

Lesson 3 CREATION – GOD'S WORK AND PURPOSE

READING: GENESIS 1

AIM: To show that God made all things and prepared the earth for the habitation of man and a medium for His glory.

1. BACKGROUND

It is difficult to know how anybody can meditate upon the glory of Creation about us without recognizing that "the Hand that made it is Divine". The marvelous order of the heavenly bodies; the splendour of the earth in its diversity of mountain, valley, forest, sea and land; the beauty of trees and flowers; the infinite variety of life all having been created for some purpose and expressing the glory of God (Psalm 19:1).

"In wisdom" He hath made them all (Prov. 8:22). However, nature itself cannot reveal to us God's purpose and intent. **We must turn to God's Word to learn of Him.** There we see that the same wisdom seen in natural creation is revealed also in His Plan of redemption for man (Prov. 8:35).

Throughout the centuries, the heathen have believed that many gods were necessary to create all things. The Bible emphasizes that all was done by "One God, the Father" (I Cor. 8:6; Isa 45:12). The record in Genesis is essentially concerned in setting forth the one true God **the Creator.**

2. IN THE BEGINNING – Genesis 1:1

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Gen. 1:1)

When was "in the beginning"? We don't know. The words tell us nothing of when that time was. It could have been millions of years ago. However, the subsequent act of man's creation as recorded in Genesis 1, took place about 6,000 years ago.

God made all things by His Spirit (Gen. 1:2; Psa. 104:30). "For of Him (literally, "out of Him") and through Him and to Him are all things" (Rom. 11:36). The Divine command was given. "And God said, Let there be"

God created God made God said

God finished By His power all things were created

Though the theory of evolution is taught in schools as though it has been proved beyond all doubt, the facts show that it is a man-made theory which cannot be proved even by the scientists who lend their support to it. One such fact is the "Piltdown Man", which was accepted for 40 years as a "missing link" in the supposed evolution from ape to human until it was revealed to be a hoax and fraud.

3. THE SIX DAYS OF CREATION – Gen. 1

Before the acts of Creation recorded in Genesis 1, the earth was just a chaotic mass floating in space "without form and void", or empty (Gen. 1:2). There was not light upon the dark mighty oceans which covered its surface. No land, no life appeared anywhere. The earth was but an empty, black planet.

God set to work to fill the earth with light, life and beauty (Job 38:4-7; Psa 33:6-9 cp. Psa 103:20-22). The work was divided into six days in which to order the creation is revealed.

First Day: God caused light to shine through darkness, thus creating day and night. Gen 1:3-5.

Second Day: God formed the atmosphere (the "expanse" or heaven) with "waters" above and below. **Gen 1:9-13.**

Third Day: The waters below were gathered together into seas, and the dry land which appeared was named "earth". The earth was then clothed with grass, herbs and trees bearing fruit **after their own kind with their own seed in them. Gen 1:9-13.**

Fourth Day: The sun and moon were "made" to give light upon the earth. (This may mean "appointed" in relation to the earth rather than "created" on the fourth day – see Psa. 104:10; for light appeared on the first day, suggesting that the sun would be already created for this to be so.) Natural divisions of times – days, months and years were determined by God setting the sun and the moon to rule over the day and the nights. **Gen. 1:14-19.**

Fifth Day: The oceans were filled with fish life; myriads of birds were created which soared in the heavens. **Gen. 1:24-31.**

Sixth Day: Cattle, creeping things and beasts of the earth were created. Among all these animals, however, there was none that was capable of reflecting the character of the Creator. The crowning act of creation was then performed. Man was formed in the image of God and set over all the work of creation as lord or chief. He was given dominion over all forms of life God had made. He was head over all creation, responsible to God for his actions, given the task of ruling himself. **Gen. 1:24-31.**

4. **WHY GOD CREATED** – Rev. 4:11; Acts 17:24-27; 1 Cor. 15:24-28

God made the earth to be inhabited (Isa 45:12, 18) and filled with His glory (Num. 14:21). God's glory is not revealed fully at present. The 6,000 years of man's history reveal a sad record of violence, misery and death. This will all be changed. God intends to so alter conditions on the earth that they will reflect His glory (see Psa 72).

God is calling out men and women from the Gentiles to obedience and a place in the Kingdom He will set up on earth at the second advent of the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts . This will all be changed. God intends to so alter conditions on the earth that they will reflect His glory (see Psa 72).

God is calling out men and women from the Gentiles to obedience and a place in the Kingdom He will set up on earth at the second advent of the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 3:19-21; Dan. 2:44). Under his wise government conditions on earth will be changed. Finally, death itself will be destroyed and every curse removed (see Rev. 21:4; 22:3). The purpose of God is outlined clearly in 1 Cor. 15:24-28.

5. CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

The earth in the beginning was a wonderful place, for all that God had made was "very good". Contemplate the amazing phenomena which are ours to experience today, to enjoy and marvel at continually:

- (1) The heavenly bodies are governed by precise and definite laws. Day after day, the sun rises in the East, sets in the West and it has been so since creation. Once a month the moon is full and then commences to wane until new moon. The new moon waxes until full moon occurs again. This goes on continually. The stars, too, maintain their appointed places in the heavens.

Life on our own planet depends on it maintaining its appointed place relative to the sun. If the earth was significantly closer to the sun everything on earth would be burnt up, but if it was significantly further away it would be too cold on earth for life to exist. Similarly if the moon was only half as far away from the earth as it is the world would be swept by great tidal waves.

- (2) The seasons come with unfailing regularity, and all plant life responds. Winter is followed by the warm spring. Trees blossom, seeds germinate, and the fields are covered with grasses and corn. They yield their harvest in the summer-time, and then in the autumn they either die, casting forth their seeds for the next spring, or lose their leaves and remain dormant during the winter. A tiny seed has unfathomed power to produce another great tree like its parent, and so the cycle is repeated.

All such marvels reflect the glory of God, and we too, as the chief part of God's creation, can reflect His glory and render something back to Him by giving Him our loyal obedience.

REFERENCE LIBRARY

- "Evidence for Design" by David Pearce
- "Creation or Evolution" by John M. Hellowell
- "The Visible Hand of God" by Robert Roberts chapter 2.
- "Elpis Israel" by John Thomas part 1, chapter 2

6. QUESTIONS

1. What is the order of creation as recorded in Genesis 1?
2. What was God's purpose in creating the earth?
3. Describe an aspect of creation which shows how marvelous is the wisdom and power of God.
4. Briefly describe how the earth was filled with light, life and beauty.
5. How and why should we learn more about God than is revealed in the works of creation?