

January 1-Genesis 1

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” This is how the Bible begins. It is fitting that the subject and object of all of the Scriptures is the focus of the first sentence. The Bible after all is a book about God. It is meant to show His greatness and majesty and in verse 1 we have one of the most unbelievable and majestic claims in history, namely that God created the heavens and the earth.

We as humans are familiar with creativity. Many of us are creative by nature. The world is full of examples of the ingenuity and creativity of man. It must be stated, however, that God’s creative powers are different than man’s. Mankind is able to generate beautiful works of art and architecture by virtue of the abilities God has given him. However, man is only able to create objects out of existing materials. If you give a man paint and a canvas he is able to create a beautiful picture, if you give a man some wood, nails and some other supplies he can build a beautiful home, but the Bible teaches us that God’s creativity is not limited simply to whatever He can fashion out of what already exists, no He has the ability to actually create what He desires out of nothing! In Hebrews 11:3 we read “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.” God simply spoke, and whatever He spoke existed by the creative power of His Word. What amazing power our God displays for us in the creation story!

Indeed God is a creative being; we need to look no farther than the incredible world we live in on a daily basis to substantiate that claim. The detail and diversity of this creation we call Earth is absolutely staggering to observe. We get a glimpse of God’s immense power and creativity when we think for just a moment that He is the one who created both the ant and the antelope. It was His creative powers that brought us the tiny insect as well as the enormous mammal. He created the desert and the rain forest and He did it all simply through His Word. John 1 shares with us a little more information about this Word in verses 1-2 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.” There was never a moment that the Word did not exist as evidenced by the fact that when the beginning took place he already “was”! All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.” John’s claim here is enormously important! Evidently, John is claiming that God exists in at least two (we know from the rest of Scripture three) entities. While they exist as distinguishable entities, they are according to verse 1 a singular God. A little farther down in John’s gospel we read this “and the Word (from verse 1) became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

Putting all of this together, the Word of God that created this universe is God Himself. He has always existed and is the Creator of all that we see. This Word not only created all but in His love and mercy “became flesh”. The God who transcends time became one of us and in doing so we have an opportunity to behold his glory. We have in Genesis 1 a picture of a Sovereign and Powerful God who is able to create anything out of nothing. What we see in John 1 is that the very same God, powerful and strong, is the loving Savior who “made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.” (Philippians 2:7). Our Savior Jesus Christ is both mighty and strong as well as humble and gracious. Oh what a Savior we serve!