

Beginnings

The Creator

Genesis 1:1-2

January 14, 2018 am

HDBC

Ancestry.com is just one of a number of websites that, for a fee, will help you determine your roots, your heritage, the part of the world you came from. Many of us have a real desire to know more about our ancestors because we think it will tell us more about ourselves.

For most of us there is a desire to answer the bigger questions of origin. Where did we all come from? Where did the universe come from and how long has it been here? The answer to those questions will directly impact our sense of meaning, purpose and worth.

This morning we are starting a new series called ***Beginnings***. We will dive into the first four chapters of the first book of the Bible, Genesis, which is actually a Greek word that means ***Beginnings***.

The first paragraph of a book or article generally lays a foundation for the entire book or article. The opening scene of a movie offers a basis for the rest of the movie. In a similar way the book of Genesis provides a foundation for the entire Bible story. The first few chapters provide a summary of the entire story. Today we will focus on the first two verses of Genesis 1.

Here at the beginning I want to share my presupposition:

1. The Bible is the inerrant Word of God. There are no mistakes.
2. The Bible is true in what it says about creation and the origin of all things.
3. The Bible and science are not in conflict. Statements of science change.
4. The Bible should not be interpreted in a way to satisfy any scientific theory.
5. The Bible account of creation reveals the purpose, character and glory of God.

Read Genesis 1:1-2

1. The Timing *In the beginning*

When did it all begin? Great question. Scientist estimate that the earth and universe are billions of years old. To a great degree this is to accommodate the theory of evolution. The Bible does not give us a definite answer at this point. However, the Bible does record about 6,000 years of history. I don't worry about how old the earth is because it was created with age. However old the earth and universe are, this much we know, there was a beginning.

Bible simple says it happened, *in the beginning*. God lives in a dimension not bound by time or space. So, this is for our benefit. Trying to understand a time when there was nothing is a very difficult thing for a finite mind to imagine.

The setting is clearly pre-historic. It pre-dates history as we know it. The Bible reaches beyond the boundaries of our history and then takes another step. That is where we begin. Before anything began in the realm of time, there was God. His action was the thing that got this history stuff underway.

2. The Person *God*

First chapter is one of the most God-centered in all the Bible. God mentioned by name 32 times in 31 verses. Add pronouns and mentioned 43 times. Thus, on first page of the Bible we are introduced to a personal God.

No wonder Satan hates this chapter. No wonder he has aimed his heavy artillery at it to discredit it. Abandon Genesis 1 as a myth, Satan has won!. Abandon it and you may as well throw away the rest of your Bible as unreliable.

The Bible begins with assumption that God exists and places Him at the beginning of all things. Cannot prove the existence of God. The Bible does not try to prove His existence. To not believe in God is to be a fool.

The very reality of a creation points to a creator. House points to a builder. Watch to a watch-maker. Poem to a writer. The complexity of our creation points to a complex creator. Physical science is constantly offering evidences of a creator. But their evidence will never prove He exists. We accept Him by faith.

3. The Action *Created the heavens and the earth*

Created - bara - OT uses it sparingly, and in this form exclusively of the activity of God. Speaks of an effortless act by the supreme being. It is the act of making something from nothing.

By the determination of His will, God brought it all into existence. He formed all matter. He created everything that is present in the universe. He made it all. **The implication** is that God began with nothing except Himself, then created everything that there is and he did so out of nothing. Science struggles with this. In a science lab one thing can be made from other things. But you always start with something. Where did the first thing come from.

4. The Anticipation

The earth was without form and void . . .

Matter had been created, but was not yet ready for habitation. It was a watery matrix that was not yet shaped into its final form. At the end of six days, it would be complete.

The Spirit of God was hovering . . .

The text tells us the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. Interesting statement. Refers to a back and forth motion. The Spirit of God was hovering over the newly formed mass of matter, preparing to bring it to life.

In the first words of the Bible, we find God on the move, moving over His creation. **This phrase** reveals anticipation of more to come. God was not finished. He spoke matter into existence, but was not satisfied to leave it to its own fate. He was about to shape, mold and fashion his creation into a masterpiece.

He still moves over His creation and is involved in all that is taking place in the universe and on the earth.

Takeaways:

1. **Creation account demonstrates the power of His Word**

Ten times in the creation story we read **and God said**. Psalm 33 makes it abundantly clear:

By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.

Let us never underestimate the power of His words. Not just his words spoken at creation but His words given to us in the Bible.

2. **Creation account shows the extent of His power**

When we look at the size of the universe we are astounded by the size and scope of what He has created. It appears to be limitless Paul reminds us of the limitless power of God in Ephesians 3:20-21

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us. To Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end.

3. **Creation account requires faith**

The Bible assumes our inability to understand the origin of the universe and to wrestle with its beginnings. Note the words of God in Job 38:4-5

Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements? Surely you know!

The writer of Hebrews declares in simple terms that belief in the biblical account of creation demands simple faith on our part. (Hebrews 11:1-3)

*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. **By faith** we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.*

In the very first two verses of Scripture every reader is faced with a choice. Either you believe God created the heavens and the earth or you do not. If you do not, then you must come to the conclusion that the Bible is not a trustworthy book and you are left to come up with your own theory not only about creation but about your purpose in life.

But if you believe He did create everything, then you have a starting point for understanding your purpose, meaning and reason for living.

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