

## INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Genesis 1:1-5**.
- B. Adapted from Bruce Goettsche; The Union Church of La Harpe, IL.
- C. The book of Genesis does NOT tell us everything we would like to know about the creation. It does tell us all that we need to know.
- D. This morning's lesson is to review the creation narrative of Ch. 1, make some observations, and then see what is applicable to our lives.

## I. THE CREATION OF GOD.

- A. The story of the six days of creation:
  - 1. Day 1--Light (Gen. 1:3-5).
  - 2. Day 2--Sky and separation of the waters (Gen. 1:6-8).
  - 3. Day 3--Dry Land and Vegetation (Gen. 1:9-13).
  - 4. Day 4--Light bearers (Gen. 1:14-19).
  - 5. Day 5--Birds and Fish (Gen. 1:20-23).
  - 6. Day 6--Land animals and man (Gen. 1:24-31).
- B. The creation begins time as we know it. In the first verse of Scripture we see all the major building blocks of our universe:
  - 1. "In the beginning" ...time.
  - 2. "God" ...force.
  - 3. "Created" ...energy.
  - 4. "the heavens" ...space.
  - 5. "and the earth" ...matter.
- C. At first the earth was shapeless and void. Its topographical and geographical features did not stand out. It was covered with water and in total darkness! God's creation process took that mass and made it into an orderly, logical, and rational organism.
- D. Day 1--Light (Gen. 1:3-5).

Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. **4** And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. **5** And God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.

  - 1. The way that God arranged that which was formless and void, was to create light. Light is necessary to sustain all life. By creating light first, we see that God's creation was done in logical order.
  - 2. And it was all done by Him speaking it into existence (Heb. 11:3). Talk about power! In describing God's creative work, Moses speaks of what God said and what God did interchangeably. When God "speaks" a creative energy is released that brings about the thing He utters.
  - 3. When Moses said what God made was good, in this context he does not mean that it is "morally good," but rather good in the sense of doing what God has designed it to do.
- E. Day 2-- Sky and separation of the waters (Gen. 1:6-8).

Then God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." **7** And God made the expanse, and separated the waters which were below the expanse from the waters which were above the expanse; and it was so. **8** And God called the expanse heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day.

  - 1. God, seemingly, made an inverted dome which holds back all the water contained in the sky. Some scientists have argued that there is not enough water vapor in the heavens to cause the magnitude of the flood of Gen. 6-8.

2. But such a flood is possible because the present heavens do not contain this firmament. When the rains came this firmament released its massive amounts of vapor and the fountains of the deep also erupted--both events giving enough water to flood the earth.

F. Day 3--Dry Land and Vegetation (Gen. 1:9-13).

Then God said, "Let the waters below the heavens be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so. **10** And God called the dry land earth, and the gathering of the waters He called seas; and God saw that it was good. **11** Then God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, *and* fruit trees bearing fruit after their kind, with seed in them, on the earth"; and it was so. **12** And the earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed after their kind, and trees bearing fruit, with seed in them, after their kind; and God saw that it was good. **13** And there was evening and there was morning, a third day.

1. This step is most logical because by causing dry land to appear the earth is now prepared for plant life. Plant life is necessary because of the creation of land animals and man on the 6th day.
2. Every living thing was created first by miracle, full-grown and able to reproduce after its own kind. After creation, reproduction followed according to God's natural law.

G. Day 4--Light bearers (Gen. 1:14-19).

Then God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days and years; **15** and let them be for lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so. **16** And God made the two great lights, the greater light to govern the day, and the lesser light to govern the night; *He made* the stars also. **17** And God placed them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, **18** and to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness; and God saw that it was good. **19** And there was evening and there was morning, a fourth day.

1. The two great lights are the sun and moon. Both play essential roles in the regulation of life on this planet. At this point we have a clear establishment of a "day."
2. Ex. 20:11 speaks of keeping the Sabbath and in the setting of 7, 24-hour days tells us that God created the universe in 6 days. Based on that text, I infer that the days of Genesis, Chapter 1 are very short periods of time, much like our 24-hour day.
3. Moses lists 3 reasons for the setting of the sun and moon. And he lists them twice. In 1:14-15 in an "a, b, c" format, and then in 1:16-17 in a "c, b, a" format. Notice below:
  - a. To separate the day from the night (1:14).
  - b. To be for signs, seasons, days, and years (1:14).
  - c. To give light upon the earth (1:15).
 And then:
  - c. To give light upon the earth (1:17).
  - b. To rule over the day and over the night (1:18).
  - a. To separate the light from the darkness (1:18).

H. Day 5--Birds and Fish (Gen. 1:20-23).

Then God said, "Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens." **21** And God created the great sea monsters, and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarmed after their kind, and every winged bird after its kind; and God saw that it was good. **22** And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." **23** And there was evening and there was morning, a fifth day.

1. Fish and other sea creatures were next in the order of God's creation.
2. These creatures are given the same instructions as man, "to be fruitful and multiply."
3. The "sea monsters" are real and should not be thought of as only mythological. Whales, sharks, hippopotamuses, or even dinosaurs could be in view here.

I. Day 6--Land animals and man (**Gen. 1:24-31**).

1. The next to last part of the creation was the bringing forth of land animals. These animals are grouped into 3 major categories:
  - a. Cattle (animals that can be domesticated and do not eat meat).
  - b. Creeping things (reptiles, insects, etc.).
  - c. Beasts (wild, undomesticated, meat eaters).
2. Mankind, the greatest of all created things, came on the 6th day (Gen. 2:7).

Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

3. Man (a generic term for the human race) was different than all other created beings due to being made in the image of God. Mankind is to have dominion over all creation, using it for his preservation and well-being.

## II. WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES US ABOUT CREATION.

A. There are many things we don't know about creation. But there are some things that we DO know.

B. The Creation:

1. **God is eternal.**

Though the world had a beginning, God has always existed. He was there in the beginning. God is the uncaused cause, the One who has always been and always will be.

2. **God is the source of creation.**

a. Evolution takes 3 basic forms:

- 1) Atheistic evolution teaches that creation came about by it's own doing due to matter being eternal.
- 2) Deistic evolution teaches that God started things in motion and then took His hands off to see what would happen.
- 3) Theistic evolution teaches that God created and set the process of evolution in motion and then intervened in the process.

b. But to belief the Bible, one must reject these 3 beliefs and hold to the conviction that God created all things.

3. **There was a beginning.**

The Bible affirms that the world has not always been here. Things are not "as they always have been". Scientists who understand things like the Law of Thermodynamics will tell you that this law shows that there was a beginning to the world as we know it.

4. **God brings meaning out of chaos.**

We read that the world was formless and empty. God took that which was chaos and made it something. God is the architect of our world. He is the Creator.

5. **Creation was orderly.**

Our text tells us that a certain sequence of events took place. This was not a haphazard development but it was the orderly work of a superior mind. In fact, one of the greatest arguments for God's involvement in creation is the complexity of our world.

6. **What God created was good.**

After each step of the process of creation, God declared that it was good. Mind you, this is not the arbitrary statement of a subjective mind. This is the conclusion of a Holy God! Creation was good because it was perfectly designed to do what God desired and it conformed to the character of a holy and righteous God.

## III. APPLICATION.

A. **Since God is the Head of the Universe, He should be the Head of our lives.**

God is our superior. He is owed our devotion and respect. He is the Designer, He knows how things work best and so His instructions are far superior. He is the Eternal One, and is the only constant in an ever-changing universe.

B. **Since God is in Control, we should live boldly and confidently.**

1. The God who created the world has not abdicated the throne. Man may have defaced God's creation, but man has not dethroned the Lord of the Universe.
2. When things do not go as we expect them to we throw up our hands and conclude that God does not care, or is powerless to act. This is not true! God is NEVER powerless to act. If God chooses not to do what we expect, it is because He has a higher purpose, and a better plan.

3. Learn to trust God in whatever circumstances come your way.
- C. **Since God created it, we should live joyfully, full of worship.**
  1. That is, live life full of love and adoration for God, resulting in a joyful outlook on life.
  2. Think about how spectacular life is,
    - a. The beauty of a sunrise and sunset.
    - b. The majesty of the clouds.
    - c. The way of a man with a woman.
    - d. The delight of taste buds.
    - e. The breathtaking nature of a flower.
    - f. The wonder of the animals.
    - g. The simple joy of child.
    - h. The joy that comes from people who become friends.
    - i. The freshness after a rain.
    - j. The peaceful sense after a new fallen snow.
    - k. The first songs of a bird in the spring.

#### **CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.**

- A. Don't rob me of the confidence, pleasure, wonder, and joy of our universe by telling me it was not created by God.
- B. Every design has a designer (Heb. 3:4).
- C. Have you made your Creator, the Lord of your life? You can do so through Jesus.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.