

Genesis 1-2

November 14, 2010

Introduction:

Genesis is the first book of the Bible. It is a part of the Pentateuch, the books of “The Law” written by God and penned by Moses (**2 Peter 1:21 & 1 Thessalonians 2:13**). Genesis is a book of beginnings. We have the beginning of mankind in Adam and Eve and the beginning of Israel in the family of Abraham. Today we want to look at the creation in **chapters 1 & 2**.

1:1; The Bible teaches us in verse one that God created the heaven and the earth. What does our culture, especially our public education, teach us about these matters?

- Our culture teaches us that the universe is the result of a “Big Bang”; there was some “matter” somewhere and something caused that matter to explode. As that matter cooled, “life” somehow developed out of “non-living” matter. Ooze became amebas, amebas became tadpoles, tadpoles became frogs, frogs became chimps, and monkeys become men. Basically we are taught that over millions of years, nothing became everything by chance.

What are the rational arguments that you can think of to discredit evolution?

- For example: For man to live, there are multiple organs that have to function as they do now; man could not have survived while his heart, liver, or kidneys were “evolving”. There is no record of any species arising out of another species; this had to happen in hundreds of thousands of instances for evolution to be true. Every design has a designer and every creation a creator.

Besides our faith in God, what reasons do we have to believe what the Bible teaches about creation?

- The historical and scientific accuracy of the Bible validates its truth. The Bible was true about scientific matters hundreds and sometimes a thousand years before scientific discoveries were made. The Bible taught that the earth was floating in space in **1500 B.C. (Job 26:7)**; that it was round in **700 B.C. (Isaiah 40:21)**; and that the stars couldn’t be numbered in **700 B.C. (Jeremiah 33:22)**. Around **1400 B.C.**, when the Pentateuch was penned, the Bible talks about the circulatory system (**Leviticus 17:11**), germs and sanitation (washings during sacrifices), nutrition (clean/healthy verses unclean/unhealthy foods), and even quarantining people to stop disease (**Numbers 5:2-3**).

When was the “beginning” for God?

- God had no beginning because He always was. **There was never a time when God was not**; He is eternal. The beginning here is the beginning of time and space as we know it.

1:2-4: What correlation might we make between this description of creation and our relationship with God?

- We walked in darkness until God brought us into light (see **2 Corinthians 4:6; Ephesians 5:8; and 1 Peter 2:9**). Our lives were void and without purpose and then God brought order to our lives.

What do you notice to be unusual about verses 3-4 and verses 14-16?

- There was “**light**” before there were “**lights**”.

How can this be?

- See **John 8:12; 1 John 1:5; and Revelation 21:23 & 22:5**.

1:6-8 Do you know how these verses contribute to the “flood” story and the proof of creation?

- These verses indicate that there was likely a water “canopy” around the earth (like the “rings” around Saturn). This would have created a “greenhouse” effect and made the entire planet tropical. This explains the discovery of tropical plants under ice in the “poles” and in the bellies of frozen mammoths in Siberia. It also explains the amount of rain falling from the sky in the flood (**Genesis 7:11**).

1:20-25: What is the significance of these animals being created after their “kind”?

- **Evolution** requires that species evolve into other species. There is no evidence that this has ever occurred. There are variations within species, but no plant ever became an animal and no frog ever became a prince. All of the animals were created in specific, unique species: “after their *kind*”.

1:26: Who is the *Us* in verse 26?

- “Us” refers to the Triune God (the Trinity: God the Father, God the Son {Jesus}, and God the Holy Spirit).

What do you think it means to be created in the image of God?

- God is relational; man is relational. The Great Commandments are about relationships. We are to love God first and most and to love others as ourselves (**Matthew 22:36-40**). We are also to become conformed to God’s image (**Romans 8:29 – we are to be like Him**).

1:28: What do we learn about God’s plan for man in verse 28?

- Man was to multiply and to rule over God’s creation.

How do you explain the two stories of man’s creation in chapters one and two?

- They are not two different stories. **Chapter one** is the story of the general, over-all creation...including the creation of man on the sixth day. **Chapter two** is the detailed story of man’s creation on the sixth day.

2:1-3: Why did God rest on the seventh day?

- God was not tired. **God was modeling how He wanted us to live our lives.** The Sabbath day is a day to remind ourselves that we came *from* God, were made *for* God, and are going to return *to* God. We are to be human “beings” not just human doings (thus, the Beatitudes). We are not to use the seventh day for *even more* work.

2:7 The three “parts” of men are established in verse seven. What are they?

- Man’s body was made from the ground. God “breathed” (the Hebrew word here is the word for the “spirit”), and man became a living “being” (literally “soul”). Our spirit is where God’s Spirit indwells the believer (**Romans 8:16**). Our “souls” are our mind, will, and emotions – our personality.

2:16-17 Is it like God to tell us what to do and what not to do?

- Absolutely. From the very beginning God gave man commands (tests) to see if man would love Him and submit to Him or try to be His own boss and God. The first thing God gave man was “choice”.

There is another test right here in this chapter. What is it?

- Will we take a day of rest or be greedy and keep working?

Can you think of another particular “is-God-first-in-our-lives” test?

- Tithing is a test on whether we will put ourselves or God first.

2:18 What is the primary lesson of verse 18?

- Man needs relationships; he is built for them. God did not discover that it was not good after He did created man by himself. He created man first and put these words in the Bible so that we would discover that we were not supposed to be alone. We are made for family, fellowship, community, and relationships.

2:24 What do we learn about marriage in verse 24?

- We are to leave our parents and to literally be “glued” to our mates. Leaving physically and financially means that we are now to be responsible for ourselves and our new family. Leaving emotionally means that our mates are now a higher priority to us than our parents.

2:25 What do we learn from verse 25?

- Before sin, there was not fear or “hiding” in marriage. Now most of us are afraid to really be known because we think that anyone who completely knew us would not or could not love us. God knows us best and loves us most.