

Genesis Ch 1; March 17, 2025 -Men's Monday Morning Bible Study

Review and Intro:

We looked at authorship, issues and themes last week. Today we will dive into the text itself.

Text:

This is obviously the creation narrative part of the first part of Genesis.

Structure:

Creation and before Abram (1-11:26)

Abram and after (11:27-50)

V1

Gap theory: "tohu wa-bohu" formless and void. Primordial fall of satan inferred.

Creation "ex nihilo" -Heb 11:3: "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."

Seven, 24-hour, literal creation.

Use of the word "yom" Hebrew for day.

See WCF 4:1, LC 15, SC 9

Exodus 20:11; Deuteronomy 5

V1 We've already looked at other verses pertaining to creation: John 1-5; Col 1:16-18; Rev 21:6, 22:13

Notice what person of the Trinity is there: the Spirit.

Polemic nature of Gen 1 given Mosaic authorship.

Notice also the structure of Gen 1 "one day, two day... etc."

Also, during (v10) and after day 3 "it was good" through v13.

Lastly, the structure includes “then God said.” He spoke these things into existence (see also (Heb 11:3; Ps 33:6&9)

Day 1 -light and darkness

Day 2 -Heavens and water

Day 3 -Land and plants “according to their kind.” First occurrence (2x) of it was good.

Day 4 –(v14-19), sun, moon and stars

Day 5 –(v20-22) sea creatures, birds (v20), “sea monsters,” then a repeat of “according to it’s kind (v21), multiply mandate in v22 to the critters.

Day 6 –(v23-31) which is the apex of the narrative. Creation of land animals (v24) according to their kind. V25 is a restatement of v24 with the addition of “it was good.” V26 is a change. God speaks in the plural, “let Us make...” While not specific, there are Trinitarian overtones. At least the passage makes room for such an interpretation. Here we see in one of the very earliest passages, the communication of plurality inside of singularity.

Notice also that God is making something different. What is being made is in the “image” or “likeness” of God. This thing is not like the other things created. This has massive theological implications. This kind of thing is a different kind of thing than all the other things.

Notice also that the idea of likeness (beginning of v26) and image (v27) are connected to and are bookends to the position of the kind of thing God created. Man will “have dominion.” He is above all the other things created. This is called order at the least, hierarchy or patriarchy at the more specific level.

V28 gives us the “creation mandate” telling us the purpose for which mankind was made. Notice that God precedes the the job description with a blessing. The giving of a purpose is indeed that, a blessing. We do not have to wander around trying to figure out the divine objective for our existence. We do not have to search the world or within ourselves to discover God’s plan for us. The creation mandate is the forerunner of the Great Commission (Matt 28:18-20).

What is the job of humanity? The job of humanity is to “be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth, and subdue it; and to have dominion over the fish of the sea and the birds of the sky and over every living thing that creeps on the earth.”

In v29, God gives further commentary about the purpose of creation, it is there for the sake of humanity, hence the phrase “it shall be food for you.”

V30 concludes with “and it was so” meaning what God set out to do, He did. He did not leave anything out, nor did He not complete the task. There is a finality to it and a satisfaction attained.

V31 adds the phrase “and it was very good.” The addition of “very” is emphatic stressing the judgement placed on it in a positive light. God was pleased with what He had done.

Additional cultural commentary:

Much of modern therapy is a scam that keeps people stuck on introspection constantly looking inwardly to become self-aware so that they can self-actuate. This is a turnstyle meant to relieve people of their money rather than give them actual understanding and purpose. The Greek word used in the NT to describe the end for which God created the world is called “telos.” It means ends or purpose. Here we see the “telos” of humanity. Genesis tells us why we were created and what our aim and activity should be.

Unfortunately, even the modern church has abdicated this view and replaced it with highly individualistic and effeminate “relationship”. This is not good. Certainly, God has a relationship with His people. He calls us His sons, co-heirs with Christ. We cry out “Abba Father.” But that aspect of our existence is secondary to the original intent for humanity as a whole. We are to be busy making more people and conquering the world. There is a conquest aspect to this. God is extending His rule and reign over the earth and we are the vice regents. We are his representatives.

For the vast majority of church history, evangelism and discipleship was about having and raising children. This doesn’t mean that we shouldn’t preach the Gospel to everyone everywhere. But, there is a historical precedent that has been lost. Doug Wilson said that “it is easier to raise godly children who raise godly children, than to convert lost men.” I agree. Additionally, this tactic of having children who have children is not only a more attainable goal, but it also is something that creates a discernably more beneficial society than focusing on outward evangelism alone. Having and raising kids is not just an

individual choice, it is commanded. It is God's design for humanity. It is our primary job in subduing the earth.

The world system is teaching that children should not be brought into the world if you are a loving person. Of course, reproduction is eliminated in the global homo push. Gay/trans etc. cannot reproduce and the powers that be are pushing that identity on the culture at large. That is the stated goal of the elites, namely population control. If the millennials and gen Z in America will have more than 2 children, the political landscape of the west and the world will be a different thing than what we've seen.

This needs to be taught and heeded by Christians today. The "kingdom" language used by Jesus and the apostles is a harbinger of this theology. God's purpose is to spread the fame of His name. His primary way of doing this is for His people to multiply on His planet. Think about all the kingdom language and also think about the number of times God talks about "generations." I just got through reading Deuteronomy and one of the repeating themes was "throughout your generations." God's intent is to build a people in a place and give them His name and set them on a course.

If it's too late for you to have children, teach this to others. If not, get to work. That's the fun part!

Habakkuk 2:14 "For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea." See also: Ps 72:19, 86:9; Is 6:3, 11:9; Zech 14:9; Rev 11:15.

Yes and amen!

Closing Prayer:

Father, thank You for Your word and the worldview it provides. Help us to trust you as the creator of all things. For Christ and His covenant... for a thousand years by the work of the Spirit. In Jesus' name, Amen.