

OT Survey – May 31, 2020 – Genesis 1

Sometimes you'll hear: "Even if I don't agree that God actually created the world, haven't I only lost 1 chapter from the Bible? Can't I just think this is poetic, and stick with what so many modern scientists think?" But Creation appears REPEATEDLY through Scripture. Here's just SOME of the key ways the truth that God is Creator is used:

** See 1 Chron 16:25-27 - sets God apart from "worthless idols" to be feared and praised. (Ps 96:5 is almost identical). [Same kind of thing in Jer 10:3-16, esp Jer 10:11-16. And see Isa 40, esp Isa 40:18-31]

** Connected with a reminder NOT to worship man - Acts 14:15 (and we should make application to the many today who "follow their heart," etc - basically making themselves out to be god).

** God being Creator calls forth praise and worship! - "Worthy are you...FOR you created all things..." (Rev 4:11), Ps 33:1-13,

** Job 38-41 - to remind man of our creatureliness, that we can NOT play at God's level; to humble us and bring us to repentance and worship.

** To encourage God's ppl going through very hard times - the Creator (who EASILY made all there is) will not grow weary or say "oops" - He WILL fulfill all His good purposes for His ppl!! (Isa 42:4-7, 43:1-2, Acts 4:24,)

Acts 4:24 (ESV) - And when they heard it [*threats from the leaders*], they lifted their voices together to God and said, "Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them,

**As a reminder for our faith that, when things look non-existent or hopeless, it's NOT impossible for God!! (2 Cor 4:6, Heb 11:3, Rom 4:17)

2 Corinthians 4:6 (ESV) - For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 11:3 (ESV) - By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was **not** made out of things that are visible. [*This and several other verses show that God did NOT start things, and then let evolution take over, and He did NOT use eternally existing matter. Some modern scientists say that some form of matter must have always existed – of course, they have to take this on faith!*]

Romans 4:17 (ESV) - as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Genesis 1 (ESV) - In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

³ **And 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 God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶ **And 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 that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. **And it was so**. ⁸ And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹ **And God said**, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” **And it was so**. ¹⁰ God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that **it was good**. ¹¹ **And God said**, “Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth.” **And it was so**. ¹² The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that **it was good**. ¹³ And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴ **And 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 lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth.” **And it was so**. ¹⁶ And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷ And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, ¹⁸ to rule over the day and over 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, the fourth day.

²⁰ **And God said**, “Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens.” ²¹ So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to 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, the fifth day.

²⁴ **And God said**, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.” **And it was so**. ²⁵ And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that **it was good**.

²⁶ **Then God said**, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” ²⁷ **So 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 have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” ²⁹ And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” **And it was so**.

³¹ **And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good**. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Don't Miss from Gen 1

** The Bible is going to be about God, and simply asserts (doesn't argue, try to prove) His existence!

** Creation *ex nihilo* (out of nothing) was EASY for God – He SPOKE “and it was”!! (See Intro for some applications...)

** God made EVERYTHING! He did NOT simply START things, then let evolution take over. And it's clear in Gen 1 that the God who CREATED everything has a right to RULE everything. As soon as He creates, He begins to instruct/rule/order (vs 9, 11, 22, 28-30, and DELEGATES some of His rule in vs 15-18, 26-28). THIS IS FOUNDATIONAL to the rest of the Bible! Often, people chafe under God's way of ordering things – “Why does HE get the right to...” Because He made it all! He's God and we're NOT! When Job starts demanding that God explain why He's letting Job's life be so painful, God show up in Job 38-41 and answers Job's “WHY” with “WHO” God is (and most of it is reminding Job that GOD easily created and orders the world, not Job).

** Note that God made LIGHT first, and on the 4th day made MEANS that He USUALLY uses (since then) to give light. God OFTEN uses means, but He is NOT dependent on means. Example: God normally provides for a family by people going to work. But if the bread-winner CAN'T work, God doesn't get nervous!

** God did NOT create out of loneliness!! Look at the intimate fellowship among the Trinity in Gen 1:26. God is NOT NEEDY! He is the GIVER of blessing, NOT needy for our contributions! (See Gen 1:22, 28 – “BLESSED them...”). Also see 1 Chron 29:11-19.

** There are only 2 genders, according to God (Gen 1:27)! And we shouldn't be embarrassed by this – this is part of the GOODNESS of God's creation (Gen 1:31)!!

** People are NOT just “another animal”! Look at the careful deliberation among the Trinity in vs 26, and note that Gen 1:27 is FOUNDATIONAL to why Christians must be pro-life, from conception to natural death – EVERY human is made in God's image. This gets horribly distorted from Gen 3 on, but STILL every human is made in God's image – Gen 9:6, James 3:9. Also notice the DOMINION / stewardship over the creation entrusted to people in Gen 1:26-28.

** GOD says what is “good” (Gen 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31)! In Gen 3, Eve tries to determine something as GOOD apart from God's plan, and it brings disaster and death into the world.