2). | 1. Man becomes a sinner; his life purposeless, empty and dark (Col. 1:13,14). |
| 2. The HS moves upon the waters of the earth (Gen. 1:2b). | 2. Through the word, the HS brings light to the heart of the sinner (Psa. 119:130). |
| 3. God divides light from darkness (Gen. 1:3). | 3. The word righteously divides today (Heb. 4:12). |
| 4. Adam has dominion over the animals (Gen. 1:26). | 4. Xians reign with X today (Rom. 5:17; Eph. 2:6). |
| 5. Adam and Eve were told to multiply (Gen. 1:28). | 5. Xians are to multiply by preaching the gospel (Mt. 28:19; Mk. 16:15,16). |
| 6. Adam was the head of the old creation (1Cor. 15:22). | 6. X is the Head of the new creation (1Cor. 15:45-49). |
| 7. The OT is the "book of the generations of Adam" (Gen. 5:1). | 7. The NT is the "book of the generations of Jesus Christ" (Mt. 1:1). |
| 8. The OT ends, speaking of a curse (Mal. 4:6). | 8. The NT ends with "no more curse" (Rev. 22:3). |

V. CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. With the creation of man, creation is completed on the sixth day. So ends the first chapter of Genesis.
- B. And on the seventh day, God rested (see Gen. 2:1-3). Not because He had to, but because He chose to. God has not finished working, He has only finished creating. The remainder of Genesis (and the rest of the Bible) shows God always at work in His creation.
- C. The Creator of the universe was to make a new creation of you (a Xian).
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.