

“Truth Matters in Overcoming Doubt!”

Genesis 1:1-10

Intro. – 1st chapter of Bible called “The 2nd Most Important Section of Scripture.” Once the account of creation is accepted as literal/true, rest of the Bible is established. If God is powerful enough to create the universe, He’s big enough to do every wonder recorded in the rest of His Word. Doubt Genesis 1, you’ll have to be skeptical the rest of the Bible is true. I’ll illus. what I mean. On Saturday TV, NBC had a series called *Discovery Kids*. I watched a little of this when it was on – it was filled with evolutionary indoctrination – earth billions of years old... dinosaurs on earth without man... man evolved from ape... More times than not, I hear such things spoken in matter-of-fact manner leaving the impression if you don’t believe as such you’re just not with it!

Ken Ham (founder of Answers in Genesis – is a Calvinist... but solid on Genesis) writes in his book *The Lie: Evolution* p. 29 – “Evolution is a religious position that makes human opinion supreme. As we shall see, its fruits (because of rejection of the Creator and Lawgiver) are lawlessness, immorality, impurity, abortion, racism and a mocking of God. Creation is a religious position based on the Word of God, and its fruits (through God’s Spirit) are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. The creation/evolution issue is the crux of the problems in our society today. It is the fundamental issue with which Christians must come to grips. The creation/evolution issue is where the battle really rages.”

Let me use the above to introduce this message. Have any doubts in your life? Have any questions bugging you? Know any insecurities gnawing way at you? Ever sense the world cheering you on to a pit of despair?

Purpose: to better learn that truth alone dispels doubt

I CONSIDER THE WONDER OF GOD’S CREATION

A. Some Truths Are Obvious

1. Genesis 1:1 *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”* – Bible doesn’t give philosophical explanation to God’s existence; instead, Bible *assumes* people will understand the obvious.
2. With this in mind, some truths are so obvious there’s no need to elaborate. Let me Illus.:
 - a. Illus. – say you take a walk through woods and come upon a campfire still burning. Closer investigation you see rocks neatly around fire. Also find ½ empty can of Diet Coke still cold.
 - b. what would you conclude from this? Would you speculate a whirlwind arranged the rocks, blew a tree over breaking it into logs that stacked up like a tepee? Would you conclude lightning ignited an explosion in a nearby stream producing a half-empty can of Diet Coke? No, but you would, by the evidence, know that the site had been visited by another human.
3. Universe is million times more complex than any campfire. By observing intricate balance of nature and complexities of the human body, it’s logical to conclude *someONE* BIG preceded us. This is why Psalm 14:1 says, *“The fool has said in his heart, ‘There is no God.’”*

B. And God Said

1. Gen. 1 – ten times God said, *“let there be”* or similar command = creation responded accordingly.
2. Know anyone with such authority in their words? Often when we speak little happens – e.g. might say car in front of me, *“At least go the speed limit!”* or *“This is a 12 item or less lane”*...
3. When God speaks, His commands are accomplished in full! His might/power are unmatched.

C. And It Was So

1. Genesis 1:9 *“And God said, ‘Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.’ And it was so.”* V 10 explains this separation as *“land”* and *“sea.”*
2. Ever cross the Mississippi river? Ever notice all the debris being swept downstream and wonder about the environmental impact that *“stuff”* would have?...
 - keep in mind the Mississippi pours its content into the ocean and ocean is made up of salt water. Salt water corrodes/eats away pollution = God’s purification system = e.g. Gulf spill...
3. Eccl 1:7 *“All the rivers flow into the sea, yet the seas are not full. To the place where the rivers flow, there they flow again.”*
 - a. water flows into the ocean, where it is evaporated by the sun into the sky. It then is purified and dropped onto the ground in the form of rain/snow etc. bringing refreshment to earth.

- b. it then runs off into creeks, streams and rivers and the whole cycle is repeated. This never ending water purification system alone declares the power/wisdom/compassion of God!
- 4. Romans 1:20 *“For since the creation of the world, His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen being understood through what has been made, so that they’re without excuse.”* Consider wonder X’s creation!

II CONSIDER MAN’S STUBBORN SKEPTICISM

- let me suggest three very specific sources of doubt:

A. Intellectual Skepticism

1. It’s human nature to be skeptical of that which we’ve not seen/experienced... and inquisitive minds wants to understand how things work and does not easily accept supernatural explanations.
2. Illus. – *Back to the Future – Part 2* – Marty McFly – hoverboard. Movie’s producer speculating what be like to live in 2015. Teens skating on boards didn’t touch the ground... impossible, right?
3. Most conveniences of today were thought intellectually impossible but a few years ago.
4. Isaiah 40:13 *“Who has understood the mind of the Lord, or instructed Him as His counselor?”* – because the Lord has far superior knowledge, nothing is impossible for Him!

B. Moral Skepticism

1. Another source doubt is immorality. People rebel against God’s will, alienating themselves from Him. Rather than repent, man expresses doubt in reality of God and His Word and run away...
2. Why? Doubt is a convenience – it’s easier to doubt than it is to turn back to God...
3. When the Israelites refused God’s command to take Canaan, God said, (Numbers 14:11) *“How long will these people treat me with contempt? How long will they refuse to believe in Me, in spite of all the miraculous signs I have performed among them?”*
4. When obedience appeared difficult, Israel refused God. Doubt is excuse for living as we please!

C. Prideful Skepticism

1. Primary source doubt = pride. Enjoy showing off intelligence or parading authority/position. Too much like woman complimenting politician. She, *“That was a wonderful speech. I just thought it was superfluous!”* Politicians didn’t want to embarrass her misuse... simply thanked her. But she continued, *“Oh, I just thought it was so superfluous. I think you should print it.”* *“I intend to,”* he quipped, *“but thought best to do it posthumously.”* She gushed, *“Oh, good! I can’t wait!”*
2. We all want to appear more intelligent than we really are, and to accept the Bible’s account of creation is not the “in thing” to do in intellectual circles today.
3. Psalm 10:4 *“In his pride the wicked does not seek [God]; in all his thoughts there is no room for God.”*
 - a. if man rejects Bible’s explanation of our origin, he has to replace it with something else – theory of evolution satisfies that need for most, though the evidence clearly says otherwise...
 - b. here by chance and you and I are just accidents and universe as we know just happened!

All of this leads us to the application and final point:

III CONSIDER WAYS OF OVERCOMING DOUBT

- Mark 9:17-24 man brought his demon possessed son to Jesus to heal. Jesus said, *“If I can? Everything is possible for him who believes.”* Father responded, *“...I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!”*
- if you struggle with doubt, here are three ways to overcome doubt in your life:

A. Admit Your Ignorance

1. This will not be easy – it will take a ton of humility to admit ignorance and being wrong.
2. Illus. – school principal told time he was in library and saw a kindergartner trying to read a book. He said, *“Why don’t you identify the pictures for me.”* She began turning pages saying, *“That’s a car... house... dog... cat...”* Turned to picture of a hatchet said, *“That’s a hammer.”* Turned next page, there was picture of hammer. She turned back to hatchet picture, then back to hammer – quickly closed the book. Turned to the principal and said, *“You know, we’re in a library and we really shouldn’t be talking!”*

3. It's so difficult sometimes to admit we're wrong. But first step to growing in faith is humility.
 - a. ego has been defined Edging God Out – humility is simply making room for God
 - b. Proverbs 11:2 *“When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.”*
 - c. James 4:6 *“God opposes the proud but give grace to the humble.”*

B. Consider the Alternatives

1. If you reject the creation account, you have to choose an alternative explanation. How then do you explain how you got here and why you are here in the first place?
2. Well known evolutionist explained it this way: “Evolution is an integration of matter and concomitant dissipation of motion during which the matter passes from an indefinite, incoherent, homogeneity to a definite, coherent heterogeneity, and during which the retained motion undergoes parallel transformation.” – like the Aflac duck hearing Yogi Berra – “Unhn?!”
3. You can believe pseudo-intellectual explanations nobody understands or you can believe truth!

C. Accept the Truth

1. Since none of us present when universe formed, we must accept the Biblical account “by faith”
2. Creation can't be proven, but neither can it be disproven, unlike theory of evolution:
3. Hebrews 11:6 *“Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.”*
 - a. without faith you can't please God, without faith, your life has no meaning, without faith, you have no explanation of your origin, purpose or future.
 - b. Illus. – was reported a bridge over Niagara River was begun by flying a kite across. Once across, a twine was attached to the string and pulled across, then a rope, then a cable. Eventually a solid bridge able to sustain tons of traffic completed. All started by kite string...
4. Our faith in truth is much the same... It takes years of study and practice to be an effective surgeon or engineer. How can we think we can become effective believers when we don't spend time examining truth and putting it into practice daily?
5. Romans 10:17 *“Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.”* Through the source of truth, God's Word, our faith is established and doubts are decreased!

Conclusion: Imagine a tightrope walker about to cross Niagara Falls. Before he begins, suppose he receives word the cable is not secure on the other end. Then suppose the same message says, “By the way, it's not all secure on this side either, but have a nice trip!” That tightrope artist would be nuts to take one step!

Such is the kind of risk the world expects from us today. Being told, “You don't know where you're from or where you are going, but have a really good life!” Any wonder people today in despair? With no sense of identity and no sense of destiny, the only reasonable conclusion: “Grab for all the gusto you can”

Remember I began this message saying Genesis 1 was the second most important section to believe. The most important section to believe is the life, death, burial and resurrection of Christ. Only Jesus can be trusted. No man has ever loved you enough to die for the punishment of your sins. No man has ever been powerful enough to come back from the grave. No human has the capacity to give you a sense of identity, a destiny and a purpose for life. But Jesus did – He alone is worthy of your absolute trust and love! Truth matters in overcoming doubt.