

God Speaks Outline

Genesis 1: 1-25

- I. Familiar words, unfamiliar sermons.
 - A. As familiar Genesis 1 is, it is rarely preached in churches today.
 - 1. there is a perceived contradiction between the Biblical account of creation and the scientific explanation of the origin of the cosmos.
 - 2. Christians are tempted to compromise the biblical account of creation to accept the “scientific” account of the origins of the universe.
 - B. Science and the Genesis account of creation can exist together.
 - 1. There is a vast difference between “Science” and the “Science Community”.
 - a. Science – conclusions based on observation, testing, repeat testing and falsification.
 - b. Scientific Community—Humans!
 - C. The age of the earth controversy.
 - 1. Scientific community—4.5 billion years old; Literal creation—6000+ years old.
 - 2. What is a “day” in Genesis 1 (“Yom” in Hebrew)
 - a. “Yom” can be the daylight period of a 24 hour period.
 - b. “Yom” can be a longer period of time: day’s, months, years.
 - c. “Yom” can be used for a literal 24 hour period of time.
 - 3. Do you have a problem with God creating an “old earth” in six days?
- II. The creation account in Genesis 1 is history.
 - A. The historical Psalm 136
 - B. History begins before history: John 17:24; Ephesians 1:3-4; 1 Peter 1:20; Titus 1:2
- III. God is sovereign over all.
 - A. Job 37-38
- IV. Order out of disorder: a recurring theme in all of scripture.

- A. Order out of chaos; shape and pattern out of formless and void.
 - B. Light out of darkness
 - 1. The Hebrew pattern for day: evening gives way to daylight.
 - a. Shabbat-- Sabbath
- V. How God creates—He speaks!
- A. Nine times God says “**Let there be...**” and it became!
 - 1. Hebrews 11:33
- VI. God declares a verdict.
- A. Seven times “**and God saw that it was good**”.
 - 1. Creation gave God pleasure.
 - 2. God received pleasure because creation revealed God’s glory.
- VII. God creates life “**after their kind**”
- A. Six times, when God created living things, He created them with a “barrier”
 - B. There are no “trans-mutative forms”.
 - 1. An orange cannot become broccoli.
- VIII. Our remarkable cosmos! (Verses 14-19)

God Speaks Pastoral Notes

Genesis 1: 1-25

Read Genesis 1:1-24

Charles Bennett...a well-known scientist of the 20th Century passionately dismissed the creation account of Genesis 1 as being no more than a fairy tale... *full of errors and misinformation*... *Only science can adequately explain the origin of the universe.*

Science is based on true facts... and not on errors of thought...I am a scientist... I deal with what is true and what can be verified...I was taken back and even angered when the first man who set foot on the moon...[Neil Armstrong] said “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...”

If you were here last week... you might be thinking... “either Dan or this scientist got something wrong!”... well I am here to tell you the scientist was wrong!... Genesis 1 was not quoted by Neil Armstrong from Apollo 11... it was quoted by Bill Anders on Apollo 8 which was the first mission to leave the earth’s atmosphere and orbit the moon.

Upon seeing the magnificent earth from the moon Anders and the rest of the crew read to the world... Genesis 1.

Armstrong was the first person to walk on the moon. He famously known for saying “**one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.**” However, Armstrong insisted that he actually said “*one small step for a man,*”

My point...the scientist who prided himself in truth with no errors...was in error...he got it wrong... and the religious pastor who believes in Genesis 1... got it right!... so we have established that even Science has errors!

We are going through the first three chapters of Genesis...which make up the foundations of God’s Word... and God’s Word should be the foundation we put our lives on...and yet... those foundations that have been the fabric in much of our culture in the past... are rapidly crumbling...Psalm 11:3 **If the foundations are destroyed what are the righteous to do?...**So we want to recover those foundations...

Chapter one of Genesis is the story of creation... the origin of the cosmos... we looked at the first two verses of chapter one last week...

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth and the earth was formless and void and darkness was over the surface of the deep and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters... those words are the ultimate foundation

There are many sermons preached on those first two verses of the Bible.... but surprisingly... not so much with the rest of the chapter... verses 3-31....as familiar as those words are to most of us... Preachers tend to avoid preaching the account of biblical creation...so familiar words but unfamiliar sermons... I think the reason for that is somewhat obvious... **there is an apparent contradiction between the Biblical account of creation and the scientific explanation of the origin of the cosmos...**

Taking on Science can be daunting... after all *science is based on facts without errors* right?... so most preachers would rather leave Creation alone and preach about something maybe outside of Genesis completely!... as a local pastor asked me several years ago... *You don't really believe this do you?... a literal six day creation... two first humans Adam and Even... and please... not Noah and his ark!*... seriously!... He's no longer in town.... But I hear he is teaching in a seminary!

My goal is not to defend the creation account in Genesis from science... my goal in this series is to uncover and reclaim the foundations found within these first three chapters...but I can't just gloss over all things science here...

Much of why the foundations of the Bible in our culture have been crumbling is the *perceived* idea that science is superior to anything found in the Bible... that the Bible is all just about unverifiable ignorant faith and science is about facts, truth and logic... and the two contradict each other.

I contend that science and the Bible do not contradict each other... that they actually can and do support each other... ***It is important to distinguish between the terms "science" and "scientific community."***

Science is a discipline concerned with observing, experimenting with, and explaining phenomena.... Science concerns itself with observations that can be tested, repeated and falsified... **the scientific method**... but the **scientific community**...that's a different story...it is composed of the living human persons who participate in this discipline....do I need to say more?

The distinction is important, because there is no logical contradiction between science and creationism...but there is between creationism and the "Scientific Community"...science is limited in scope of what it can verify as facts...

Science is concerned with what can be verified through the scientific process...Creationism is based on our faith in God and His word... Science cannot verify or un-verify what it cannot see, test and repeat... therefore.... Science has not been able to go back to the origins of anything and remain science...

But the scientific community does!...The scientific community, as it exists today, for the majority holds naturalism as the preferred *philosophy*...[not science!]...It centers around a theory... evolution... “*Most intelligent people believe in evolution because most intelligent people believe most intelligent people believe in evolution*” -Skip Heitzig

so to embrace “naturalism” takes as much faith... [much more faith] that does biblical creation.

But even the Christian wrestles with what is presented in Genesis 1... the idea of God creating the universe in six days... especially six literal days... which ends up with the age of the earth very, very young... 6000 to 30,000 years.... the science community claims the earth is billions of years old.

Most say the earth is 4.5 billion years old... so what do many/most Christians do?...they abandon the literal Biblical view of creation...some explain it away as being Hebrew Poetry... or they try to reconcile the Bible with the scientific *community*...who embrace a evolutionistic humanist theory.

For the Christian trying to make evolution and creation come together in a consensus... is done by embracing a specific definition of what a “day” is in Genesis 1... The Hebrew word for day in the Bible is *Yom*...and *Yom* is used in three different ways in the Old Testament...

1. **The portion of a 24 hour period that is light**..... *Yom* is daylight.
2. **A period of time**... it could be a combination of many days making up one day.. or months... or years.... *The day of our lord*... or thousands of years...*day = age theory*....[you could squeeze evolution there...and become a “theistic evolutionist”]

The hope is that creation and evolution can co-exist.

3. **A literal 24 hour period**.... Which is the straight forward, simple interpretation of the text.

We can determine how *Yom* should be interpreted in Genesis 1 by comparing that context to the word’s usage elsewhere in Scripture.... The Hebrew word *Yom* is used 2,301 times in the Old Testament.... Outside of Genesis 1, *Yom* plus a number (used 410 times) almost always indicates an ordinary day... a 24-hour period.....

Plus... even in Genesis 1... it repeats... **and there was evening and there was morning one day**...and that is repeated all six days of creation.

I personally have no reason not to embrace a literal 24 hour day... The truth is that both young-earth and old-earth interpretations rely upon certain assumptions.... It comes down to a faith issue.

Also... as I pointed out last week... throughout the Bible... the writers embraced a literal 6 day Genesis creation... also... we end up with some tough explaining to do about the first two humans Adam and Eve... when death first arrived on earth (in the evolutionary process there was a lot of death going on!)...the chronology of the Bible.... Sin.... And so on.

We would all agree that if God created the world out of nothing... that would be a miracle... If God created the world out of nothing in thousands, millions of years... that would still be miracle... if God created the world out of nothing in six literal days...why would we think He couldn't have done that?... and that world that He created in six literal days was very, very old... it would be a miracle!...couldn't He do that?

I always think of Jesus and His first recorded miracle... at the wedding of Cana...(John 2) at the wedding celebration they ran out of wine... Jesus miraculously turns six stone water jars of water into wine... but not just wine... but the finest of wines... what makes fine wine?... age!

What I want us to see is the purpose and message of Genesis 1 that God wants us to see... we won't exegete every word or verse... but I want to point our attention to a few key, important elements in this passage.

1. The creation account is history

It is said that Genesis.... And the entire Bible for that matter is not a science book... we can argue that... but what it certainly is...is a history book....these events in creation really happened.

Turn to Psalm 136

[History and the Creation]

And get this... Within the Bible we have the history before history began!...if we only look back through “space in time” history begins at **In the beginning....** But if we look at history in the eternal... history begins before history!... listen to these verses:

John 17:24 (Jesus speaking)

24 Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. Just a few verses before that:

John 17:5 (Jesus speaking)

Now Father glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

Paul writing in Ephesians 1:3-4

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love

Peter speaking of Jesus Christ in 1st Peter 1:20

20 For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you

Titus 1:2

2 in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began.

I mentioned last week that some theologians see the created earth as the creation of a theater... a theater for God to play out His redemption of man.... He knew everything that was going to happen before everything happened.... All our foundations rest on God.... He knew us before He created the first molecule... He had an eternal plan for the universe... we remove God from the equation we have nothing!...

2. God is sovereign over all creation.

There is not one molecule that isn't under His sovereignty....

God is mentioned by name 33 times in these verses of chapter 1.... He is the subject... not the earth.... Not the stars or any other part of creation...not even man is the subject in Genesis 1.... This is all about God...this is foundational.

Today the thought is that the center of the universe is man... us... the individual... and there's this distorted idea of the natural world is even more valuable than man.... The environment.

But God is at the center of everything.... I love the confrontation of Job by Elihu in chapters 37 and 38 in the Book of Job...Elihu is one of the friends of Job... but a truly helpful friend... delivers the truth to Job...

He begins with the sovereignty of God in the world... he says 37: 2 **Listen closely to the thunder of His voice... 4 He thunders with His majestic voice...for to the snow He says "fall on earth...and to the downpour of rain...He seals the hand of every man that all men may**

know His work...**From the breath of God ice is made**...Give ear to this O Job... stand and consider carefully **the wondrous deeds of God**.... (The purpose of Genesis 1!)

That's what Genesis 1 is commanding... **stand and consider carefully the wondrous deeds of God**.... *well... I think but chance through energy forces and random particles... the universe evolved.* God takes over the conversation with Job...

Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?

Tell Me, if you have understanding,

5 Who set its measurements? Since you know.

Or who stretched the measuring line over it?

6 On what were its bases sunk?

Or who laid its cornerstone,

7 When the morning stars sang together

And all the sons of God shouted for joy?

8 “Or who enclosed the sea with doors

When it went out from the womb, bursting forth;

9 When I made a cloud its garment,

And thick darkness its swaddling bands,

10 And I [b]placed boundaries on it

And set a bolt and doors,

11 And I said, ‘As far as this point you shall come, but no farther;

And here your proud waves shall stop’?

God goes on for 38 verses pointing back to Genesis 1 and pulling all our attention onto Him as the sovereign creator of all things....**In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.**

God takes six days to create His creation... just this fact reveals God had a plan... He had a design...and that included a six day period of creation...I mentioned this to the Sunday night class... what I find truly remarkable is not that God created in six 24hr days... but that He didn't just call it all into being in a nano-second!... but He had a specific purposeful plan for six days.

3. Order out of disorder

Three days of forming the earth and three days filling it.... in displaying His sovereignty which incorporates all His attributes...from this point on... throughout the Bible... all the way to the very end in Revelation He carries out a theme... it is “**order out of disorder**”

From this point forward in God's revelation... anytime there is disorder... there is opposition to the sovereignty of God..... wherever there is order... we find testimony to the perfection of the sovereignty of God. [every time you sin you are in chaos with God...Israel...]

Order out of chaos.... Order from disorder... shape and pattern from formless and void... beauty from waste... form out of formless...light out of darkness...and this is carried out all the way through the salvation offered to man...[I was lost now I'm found].. sinful, lost man to a saved new creature in Christ.... It's a theme throughout!

Here He begins with an earth that is formless and void (verse 2)... it is a picture of chaos... of disorder... it is dark.... Pitch black.... And what does He do first?... He *calls* in light.... **Let there be light....** Verse 2 total darkness... verse 3 light... He brought into being what has never existed before on earth... light.

Darkness has been defined as the absence of all light...

(5) And God called the light day and the darkness He called night and there was evening and there was morning, ONE DAY....

Genesis 1 is full of repetitious short statements... within the creation story (the way it is told) is design... it has elements of Hebrew poetry... yet it is poetry for emphasis and for meaning... **Then God said** 9 times, **God saw it was good** 7 times, **Let there be** 9 times, **and there was evening and there was morning** 6 times.

The light God brings out of darkness defines a day...at the conclusion of One Day... the first complete day... the darkness which is the absence of light gives way to the light... and the cycle begins... one day...a second day...a third, fourth, fifth and sixth...

Don't let the order of the day slip by... it is evening then there was morning...a day... carrying on with the theme order out of chaos... light out of darkness... How did the Hebrews view a day?...

Shabbatt... the Sabbath begins when?... at sundown Friday evening... and it continues on after daylight replaces the darkness and continues until the sun goes down... One day!

4. How God creates—He speaks!

What has never been there... what is not there.. is called into being.... I mentioned the term "fiat" last week... not the car... but an order given by someone with complete authority....God created with words!....

Hebrews 11:33 **By faith we understand that the world has been created by the word of God so that what is seen has not been made out of things that are visible.**

Using words was intentional... words are powerful... they are relational... if you are by yourself you don't need words.

- Words are personal

- Words are used when being involved personally with someone else
- Words have great power... relationships can begin with words and they can end with words... words can cause peace and can cause wars
- Words reveal God intimacy with His creation!

He speaks 9 times He speaks and what never existed came into existence...

Then God said...Let there be light

Then God said...Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters

Then God said Let the waters below the heavens be gathered in one place

Then God said let the earth sprout vegetation

Then God said Let the lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate day from the night.

The God said Let the waters swarm with living creatures

Then God said Let us make man in our image

Then God said Behold I have given to you every plant that is on the surface of the earth.

Not just casual words... but declarations of His sovereignty over all creation...God wills it...it will happen...by His declaration!...fiat...His words.

5. God declares a verdict.

A verdict is an opinion or decision made after judging the facts that are given... God looked at the light He called into existence... and in His infinite wisdom and judgement... He deemed it as good!

and the light was good....Seven times it says **and God saw that it was good...**the seventh time it wasn't just "good"...it was VERY good.... seven verdicts over God's own creation... After each moment of creation... God looked at each one... and had a response to what He created...

It was pleasure... not only did God create a well ordered cosmos... but He was happy with it... IT WAS GOOD:

- He was delighted in it
- It gave Him pleasure
- We can see the joy He had in it

Psalm 104:3 reveals God didn't just create and leave to do something else... He reveled in His creation ...**He lays the beams of His upper chambers in the waters; He makes the clouds His chariot; He walks on the wings of the wind...**It's like He's dancing in His creation!

Why is He so happy?... **God enjoys His work because it expresses His glory**... His glory is revealed in His creation.

Numbers 14:21 **all the earth will be filled with the glory of the Lord.**

Habakkuk 2:14 **For the earth will be filled...With the knowledge of the glory of the Lord... As the waters cover the sea.**

Psalms 19:1-2 **The heavens tell of the glory of God; And their expanse declares the work of His hands. Day to day pours forth speech And night to night reveals knowledge.**

The purpose of creation is God's glory... He creates, He finds great pleasure in it... for it reveals His glory!

So...says **let there be light**... some have suggested that light has always been in existence... God's glory shines... and what God did was "LET" His glory shine here... because light was in existence BEFORE He created the sun and the moon... they weren't created until verse 14-16

(6-7) God creates a "firmament"... an atmosphere...giving the earth space

(9-10) God creates land... forms the oceans and dry land in preparation for life.

(11-12) God creates vegetation... and we come across another repeated phrase that is so important...

Read verse 11

6. God creates life "after their kind"

six times God created something living... **and put this barrier in each**... this barrier prevents that created distinct, purposed life to cross over to another created distinct purposed life....an orange... a fruit of one kind cannot cross over and become broccoli..

There are no "trans-mutative forms"...if there were... if there was no preservation of "kinds"... there would again be chaos...disorder.

Humans are brilliant... they can take a Logan Berry...cross it with a Blackberry and a Raspberry and end up with a new berry... a from the boysenberry....comes Knotts Berry Farm (Really!..Rudolf Boysen put it together then handed it over to Walter Knott Knotts Berry Farm was a ... BERRY FARM!)

Point?... Boysen could only make another "berry" in the "berry kind"...

Of course this reality of **only after their kind** is a vital reality that is tragically being dismantled...(unsuccessful I might add) today...this is a foundational reality....dismantle this reality you have chaos.

7. Our remarkable cosmos

Read verse 14-19

The 4th day... You've all undoubtedly have heard things like this... when we can take the facts and observations of science... they are so very amazing that we conclude there IS A GOD AND HE CREATED THE COSMOS!.....look at a living molecule... examine DNA

Consider the Milky Way Galaxy... is a massive shaped cluster of luminaries that has been described to look like a very thin watch... **ten thousand light years times one hundred thousand light years..**

Where the earth is situated... scientists have discovered... the earth is situated perfectly... for the kind of life we now have... "*well... it happened by chance...*"... well... the earth is 93 million miles away from its sun... which has a surface temperature of 12000 degrees Fahrenheit...

If the earth was as close to the sun as Venus... the surface of the earth would then be 850 degrees...(I heard complaints about yesterday, 89 degrees!)... we would burn up... if we were as far away as Mars... the temperature dips to -200 degrees... we would freeze... but it just so happens... we were exactly the right distance from the sun... *as chance would have it.*

The earth makes 365 revolutions as it makes its journey around the sun (V.14)... why not 30?... 45?... well... the days would be much, much longer... there would be much burning and freezing... the biosphere we enjoy could not be sustained.... Science tells us.

And as it so happens... this giant revolving earthly sphere is tilted 23 1/3 degrees in relationship to the sun... that is why we have four seasons... not to mention the makeup of the atmosphere is made up of 79% Oxygen and 20% Nitrogen with 1% of variant gasses... that makes breathing possible... even pleasurable!

What if the percentages were 50% to 50%?... the first Presbyterian to light up a cigar would become proof of the Big Bank theory!...in a flash... it would be all over... by chance....

And it just so happens that this water laden earth were half of the dimensions they are now... there would be less than 1/4 of the rainfall we currently have on earth... and life could not be sustainable...

1/8 larger... the earth would be completely flooded...EVERYTHING IS JUST RIGHT!... and it all just “happened”?... a wonderful accident... I see in all this an amazing wonderful design by a creator.

And... by the way... notice... in this gigantic universe... with all the stars and planets... the very center of it all is the earth!...as far as life is concerned... the earth is the center of the universe!... I said the Milky Way is ten thousand light years by one hundred thousand light years...

If you could hop on a ray of light and go 186 thousand miles per second...the speed of light... if you could do this and just orbit the earth... you would go around the earth 7 and 1/2 times in one second...if at that speed you changed course and shot to the moon... in 1.5 seconds you will sail right past it.

Keep going... in 2 minutes and 18 seconds... you'll sail past Venus...in 4 minutes Mercury and in 7.5 minutes you'll get past the sun and in four hours... you'll go past Pluto... in four years and four months... you'll go from the earth to the NEAREST neighbor star... Alpha Centauri...4.3 Light years from the earth...

BUT... if you are travelling 186 thousand miles per second... it will take you one hundred thousand years to get from one end of your Milky Way Galaxy to the other end of it!... and if you do that... you haven't even left your front yard!...because... SCIENCE TELLS US there3 are one hundred billion more galaxies beyond!

But God is interested in the earth!... and all that He has created was created to serve life here on this earth!...What do you think about that?...

I must stop

I hope you get the comfort God has given to us in His creation reality... There is a great reductionism going on in the world around us... a great dismantling of God's design...

Philosopher Jaques Monad said *The ancient covenant (God's Word) is in pieces ;men at last know that he is alone in the unfeeling immensity of the universe, out of which he emerged only by chance...* there's no hope in fatalistic philosophies!

I appreciate what theologian J.A. Motyer said

it is a sad thing when a sunset is reduced to electromagnetic radiation.... Or a violin concert reduced to only the scrapping of the hairs of one animal over the gut of another.

there is so much we could conclude with...

- Confirmation there is a God
- This is a personal God who sees His creation as “Good”... who finds pleasure in it.
- This is a god who created with purpose... He cares for all that He created
- God brings order out of chaos... Life from no life
- And we can conclude that

There is such a spiritual reality back in verse 2 where we see the Holy Spirit “hovering” over a dark, void and formless earth.... And in a moment says **Let there be light**...and all that was in chaos takes on order.... All that was in darkness is replaced with light.

People of God take heart!