

# THE STORY OF THE WORLD



## In the Beginning

Genesis 1:1-2:3

### Main Idea

God created the heavens and the earth in order to prepare a place for His people to display His glory.

### Overview

### **Introduction**

- We must submit and pay attention to the text for it is inspired as Gods breathed out word
  - Not our traditions, or experiences
  - All our convictions must be pulled there by the text and not the opposite
  - Pay attention to your presuppositions and make certain they are submissive to the word
  - We must ask the questions the Bible is answering
- Moses has written this word as a single book (2 Chron 25.4, Ezra 6.18, Neh. 13.1, Mark 12.26) to tell a story from a forward position
  - Every story is placed next to another to make sense of that forward position
  - These are not randomly thrown together historical accounts
    - But instead each have are working to build a puzzle that displays a picture
    - That picture has a purpose, or a meaning to communicate something to us
- Summarization: Theme of Book: God is faithful to His faithless people. He prepares a place for them where He will make all things new.

### **In the Beginning, God created the heavens and the earth**

- The first subject of the first line of the Bible is God
  - This is because God is the subject of the Bible (not us)
    - He is its primary point: Our first question must be “What does this say about God?”
  - There are 35 verses in the first story (1-2.4) and the name of God appears 35 times
- God is eternal
  - If He speaks time into exists He clearly must exist outside it
  - In giving His name to Moses in Exodus 3 God reveals His identity as “I AM” (LORD)
  - He is not dependent to be created or maintained by man...He simply is
- God created the heavens and the earth = God created everything
  - Every time we see the word “created” in the Bible its subject is always God
    - Man “makes” and “builds” but he/she never creates...only God can do that
  - Moses wants us to know (from that forward position): The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob...the God of the Flood, Exodus, etc. He is the God who created the Universe (no other)

### **God created In the Beginning**

- The reason why “beginning” is here is to have us anticipate and ending that Moses is very aware of from the start (remember he is the same one who wrote the end of Deut.)

- Moses wants to point our eyes forward to a time in the future where things will be “ended”

## **Vs. 2: Formless & without void with darkness over the deep**

- This means the earth was uninhabitable
- This chapter is being told with the understanding that mankind would be Gods agent on the earth
  - So it is deemed “without form & void” because it was uninhabitable to those people

## **Vss. 3-5: First Day**

- God speaks Light into the darkness so that man could thrive in the land
- Light is a theme that will be developed
  - It often refers to the presence of God (Psalm 18.28)
  - Jesus in John 1.1-4
  - New Heavens and New Earth Revelation 21.23
- And God saw that it was Good
  - God determines what is good
  - It is good because it will benefit His people

## **Vss. 6-8: Second Day**

- God creates “expanse in the heavens” = Sky (1.14, 20)
- No mention of good because it is not immediately beneficial for man

## **Vss. 9-13: Third Day**

- God creates dry land out of the earth (land came through the waters...hear Exodus or baptism)
- God creates vegetation

## **Vss. 14-19: Fourth Day**

- God gives purpose to the light
  - One to “rule the day” and one to “rule the night”: (Sun and stars)
  - This is good because it orders the days of Gods ppl

## **Vss. 20-23: Fifth Day**

- God creates sea and air creatures
- See the first mention of “life” which brings us the first “blessing”
  - Blessing and life go together...that is, where God gives blessing He is imparting life
  - Where there is life there should be multiplication
  - This theme of “blessing” will be tracked in the Book

## **Vss. 24-31: Sixth Day**

- God creates living creatures on the earth
- God creates man in “our” Image/Likeness
  - Image of God: One ability which gives one responsibility
    - Ability: We have the ability to know God
    - Responsibility: We then must show Him...display Him by having Dominion as He would
      - This is the mission of God in the world
      - Have a People that Displays His glory into all the world
      - Being fruitful and multiplying and having dominion and filling the earth is the filling of the world with worshipers of God
        - Matt. 28.18-20 is the same command: God never gave up on His mission
- The “Us” illustrates that God is plurality
  - We see the Spirit of God hovering over the waters (vs 3)
  - We know that “God” here in chapter one is used in the plural, modified by singular verbs
    - God is both singular and plural
    - This is an early picture of the Trinity

- Part of God's nature is that He is Triune: Father, Son, and Spirit
- Recall what was said of Jesus in Col. 1:15-18
- God had finished preparing the land for His people to now display Him in their having dominion and filling it up with people that do that

### **Chapter 2.1-3: Seventh Day**

- God resting here is not because He was tired
  - He is an infinitely Holy God
- The resting that is done here is a surveying & enjoying His completed work
  - This act is life giving as it is “blessed” and considered holy

### Questions

Discussion Starter: *How do you typically approach reading the Bible? In particular, how do you typically approach reading the first five books of the Bible?*

1. Read Genesis 1:1-2.
2. What is the subject of the first sentence of the Bible and why is that significant for our understanding this story?
3. What do these verses tell us about the character of God? What kind of implications does this have for us in the day to day?
4. What does it mean the world was “formless and void, and darkness over the deep”? How is our world now similar?
5. How did God give life to it? How does this correlate to the gospel (cf. 2 Cor. 4:4-6)?
6. Read 1:3-25. What are some repeated themes throughout these verses?
7. In what way is Light significant in this account and in the account of the Bible as a whole?
8. Why is God seeing things are good an important theme to be tracked?
9. Why would “blessing” be associated with life? Where do you see “blessings” (in this understanding) around you?
10. Read 1:26-28. What does it mean to be created in the Image of God?
11. What is God's mission in the world? How do you play a part in that mission? How is God's mission going around the world?
12. Read 1:31-2:3. What does it mean that God ‘rested’? How can we replicate this?

Accountability Question: *Where is God having to compete in being the subject of your life?*