

In the Beginning...

An Examination of the Genesis Account of Creation and the Fall of Mankind

Genesis 1:26-28

5- The "Days" of Creation, Day 1

February 11, 2018

Genesis 1:1-2:4

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

2 The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.

3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

4 God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.

5 God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.

6 Then God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters."

7 God made the expanse, and separated the waters which were below the expanse from the waters which were above the expanse; and it was so.

8 God called the expanse heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day.

9 Then God said, "Let the waters below the heavens be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so.

10 God called the dry land earth, and the gathering of the waters He called seas; and God saw that it was good.

11 Then God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, *and* fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit after their kind with seed in them"; and it was so.

12 The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed after their kind, and trees bearing fruit with seed in them, after their kind; and God saw that it was good.

13 There was evening and there was morning, a third day.

14 Then God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years;

15 and let them be for lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so.

16 God made the two great lights, the greater light to govern the day, and the lesser light to govern the night; *He made* the stars also.

17 God placed them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth,

18 and to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness; and God saw that it was good.

19 There was evening and there was morning, a fourth day.

20 Then God said, "Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens."

21 God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarmed after their kind, and every winged bird after its kind; and God saw that it was good.

22 God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth."

23 There was evening and there was morning, a fifth day.

24 Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after their kind"; and it was so.

25 God made the beasts of the earth after their kind, and the cattle after their kind, and everything that creeps on the ground after its kind; and God saw that it was good.

26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

28 God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

29 Then God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you;

30 and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, *I have given* every green plant for food"; and it was so.

31 God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

2:1 Thus the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their hosts.

2 By the seventh day God completed His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.

3 Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

4 This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made earth and heaven.

To the Glory of God

Now I have told you over the last several weeks that the attack against the **Genesis** Record of Creation is, at its heart, an attack against all of Scripture. It is a full-frontal assault against the *trustworthiness* and *inerrancy* of the biblical text. *That* is what this battle is *really* about. And sadly, these attacks attempt to use "Science", or what *masquerades* as "Science", as the "battering ram" to force the door open for people to disbelieve the Holy Bible.

But, I have done my best to inform you that Darwinian Evolution is not only completely *incompatible* with the Bible, it is incompatible with true Science as well. And last week, we looked at the real-world results of what happens to people and societies and Governments, and even entire Nations when they buy into the notion that God did *not* create the Heavens and the Earth, and that Man evolved from lower primates. 6,000 years of human history teaches us that Darkness and Violence and Barbarity and Injustice, like you cannot imagine, *always*, and in all cases, flows out from the darkened mind that denies that they are fully accountable to the Creator, Who made them.

I believe the **Genesis** Record. I believe that God created everything out of nothing in six different "Evening and Morning" divisions of time called "days". And that makes Man to be about 6,000 years old, if you cut it sharply, and about 10,000 years, very loosely. And, as I told you two weeks ago, I think that the majority of the *disconnect* between true Science and Biblical Creation lies in the fact that Science *assumes* that

the various "processes" that are in place now have *always* been in place. And so, they postulate that if that is true, then it would take 6.4 billions of years for Man to evolve. But we must understand that Creation was series of non-repeatable, supernatural, miracles that have absolutely *nothing* to do with the way in which things operate today. So, that accounts for that issue.

And all of the variations between what the Bible says, and the geological formations and the fossil record and Carbon 14 test data, are very easily resolved by taking into account the cataclysmic Flood that engulfed the entire world and lasted for over a year.

So, I have absolutely no hesitation standing before teachers and lawyers and doctors and scientists and politicians and speaking with authority that human beings did *not* evolve from one-celled amoebas or alien seed pods, but that we have been fearfully and wonderfully made on purpose by a Good and Wise and Almighty Creator, and that we all are accountable to this Creator for what we think and how we act and what we believe in this life.

And, if they have a hard time believing that, I will tell them, "*They ain't seen nothing yet*". Because this very same Sovereign Creator also took on flesh and became Man. And this Man, Jesus the Christ, was born of a virgin, and was fully God and fully Man, in the same body, at the same time, without conflict or contradiction. And then I will tell them that Jesus lived 33-1/2 years on this earth, and never sinned. Never. Not once. But that he was sinless perfect in thought, word, and deed, 24 hours every day and 7 days every week.

I will then tell them that this same Creator, who was now fully a Man, proved His Deity by walking on water and raising the dead and by opening blind eyes and by casting demons out of people and forgiving sin. And this same Jesus, by Whom and through Whom and to whom all things were made, received all of the sins of all of God's elect onto Himself through imputation as He hung, screaming in agony, on the Cross, while the full fury of God's Wrath against our sins was absorbed by Him. And then I will tell them that Jesus literally died. And the third day, Jesus was literally and physically raised from the dead by the Glory of the Father. And after spending 40 days teaching His disciples things pertaining to the Kingdom of God, this God/Man physically and bodily ascended into Heaven where He sits at the Right Hand of the Majesty on High, interceding for all of God's elect to keep them saved.

And then I will tell those, who disbelieve in Creation, that this same Jesus will return to this earth with Power and great Glory, and that all sinners, who refuse to bow their knees and confess their own inability to save themselves, will burn in hell forever. And those who are gifted by God to have the arrogance of their heart broken will repent and trust in the finished Work of Jesus Christ, and spend all of eternity in unbelievable Joy.

Because you see, I know that those who don't believe the Biblical Record about Creation also don't believe the Biblical Record about Salvation either. And those who discount the miracle of Creation by supposedly using Science also discount all of the other miracles of the Bible, including Salvation. So, I have been faithful to tell you that this issue goes way beyond whether what **Genesis** says is true. It affects every other issue of Life as well.

Now, beginning today, I will now go through the six "days" of Creation, *expositionally*, to give you the information that you need about the three things that matter to Christians living in the 21st Century:

1. What does the infallible and inerrant Word of the living God actually say?
2. What does it mean by what it says?
3. How can I, as a believer, obey what it says?

Since the Bible is true, the answer to those three questions are really all that matters. And nowhere is that seen more clearly than in the six "days" of Creation. So, let's look again at **Genesis 1:1-5** again together:

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

2 The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.

3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

4 God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.

5 God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.

So, the first question, out of the box, we need to ask is, “*How did the Universe come to be what it is now*”? Here’s how, Verse 1:

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

So, the Scriptures declare that the Universe “came into being” because God created it. Now we need to understand that the ancient Hebrews had no single word for “Universe”. Instead, they had a *phrase* for “Universe”, and the phrase for “Universe” that the Hebrews used was:

the heavens and the earth

... which is simply another way of saying “Universe”. So, in the beginning, God created, *bārā, ex nihilo*, out of nothing, the Universe. With no prior existing matter, and no prior existing energy, God created the entire Universe.

Now, it is important to know that God Himself had no beginning. And that’s why in **Exodus 3:14**, God identifies Himself to Moses as:

“I am that I am.”

... so, God is the eternal one. He is now, He will always be, and He always has been. So, God is not some concept developed by religious people, He simply “is”. And even though He was always God, and always existed, He was *not* always the Creator. God *became* the Creator when He decided to create the Universe.

Now the second Question we need to ask is, “*How did God create all things?*” And the Bible is crystal clear that God created the Universe “by” and “through” His Word. Look at again at Verse 3:

“Then God said, ‘Let there be light...’”

And then, Verse 6 says:

“And God said, ‘Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters.’”

And then, Verse 9 says:

“And then God said, ‘Let the waters...’”

And then in Verse 11 the Bible says:

Then God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation..."

And then, in Verse 14 the Word of God says:

Then God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens..."

Then in Verse 20, we read:

Then God said, "Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures ..."

Then in Verse 24, the Bible says:

Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind ..."

And, finally, in Verse 26, the Word of God says:

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness..."

... so, God created the Universe by simply *speaking* it into existence. That's *how* He created the Universe.

And the third Question we need to ask is, "*When did God create all things?*" God created the Universe in six different "Evening and Morning" divisions of time called "days". And He did all this about six thousand years ago, maybe a little more than that, but something certainly under ten thousand years, but closer to six thousand. So, that is *when* God created the Universe. So, Mankind is somewhere between 6,000 and 10,000 years old, *not* the millions and billions of years that many people teach.

Okay, we have covered the "how" and "when"- so now the question is "Why?" *Why did God create the Universe?* And, of course, the first and simplest answer is, "*Because He wanted to*". And that's really the very best and truest answer. But then we need to ask, "*Why did God want to create the Universe?*"

And this is an important Question because the answer forces us to understand Who God is. The Bible reveals God to be an infinitely perfect God, Who is fully complete in and of Himself. But, *why* does a God like this have a desire to create the Universe, *especially* since there is so much trouble and disease and war and injustice and pain and suffering going on in this world that God created?

And many answer that question by saying that, "*God was lonely and wanted a family*". And I not only think that answer is *wrong*, I think it is *blasphemy*. And let me tell you why. The Bible says that God is Love. So, God is not only *loving* or *lovely*, but part of Who God is is Love. So, Love is part of the very Nature and Character of God.

And so, among the three Persons of the Trinity there is *perfect* Love, and *perfect* Joy, *perfect* Satisfaction, and *perfect* Peace. No human on earth has ever or will ever, nor can he, even image the Love and Joy and Peace and Contentment and Satisfaction that exists between God the Father and God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. It is beyond our capacity to even comprehend.

So, God has no lack, He has no deficiencies that any of us could supply. We cannot add *anything* to the fullness of God. And to think we could belies our fallen nature that thinks too highly of itself. So, God isn't lonely at all. He has never known loneliness. God is perfectly content in and of Himself. So, to suggest that God is lonely, and that we fill-up that lack in God, is a terrible thing to say. And yet God created the Universe. And that compels us to ask, "*Why?*"

And America's greatest theologian, Jonathan Edwards, spent a great deal of time pondering this question back in the 18th Century. And Edwards wrote a book entitled, "*The End for Which God Created the World*". And, in that book, Edwards said that the key to understanding why a God, Who has need of nothing, would create the World, lies in Who God is. And to understand that, first of all, we need to understand that God is "Holy". So, God is not like *anything* that He made. He is "different" and "set apart" from all that He formed and spoke into existence. And He is "different" and "set apart" because He is *better* and *more valuable* and *more important* than what He made.

And what makes God to be better and more valuable and more important is the *particularities* of His Own Nature and Attributes and Characteristics. So, Who God is, in all His pristine Essence, is *why* God is "Holy". So, because God is Omniscient and Omnipotent and Omni-

Present, and because He is Effectual and Wise and Good and Love and Immutable and Kind and Merciful, that is *why* God is Holy. And each of these parts of God's Holiness has a *value* to them, they have a *beauty* and an *importance* to them. And that value and that importance is their "Glory".

And, periodically, God chooses to "manifest" or "display" or "show" one or more of those holy Attributes. And when He does that, the particular part of His Holiness shines forth, and that is when we "see God's Glory". So, "God's Glory" is the *manifestation* or the *displaying* or the *showing* of one or more parts of His Own personal Holiness that is seen.

But *part* of God's grand Purpose behind *displaying* His Holiness is that this "Glory" will be not merely be "seen", but that it will be "appreciated" or "praised" as the Treasure that He is. So, it isn't enough for God to simply *manifest* His Own Magnificence. Without God's Glory being seen and valued and honored and treasured, His Holiness is insulted and belittled.

Now what is fascinating is that God is able to both manifest and appreciate *most* of the pristine particulars of His Essence among the three Persons of the Trinity. So, for example, God, all by Himself, is able to display perfect Love and perfect Beauty and perfect Joy and perfect Wisdom and perfect Power and perfect Satisfaction among Himself in the Persons of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, *without* anything else. And God is also able to appreciate those parts of His Holiness all by Himself as well.

So, to manifest *those parts* of His Holiness and give His Glory its due treasuring does *not* require a Universe or a World or sinful human beings. God can both show and treasure most all of the particularities of His Holiness, all by Himself. And before He created the Universe, God was doing just that. So, not only did God display the Beauty of His Holiness, all by Himself, He also gave that display its due praise, all by Himself as well.

But there are certain portions of God's Nature and Character and Essence that *cannot* be displayed nor be valued by Himself. For example, God cannot display His Grace to the three Persons of His Essence. And He *cannot* manifest that part of His Holiness because none of the three Persons of the Trinity *need* Grace. So, for Grace to be

displayed and valued as the glorious part of God's Own Holiness, that it is, *requires* sinful people.

Conversely, God *cannot* display or value His "Justice" to Himself for the very same reason. Neither God the Son nor God the Holy Spirit need or require either Grace or Justice. So, to manifest or show or display His Grace and Justice, and for His Grace and Justice to be seen and admired and valued and treasured, *requires* that there be wicked rebels on whom both Grace and Justice can be given.

So, in order to manifest His Grace and Justice, and for that Grace and Justice to be seen and admired and treasured and feared, required that God make Man in His Image and Likeness. And it also required that the Man God created would fall and need to be either redeemed or damned. And for that to happen, humans had to be able to live on earth for several thousands of years, until all of those, who have been chosen for Salvation, could be born and saved, and all of those not chosen could be born and damned.

So, the earth and water and land and trees and animals and food and oxygen are simply *secondary* elements of Creation. They are *not* the main issue. Creation occurred, primarily, so that the Glory of God's Grace could be seen and marveled at by saving unworthy sinners by what God alone did for them.

Now I realize that many of the people, who make up the modern Church, have never heard anything like this before. Most people today have been fed a steady diet of "Man-centered theology" that puts us and our value at the center of all that God does. And this is opposed to a "God-centered theology" that puts God and His Value at the center of all that God does. And an example of a "Man-centered "gospel"" would be the notion that:

"God saved me, because He loved me".

... which is absolutely true. But, in *addition* to this statement being absolutely true, it is also absolutely *incomplete*. And because it is incomplete, it puts Man at the center of Salvation. And so, an example of a "God-centered Gospel" would be:

"God saved me, because He loved me, so that, by saving me, I will love Him."

... which completes the picture. So, yes, God saved me because He loved me. But *ultimately*, God's Love for me causes God to desire to give me the very best. And the very best that God can give me is *Himself!* But sin stops that from happening.

And so, God took on flesh and lived a sinless life and dies a vicarious Death and was raised from the dead on the third day. And then God sovereignly and graciously comes to me, while I am lost and fallen, and while I love darkness, and when I have no desire to love and serve Him. And God sovereignly *interrupts* my life and He *inserts* Himself into me, and God *forcefully* and *effectively* opens my blind eyes, and He *powerfully* unstops my deaf ears, and He *wondrously* takes that stony heart out of me and gives me a heart of flesh that is able and willing to believe Him and trust Him. And God does all of this *before* I ask Him to, and before I even *want* Him to.

And all of this forceful and powerful Action by God is called "Grace". So, God's Grace is manifested by and through God actively doing all of this for an unworthy rebel. And that is why the Apostle says that Salvation is "by" the Grace of God.

So, as God graciously *grants* me the gift of Repentance, and as He *gives* me the gift of Saving Faith, as God moves effectively by His Grace to change me, the Glory of the Grace of God that shines forth from the Father is seen and beheld and marveled at. Because, with those new eyes, I see. And I see Jesus in His Glory, and I see my own complete depravity. And with those new ears, I hear. I hear the sound of Amazing Grace. And with that new, soft, believing heart, I am gifted with the ability to hate my own sin and despise my own rebellion, and I am endued with supernatural Power to behold the Glory of God in the Face of Jesus Christ, and to love what I see.

So, God's Love for me, that He set on me before the world was, is the catalyst that removes my sin so that I am now free to love Him. So, *ultimately*, God's Purpose in saving me is so that I will be able to "see" the manifestation of Grace, and by radically changing me, I will love what I see. And that will bring God the Glory that He deserves. Turn to the Apostle Paul's Epistle to the saints at Ephesus, real quick, Chapter 1, Ephesians 1:

Ephesians 1:3-6

3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ,

4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love

5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,

6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

So, *why* did God choose us in Him before the foundation of the world? *Why* did God predestine us? Look again at the first part of verse 6:

to the praise of the glory of His grace...

So, God's Grace is part of Who God is. And as that Grace is manifested, as it is shown, as it is displayed, that Grace has a glory to it. It has a value to it. And when that Grace is displayed and seen, it is marveled at and treasured and appreciated. It is praised. So, as God's Grace is manifested, by saving the people He chose to save, the Value or the Glory of that Grace is magnified, and God Himself is praised!

And that is *why* God saves unworthy sinners. But, that is also *why* God created the Universe. So that the particular Attributes of His Nature, that could *not* be manifested when all there was was God, could be seen and magnified.

So, now we understand all four issues about Creation:

1. How did the Universe come into being? God created it.
2. How did God create the Universe? By speaking it into existence.
3. When did God create the Universe? In six different "Evening and Morning" divisions of time called "days".
4. Why did God create the Universe? So that the parts of God's Attributes that could *not* be seen and valued, when nothing but God existed, could be displayed and magnified.

... that is what the Bible says, and that is what we should all believe and teach.

Now, there is one more thing we need to understand before we look at the six days of Creation. There is a magnificent *connection* between Creation and Salvation that we must not overlook. And to see that connection, please turn to read **2 Corinthians 4:6** with me.

For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

Now the entire Passage from **2 Corinthians 3:1-4:6** is discussing *why* we are to preach the Gospel and what happens when we do. Now, by the way, the Chapter and Verse divisions in our English Bibles are *not* inspired and they are *not* very helpful in this case.

But as you get to 4:6, the Apostle makes the point that, "in the same way" that God spoke Light into existence in the first "day" of Creation, *that* is the way that lost people are saved. In **Genesis 1:3**, Moses was "moved along" by God the Holy Spirit to infallibly say:

Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

... and when you combine that Reality with verse 2, that says:

The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.

... we see an amazing dynamic. God the Holy Spirit was "moving", or "hovering", or "brooding" over the face of the waters. And this term gives us the picture of a caring and involved parent "hovering" or "moving" or "brooding" over the crib of a new baby. There is *purpose* and *concern* in the "moving". There is a *deliberateness* in the "hovering". There is a very real and powerful Love involved in the "brooding". And so, when God spoke, "*Let there be light!*", God the Spirit took the spoken Word of God and sovereignly *created* matter, in this case, light.

So, too, the Apostle teaches, when we "herald" the Gospel, when the Gospel is preached and taught *authoritatively* and *fully* and *rightly*, from the lips of a dedicated and consecrated bond-slave of Jesus, God the Holy Spirit is "moving" and "hovering" and "brooding" over the "sea"

of Humanity to whom the Gospel is preached. And that "moving" has *purpose* and *concern* in it. That "hovering" has a *deliberateness* to it. And that "brooding" has a *real* and *powerful* Love attached to it. And God the Spirit takes the spoken Word of God and He sovereignly *creates* new spiritual life in the lost person who has been chosen for Salvation from before the foundation of the world. And the Bible says that is how lost people are saved.

So, to deny Creation would *necessarily* deny Salvation, also. To seek to *minimize* or *marginalize* or even *eliminate* the supernatural and miraculous component of Creation is to equally *minimize* and *marginalize* and *eliminate* the supernatural and miraculous component of Salvation. To suggest that Creation is simply the result of random and accidental evolution is to join forces with those who disbelieve the Bible and who teach that Salvation is merely the "choice" or "decision" of Man.

Creation is miraculous in the same way that Salvation is miraculous. And neither one can be adequately explained or understood without the breathtaking and mind-blowing supernatural and miraculous Hand of God sovereignly moving and accomplishing God's Will. Now please look again at **Genesis 1:3-5**:

3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

4 God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.

5 God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.

Here, God begins the series of non-repeatable miracles of Creation by speaking "Light" into existence on the first day. And verse 3 says:

God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light

Here we see an early example of God's Sovereignty. The one, true, and living God of the Bible is absolutely Sovereign over everything, all the time. And that means that it is *impossible* for God's Will to be thwarted or denied.

Isaiah 43:13

Even from eternity I am He, And there is none who can deliver out of My hand; I act and who can reverse it?"

Isaiah 46:9b&10

**9 ... I am God, and there is no other; *I am* God, and there is no one like Me,
10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure';**

No devil or human can withstand God, or cause God's Will *not* to come to pass. Our evil decisions combined with satan's devices *cannot* and *do not* nullify God's Will. God *always* gets His way. This is what being "Sovereign" is all about. And it is one of the main reasons why we worship God. As I have told you many times, I *refuse* to bow my knees to any "god" who is dependent on me, and whose "will" can be defeated by my sinful actions of wicked choices.

So, God doesn't merely desire that certain things come to pass. He doesn't promise things and then "hope" that they happen. God doesn't stand around with his hands in his pockets nervously looking at all that we are doing, worrying that some of our choices and actions will nullify His Will. No. That is *not* the God of the Bible.

God, in the majesty of all three of His "Persons" effectively *assures* that what He has spoken will come to pass. God the Father and God the Son and God the Holy Spirit *unite* in perfect Harmony to *personally guarantee* that what His Will is will *always* be done, and that He alone will receive the Glory for it!

So, in this case, God spoke Light into Existence, and then look what Moses wrote:

God saw that the light was good...

The Bible says that what God did, all by Himself and to His Own Glory, was "Good". And so, God gave His Own Divine Approval on what He alone did. But He wasn't finished:

... and God separated the light from the darkness.

God made a clear *distinction* between "Light" and "Darkness". And this sovereign Act of "separation" was permanent, in that "Light" *can never* and *will never* become "Darkness", and "Darkness" *cannot* cross over this separation and become "Light". If "Darkness" crosses over, it *ceases* to be "Darkness" and becomes "Light". And if "Light" crosses over this separation, it ceases to be "Light" and becomes "Darkness".

So, there is no common ground, no area of commonality, no place of unity between "Light" and "Darkness". It is "either/or". Light and Darkness are *forever* separated, and are completely unique from one another. And even though we have every reason to think that Moses was talking about real, natural Light and Darkness here, this dynamic is important to understand as it pertains to the "light" of Morality and the "light" of Truth.

Truth will *never* "become" Error, and Error will *never* "become" Truth. Error *cannot* cross over the separation and suddenly "become" Truth. Evil *does not* have the ability to suddenly "become" Righteousness and still remain Evil. And Righteousness *cannot* ever "become" Evil. So, ancient Gnosticism is wrong, and Light does *not* come forth from Darkness. And Light is never Darkness. They are *always* polar opposites. And they are *always* distinct from one another.

So, to possess Truth about a particular subject means that Error has been *eliminated* in the same way that natural Light eliminates Darkness.

Therefore, it is not hard, it is *impossible* for a person to possess the Truth about a particular subject and hold on to Error about that same subject at the same time to the same degree. It is "either/or". The "Light" of Truth will not only *illuminate* the individual, but will, at the same time, and to the same degree, also *eliminate* Darkness. So as more and more Light comes to illumine the believer, the Darkness and Error that one time dominated him will diminish until it is finally eliminated. Now look at what Moses wrote next:

God called the light day, and the darkness He called night...

God *Himself* is the One Who named the Light "Day", and God is the One Who named the Darkness "Night". So, not only did God *separate* the one from the other, but He named them two different

names, which denote two entirely different functions and reasons and capabilities and purposes.

God never called the Darkness "day", and He never called the Light "night". Only evil people do that. Wicked men seek to *minimize* or outright *eliminate* the separation that God made between Light and Darkness. But God said that such efforts are sinful. God spoke through His Prophet Ezekiel, and said:

Ezekiel 22:24-31

24 "Son of man, say to her, 'You are a land that is not cleansed or rained on in the day of indignation.'

25 "There is a conspiracy of her prophets in her midst like a roaring lion tearing the prey. They have devoured lives; they have taken treasure and precious things; they have made many widows in the midst of her.

26 "Her priests have done violence to My law and have profaned My holy things; they have made no distinction between the holy and the profane, and they have not taught the difference between the unclean and the clean; and they hide their eyes from My sabbaths, and I am profaned among them.

27 "Her princes within her are like wolves tearing the prey, by shedding blood *and* destroying lives in order to get dishonest gain.

28 "Her prophets have smeared whitewash for them, seeing false visions and divining lies for them, saying, 'Thus says the Lord God,' when the Lord has not spoken.

29 "The people of the land have practiced oppression and committed robbery, and they have wronged the poor and needy and have oppressed the sojourner without justice.

30 "I searched for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand in the gap before Me for the land, so that I would not destroy it; but I found no one.

31 "Thus I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; their way I have brought upon their heads," declares the Lord God.

Jesus Himself confirmed this Divine Separation between Light and Darkness, when He said:

John 8:12b

... I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."

So, part of what it means to be deceived is that what is Evil looks Good and what is Good looks Evil. So, the effort to remove the distinction and the separation between the Light and the Darkness is satanic and leads people astray. And finally, Moses wrote:

... And there was evening and there was morning, one day.

Now, unlike us, in God's Calendar, the "day" begins at Sundown. And the Jews still hold to that to this day. So, for example, the Sabbath begins at sundown on Friday and extends until sundown Saturday. And this is *why* we now worship on the first day of the week, instead of the last day of the week.

They hurried to get Jesus off the Cross, because it was about 3pm when Jesus died on Friday, and they had to have Him in the tomb by sundown. And from sundown Friday until sundown Saturday, Jesus "rested" in the "lower parts of the earth". But after the Sabbath was ended, at some point *after* sundown Saturday, probably closer to sunup Sunday, Jesus rose from the dead. So, the early Church, as recorded in **The Book of the Acts of the Apostles**, took the "first day of the week", which they renamed as "The Lord's Day", as the day for the saints to leave their normal daily activities and assemble together to worship God.

And this assembly is not "optional". Saved people, from every walk of life, are *commanded* by the Head of the Church to leave their homes and gather together to do two things:

1. Worship God
2. Stimulate one another to love and good works

It is rebellion and high treason for a believer to withhold his presence from the assembly, unless there are unusual circumstances. The modern notion that a believer can attend Church only if it is convenient, or sit at his kitchen table and tune into a service on YouTube, and that this qualifies as humble obedience to the command

to assemble cannot be justified. Perhaps the clearest edification about this subject in the entire Bible is found in:

Hebrews 10:23-25

23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;

24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,

25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

The cavalier and laid back attitude about faithful assembling is one of the great scandals of our day, and indicates a lack of genuine love for the Savior, Who bled and died to rescue us from the Justice of God.

Now no human took the change of the Sabbath upon himself. No church leader, no government, or Emperor, or group of men. The very same God, Who initiated the Sabbath in the first place, is the God Who *revised* it, by choosing to raise Jesus up on the first day of the week.

So, the first "day" began at Sundown and extended all the way to the next sundown. And this is the first hint that the "day" that Moses referred to here was an actual 24 hour "day" like we know it today. May God help us all as we go through the next five "days" of Creation.

Amen. Let's pray.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.