



SEPTEMBER 8TH, 2019

GENESIS: BEGINNINGS

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SERMON

¹ In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:1 (ESV)

¹⁹ For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰ For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. ²¹ For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Claiming to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

Romans 1:19-23 (ESV)

¹ I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: ² preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. ³ For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, ⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

2 Timothy 4:1-4 (ESV)

GENESIS IS ANCIENT COSMOLOGY

- THE STUDY OF THE ORIGIN, STRUCTURE, AND FATE OF THE WORLD.

GENESIS IS REVELATION TO AN ANCIENT PEOPLE WITHIN AND WITH AN ANCIENT WORLDVIEW.

THE BIBLE IS WRITTEN FOR US BUT NOT TO US.

THIS IS CROSS CULTURAL COMMUNICATION. IT REQUIRES WORK.

¹⁵ Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:15 (ESV)

For example, twice every year in most of the United States and in many other places around the world we encounter the phenomenon known as “daylight savings time.” If someone from another culture came to the United States and heard the phrase “daylight savings time,” no study of the individual words would alert them to its meaning. They would need information that would enable them to adapt to the culture. These are issues that go beyond language to culture.¹

When we study an ancient text, we cannot make words mean whatever we want them to, or assume that they meant the same to the ancient audience that they do to a modern audience. Language itself is a cultural convention, and since the Bible and other ancient documents use language to communicate, they are bound to a culture. As interpreters, then, we must adapt to the language/culture matrix of the ancient world as we study the Old Testament.²

EVERY WORLD VIEW GIVES US FOUR THINGS:

WHERE ARE WE? ENVIRONMENT

WHO ARE WE? ESSENCE

WHAT IS WRONG? EVIL

WHERE ARE WE GOING? ESCHATOLOGY

⁴ For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶ that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 15:4-6 (ESV)

¹ Walton, J. H. (2006). *Ancient Near Eastern Thought and the Old Testament: Introducing the Conceptual World of the Hebrew Bible* (pp. 19–20). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.

² Walton, J. H. (2006). *Ancient Near Eastern Thought and the Old Testament: Introducing the Conceptual World of the Hebrew Bible* (p. 20). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.