

In the Beginning...

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

Genesis 1

1-The War Against the Genesis Account

January 7, 2018

Genesis 1:1-31

- 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.

5 Now no shrub of the field was yet in the earth, and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, for the Lord God had not sent rain upon the earth, and there was no man to cultivate the ground.

6 But a mist used to rise from the earth and water the whole surface of the ground.

7 Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

8 The Lord God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed.

9 Out of the ground the Lord God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

10 Now a river flowed out of Eden to water the garden; and from there it divided and became four rivers.

11 The name of the first is Pishon; it flows around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold.

12 The gold of that land is good; the bdellium and the onyx stone are there.

13 The name of the second river is Gihon; it flows around the whole land of Cush.

14 The name of the third river is Tigris; it flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

15 Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.

16 The Lord God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely;

17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."

18 Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him."

19 Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought *them* to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name.

20 The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him.

21 So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place.

22 The Lord God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man.

23 The man said, "This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man."

24 For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?"

2 The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat;

3 but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'"

4 The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die!

5 "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make *one* wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.

8 They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

9 Then the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?"

10 He said, "I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself."

11 And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"

12 The man said, "The woman whom You gave *to be* with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate."

13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

14 The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, Cursed are you more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you will go, And dust you will eat All the days of your life;

15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."

16 To the woman He said, "I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth, In pain you will bring forth children; Yet your desire will be for your husband, And he will rule over you."

17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat from it'; Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you will eat of it All the days of your life.

18 "Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you will eat the plants of the field;

19 By the sweat of your face You will eat bread, Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return."

20 Now the man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all *the* living.

21 The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.

22 Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever" —

23 therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken.

24 So He drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction to guard the way to the tree of life.

To the Glory of God

We are engaged in a great War today. And that war is not about armies and nations, but this war is about the Truth. Christians are those who believe in Divine Truth. We believe that God *is*, and that God is *not* silent. We believe that there exists something called "Absolute Truth" that is unmovable and unchanging, and that is not relative.

So, Truth is a fixed and constant Reality. It doesn't change and cannot be altered. It cares nothing about societal changes or cultural whims. Truth is not moved by personal feelings or psychological needs. Truth is always true. And so, Truth is, by definition, eternal.

But what is tragic about this *particular* War is that we have been incorrectly portrayed as people who may believe in the Bible, but we do not believe in Science, and so, our faith in Scripture is caricatured as superstition and silly, and we are labeled as anti-intellectual and anti-science, when nothing could be further from the reality of what we believe.

Because being a people who believe in Truth means that we believe in *all* Truth, and not merely the Truth that we find in Scripture. Because, ultimately, *all* Truth is God's Truth.

The Bible declares that God has chosen to reveal Himself to us in two major ways:

1. Through the created Universe
2. Through Scripture

And God's Revelation to us, that is found through an honest and correct and complete understanding of the created Universe is called "General Revelation". And from General Revelation we may understand some of God's basic and "general" Attributes. So, from studying and observing the Universe, rightly and fully, we can understand that God is very Powerful and that He is very Ordered. In fact, there is enough Revelation about God that can be found in the

Universe that all men are held accountable to worship the God Who created all things. **Romans 1:18-20** says:

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

19 because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.

20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

So, at least two different, invisible Attributes of God can be “clearly seen and understood” through what has been made:

1. His Eternal Power
2. His Divine Nature

... so that even through a correct observation of the created Universe, no one has an excuse as to why they did not worship God.

But God was pleased to reveal Himself more fully in what is called “Special or Specific Revelation” which shows us very specific detail about God, and instructs us about issues that the created Universe does not, such as:

- ✓ God's Character and Being
- ✓ Morality
- ✓ Salvation
- ✓ The Church
- ✓ Heaven/Hell

... and that Special Revelation is found in the 66 Books of the Holy Bible. So, yes, we believe the Bible to be Absolute Truth. But we also believe that a correct and fully and complete understanding of the created Universe *also* gives us Absolute Truth. And Truth is *not* at war with itself. So, since all Truth is God's Truth, and since all Truth is true, we believe in Science. And we believe in Geology and Physics and Astronomy and Biology.

Bible-believing Christians, who have personally experienced the miracle of the New Birth and hold that the Scriptures are not merely sacred, but are true, can be Architects and Scientists and Engineers, and can rest secure that what Science reveals is true, and that it is *not* at odds with Scripture at all.

But there exists today a very powerful movement that is *not* Science that is nevertheless portraying itself as Science that is *not* scientific at all. It isn't intellectual at all, it is a *philosophy*, a *religion*, that has tenets and precepts, and that offers both reward to those who adhere to it and punishment for those who don't. And this man-made religion is based on faith and *not* provable science. And it is false.

So, where we passionately believe in Truth, both what we find in the created Universe and what we find in Scripture, we passionately *disbelieve* and categorically *reject* this "so-called science", this "pseudo-science", that *masquerades* as true Science. And we reject it *not* because we are superstitious, but because it isn't true.

Now 1,450 years before Jesus was born, God the Holy Spirit moved upon Moses to write down the three Chapters that Brother Andy just read to you. And it is the first three Chapters of the very first Book of the Bible that tells us about two very important aspects of human existence:

1. Creation
2. The Fall of Man

And Moses began to discuss these two very important issues by a very simple but profound statement:

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

So, the Bible says very clearly and repeatedly that God Himself, *all by Himself*, created everything that exists through a series of non-repeatable Divine Miracles. And God created them "ex-nihilo", which is a Latin phrase that means that God created "everything out of nothing". And that is either true, or it isn't. That is the way all thing came into being, or it isn't. We can depend on what **Genesis 1-3** tells us about Creation and the Fall, or we can't.

But what you believe about the first three Chapters of **Genesis** will not only determine what you believe about the rest of God's Word, but it will profoundly affect how you look at life in general. For example, if you believe that Adam and Eve were real, living biological creatures, and not simply terms relating to all Mankind, then how you look at Men and Women and Marriage will change. If you believe that Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden, then you simply *cannot* embrace Freudian psychology. If you believe that God created all things, including humans, then you *cannot* embrace Darwinian Evolution.

If we were created and did *not* evolve from one-celled amoebas, then human life has value and should be afforded dignity and respect. If God purposefully made human beings, then how you understand things like Love and Mercy and Kindness and Forgiveness and Birth and Abortion and Murder will be radically altered. And if what **Genesis** teaches about the Fall is true, then that will affect what you believe is wrong with people and how to fix us. So, I hope you can see that this is a real big deal.

Today we are seeing increasing hostility toward those who believe the Bible to be the Word of God in general, and that God created the Universe in specific. Some are suggesting that a rejection of Darwinian Evolution and a belief in biblical Creation should disqualify a person for political office. The actor, Matt Damon, recently said that anyone who believes in Creation should never have the nuclear codes.

It is now against the law in the State of Mississippi for a child to learn what the **Book of Genesis** teaches about Creation in public school. Yet, as we will see later in this Study, the Darwinian Evolution, that is force-fed to every school child in this nation, is not only incompatible with the Bible, it is incompatible with Science.

Now, as is my custom, I begin every new year with an examination of an important subject in light of what the Holy Bible teaches about that subject. And so, as we begin the year of 2018, by God's Grace, I want to examine what the Bible teaches about Creation and the Fall of Man.

Now there is much controversy surrounding the **Book of Genesis**. It is in this Book that we read about the origins of the Universe and the Fall of Man. In fact, the very name of the Book, "**Genesis**", means: "*Birth*" or "*Origins*" in Greek. And one of the things that causes so much controversy is the age of this Book. According to everything I can

find, the **Book of Genesis** was written by Moses about 1,450 years before Jesus was born. And that makes this Book to be over 3,450 years old. And so, when he wrote it, Moses didn't have a laboratory or a telescope or a microscope. Moses didn't know about viruses and bacteria or super-novas and sub-atomic particles. He never had any of the Carbon 14 test data available to him.

According to his own testimony, Moses wrote this book in Hebrew while he was on a mountain receiving the Ten Commandments from God. But none of the people who are involved in the events of the **Book of Genesis** were alive when Moses wrote it. The events described in this Book occurred many hundreds or even thousands of years before Moses wrote them down, and they had been handed down by word of mouth for centuries.

So, the question that I want to explore in this Sermon Series, in an age of technical advancement and DNA and microprocessors, is this:

Is the Genesis Record true? Can we trust what Genesis says about Creation and the Fall of Man? And just how do we reconcile what Science tells us with what Moses wrote?

... so, really, what is at stake here is the reliability and trustworthiness of the Scriptures. Are the claims made in the Bible credible in a day of great technological breakthrough? Does it matter if we believe the Genesis Record? Does it affect our Salvation and our relationship with God?

But, even more important than us believing what Moses wrote in this Book, is the fantastic claim that the Bible makes about all 66 Books that we find in **2 Timothy 3:16-17**:

16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

Now the word "inspiration" comes from a Greek word that has to do with *air being exhaled*. So, the Bible says that the Bible was "breathed out" by God Himself. And the extension of the word "inspiration" involves other terms like:

- ✓ Inerrant: free from all error in part or in whole
- ✓ Infallible: free from the possibility of error
- ✓ Authoritative: that which has the Power to “bind the conscience”
- ✓ Relevant: never obsolete

... and all of these terms have to do with the “Sufficiency of Scripture”.

Now during the Protestant Reformation of the 16th Century, the Reformers were used by God to bring the focus of the Christian Church and of all believers back to the Sufficiency of Scripture, and they summarized that Cornerstone Truth by the Latin phrase “Sola Scriptura”, which teaches that all Doctrine, all Preaching/Teaching, all Counselling, and all Instruction in Righteousness must come from the Scriptures and from the Scriptures alone. And that includes what the Christian Church teaches and what believers believe about what **Genesis** says about Creation and the Fall of Man.

Now even though what **Genesis** teaches is deep and profound, it isn’t complicated. **The Book of Genesis** very clearly and unapologetically makes the claim that God sovereignly created the Heavens and the Earth and Man and everything else. And that is what the Christian Church has taught for 2,000 consecutive years. And that is either true, or it isn’t. And if it is true, then we can have great confidence in all the other fantastic claims that the Bible makes. But if what **Genesis** says about Creation is not true, we have a serious problem with a whole lot more than just Creation and the Fall.

For example, if I cannot trust what the Bible teaches about Creation, why should I trust what it teaches about Salvation? If I can’t rely on what the Bible says about the Fall of Man, why would I rely on what the Bible says about the Cure for Man’s Fall? If Adam and Eve were not real, biological, human beings, why would I believe that Abraham or Moses or David or Jesus were real, biological, human beings? And if the **Genesis** Record is wrong, and we are all just the results of random, accidental evolution, on what basis would I think that my life has any purpose at all?

Today when Christians talk about the Doctrine of Creation, a lot of the discussion immediately turns to “when” Creation took place and how it relates to the claims of the evolutionists, and things like, “old earth” and “young earth”, and things of that order. And certainly, such

questions are important, but, as much as we might want it to, these issues are not where the Bible itself lays the primary emphasis.

Now back in 1972, Francis Schaeffer wrote a book called “*Genesis in Space and Time*”. And in that book, Schaeffer asked a question that I have increasingly come to see as fundamental:

“What is the *least* that we must make of **Genesis 1–11** in order for the rest of the Bible to be coherent and true?”

Now notice that he is not asking what is the “most” that you can draw from **Genesis 1–11**, in general, and **Genesis 1–3**, in particular, but: “What is the *least* that we must be certain about, clear about, for the rest of the Bible to be coherent and true? That is a very shrewd question, because it is a way of saying:

Those are the things that we must emphasize the *most*
and the things that are the *least* negotiable.

So, this morning, let me begin our Study by going over what is *least* about **Genesis 1-3** that must be true if we are to believe the rest of sacred Scripture:

1) God comes first. It is such an elementary point, but it needs to be articulated. Before anything else was, before there was a universe in the beginning, there was God. So, God comes first. He is primary. Life is not primary, material possessions are not primary, Marriage is not primary, God is primary. And that means that God has never been and is not now dependent upon us. And it also means that we and everything that has been created are dependent on God.

And from that we can extrapolate that God did *not* create the universe so He wouldn't be lonely. God is totally complete, in and of Himself. From the very beginning, the Father loved the Son and the Son loved the Father, and the Son and the Father loved the Spirit and the Spirit loved the Son and the Father. So, there was a perfection of Love in God from the very beginning.

And that is very different from the vision of Islam that is found in the Qu-ran where Islam is slow to speak of God being a God of Love, because that assumes the importance of another. And in their

insistence on God's Uniqueness and Sovereignty and Separateness, they can stress God's greatness, but they cannot stress God's Love. The Qur'an rarely speaks in those terms. But the Bible as a whole insists that "God is Love", because in the one God, miraculously, strangely, God is also "other". In the "oneness" of God there is a complexity such that God loves the Son and the Son loves God, from eternity past, and therefore, God doesn't *need* the universe. And yet, it is here, and so we have to explain that.

2) God speaks. God is a *talking* God. He is *not* silently sitting in Glory. God speaks. The very first thing the **Genesis Record** tells us is that God speaks, and by and through His powerful spoken Word, the Universe was called into existence.

And that tells us that God discloses Himself in Words. All through the entire Bible God reveals Himself as a talking God, and He speaks in Words that human beings can understand. And since we are *able* to understand what God says, we *should*.

3) God made everything. And that simple Truth condemns "Pantheism", that says, "everything in the Universe is God". And it also condemns "Pan-en-theism", that says, "while everything in the Universe is God, God is not everything in the Universe". In other words, there is a little bit of God left over, besides everything that is made, that is in the Universe. **Genesis** tells us there is a great *distinction* between God, Who existed before everything in the Universe. and all that has been made.

But **Genesis** also rejects the religion of "Star Wars" that teaches "Dualism", that there are two eternal powerful and opposing forces, and Mankind is in the middle, yielding to one or the other. **Genesis** teaches us that while Evil has a certain beginning and will have an end; God is eternal.

4) There is one God Who is "Good", and He made everything "Good". And that means that the origin of Evil is *not* intrinsically a "Good Principle" and a "Bad Principle" that are in competition with each other. Even when the serpent is introduced, he is introduced as "**more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made.**" And thus, "Gnosticism" is defeated. There is one sovereign God Who is over everything.

Now I realize that this Reality raises all kinds of questions that deserve to be answered. For example, how does God stand behind both "Good" and "Evil"? Well, **Genesis** begins the discussion that God stands behind "Good" and "Evil" in different ways. He stands behind "Good" in such a way that the "Good" is always creditable to Him, and the Evil is always creditable to *secondary* causalities, like the serpent, even though he cannot sweep away God's Sovereignty.

When Paul found himself evangelizing pagans in **The Acts 17** in the great city of Athens, one of the things that he stresses is that God is so Sovereign and "other", the Creator of all things, that He doesn't need anything. Contrast that with all the pagan "gods" who are all finite. They all have needs, and their fears and their lusts and their joys and their sorrows and their triumphs are all a part of their being. And that means that a large portion of all pagan religions are efforts to make the "gods" happy. Pagan religions can be correctly summed up as, "You scratch my back, I'll scratch yours". You offer the right sacrifices to the "gods" and they will give you a fat, healthy baby. That is what all man-made religion is, and that is what the ancient world looked like before Moses wrote **Genesis**. It was arranged in terms of "divine swaps". But if **Genesis** is true, and God made everything and needs nothing, how do you trade or bargain with Him?

5) The Doctrine of Grace. The necessity for both Grace and the correct Teaching and Understanding of Grace is established by the storyline in the Doctrine of Creation. God made everything Good. And that means that human beings are accountable to God. The very foundation of our Accountability to God is the Doctrine of Creation. It becomes the Source of believer's praise (**Psalm 33; The Revelation 4**). And it is repeatedly built into the story line.

We are made *by* God and *for* God, and therefore, we are accountable *to* God. It is only right and good and sensible. And so, when people say, *"Look, I don't mind if you have your religion, and your Jesus, and your Bible. But I am a spiritual person, too. I have my own religion. I have my own approach to the Divine and spiritual world. So, don't keep cramming your Jesus down my throat,"* then sooner or later, the loving Christian is going to have to say, *"That is precisely the one thing I cannot do, because God made you, and therefore, you owe Him and you will give an account to Him."*

So, the opening Chapters of **Genesis** teach us about our accountability to God and our responsibility to Him, because He is the final Judge of everything we say and do and think.

6) God is breathtakingly Complex. When the one God said, “**Let Us make Man in Our Image**” (**Genesis 1:26**), that single statement forced us down the path toward the Doctrine of the Trinity. And it is the Doctrine of the Trinity that allows for the full Deity of Jesus Christ.

It is common place today to suggest that if something is hard or difficult or deep or profound or complex, then it is irrelevant. But when Moses recorded the one God speaking in plural terms, we realize that we are *not* better off by avoiding hard subjects, and that yes, even complex difficult theological issues are incredibly down to earth and practical.

Genesis tells us that while God is “One”, He is *not* “oneish”. There is, in God, a mysterious complexity like no other. And as you go through the Bible, you find those complexities when you find a passage like **John 5**. God is determined that all should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father, and in **John 1**:

“**In the beginning, was the Word, and the Word was with God** (meaning the Word was “God’s Companion”) **and the Word was God**” (The Word was also God’s Own Self).

And, while it is true that the New Testament makes these mysterious clearer, the New Testament simply builds on the foundation laid back in **Genesis**.

For example, many Christians have long argued whether there is a “Covenant of Works” with Adam in **Genesis 2-3**. And some have strongly *promoted* this while others have strongly *rejected* it. And those who say “No” point out the fact that the word “covenant” isn’t used. Now it is true that the word “covenant” isn’t used, but there is clearly an established arrangement *imposed* by a Sovereign God that demands obedience with the real Threat of Judgment, unless there is obedience. So, much of the elements of what goes into “Covenantal Thinking” are present in **Genesis 1–3**.

In addition, you don’t see a mention of the “Tabernacle” until the time of Moses, and you don’t see a “Temple” until the time of David and

Solomon. And many have pointed out that the Tabernacle and Temple were simply the meeting place between God and His Image-bearers. True. But the Garden of Eden of **Genesis** is that *same* kind of meeting place between God and His Image-bearers.

And even though the word “king” is not used in the first three Chapters of the Bible, it is clear that God presents Himself as the sovereign King of the Universe. And there is no doubt that He reigns, absolutely. And He reigns over that which He has made. And so, the concept of “God as King” is built into the Bible from the very beginning.

7) Human Being Were Made in the Image of God. And this is a major theme that runs through all 66 Books. **Genesis** tells us that God made human beings in His Own Image and Likeness in two ways:

1. They are very much like the rest of Creation, made by God out of the dust.
2. They are special and unique.

... and it would be well worth our time to read the rest of the Bible to find out all of the things that are bound up with this notion of the Image of God.

On the one hand, we are supposed to reflect God. We are His Image. But, on the other hand, we, too, belong to the dust. We are made from the dust. We are part of the created order and *not* to be confused with God. And that makes the “Created Order” extraordinarily important.

8) God Gave Man Stewardship over Creation. Man *has never* and *will never* be “Master”. We did not “do our own thing” when we were lost, that isn’t true. Back then, we were “cruelly *driven* by our lusts” to rebel. So, as lost people, we were “slaves to sin”. As redeemed souls, we are now “slaves of Jesus Christ”, and are now “graciously led by His Spirit” to obey. So, we have never been in charge, human beings have *always* been slaves.

And as slaves, we are told what to do and where to do it, who to marry, what to eat, and how to worship. God alone has total and complete Authority over us, and we are, at all times, fully accountable

to Him. God has complete control over our lives, including whether we live or die.

But Salvation doesn't *create* our slavery. We were slaves *before* we were saved. But Salvation so changes us that we truly *delight* in being "bought and paid for bond-slaves" of the Lord Jesus Christ. So, the language of Salvation is the language of "glad slavery" to our Heavenly Master.

But, that is not all we are. In *addition* to being slaves, we are also called as "Stewards" over that which God has made. So, while we are *always* underneath God's Authority, we, too, have some level of authority over what God has made. And we are told to manage what has been placed into our hands, according to the written instructions of the Master.

9) There is a Divine Order between Men and Women . So, while it is true that **Genesis** says that both men and women were made equally in the Image of God, in the sense that they may both have a personal relationship with God, it is also true that **Genesis** tells us that Men and Women are *not* the same. Moses wrote *inerrantly* that God made them in different ways and at a different time and for a different reason. So, God made them *uniquely* Male and Female on purpose.

And it is these *distinctions*, based on created masculinity and femininity, that define Marriage, and even the great Mystery between Christ and His Church. And so, the Goal of God in doing this is *not* "equality between the sexes", but that we would *learn about* and then *believe* and then *celebrate* those differences.

10) Eschatology. Seven hundred years before Jesus was born, the Prophet Isaiah anticipates that God will provide a new Heaven and a new Earth. And that language is full of anticipation and glory of what is yet to be revealed. And it culminates in **The Revelation 21**.

But it flows out from Creation. For example, **Romans 8** tells us that the entire Created Order is subjected to death and decay by God's Decree, because of sin and rebellion. And it groans, waiting for the adoption of sons, which is the finality of the glorification of believers.

11) The beginning of Sabbath is bound up with God's Rest. The text of **Genesis 1-3** does not use the word "Sabbath". But it says that God rested

on the “seventh day”. So, when the Sabbath was instituted legally in the Law, the text refers back to Creation as the Source. **You are to remember the seventh day and keep it holy, for (because) in six days the Lord made heaven and earth...**

And that concept is picked up in **Hebrews**, and even in **The Revelation 4**, to build a whole theology of a “rest” for believers that has its beginnings in the opening chapters of **Genesis**.

12) There is a huge emphasis on the Greatness of God. God’s Glory is seen and understood and marveled at through His Creation. And reading passages like **Psalms 8** or **Psalms 19**, or some of the spectacular texts in **Isaiah 40–45**, shouts to us that God is absolutely Sovereign over Creation-, and that He knows the End from the Beginning, and therefore, *everything* is accountable to Him. He is the sovereign Potter Who molds the clay according to His Own Divine Prerogative.

Passages like **Isaiah 40:12**, **Isaiah 43:15**, **Isaiah 44:2-24**, and **Isaiah 45:11&12** call us to worship God because of His Greatness, and the display of His Own Glory in Creation, which is a point that is also found in **Romans 1**. God has not left Himself without witness because His Existence and Glory are already displayed in the Created Order itself.

13) We are Broken. **Genesis 3** tells us that Sigmund Freud and Immanuel Kant and Abraham Maslow all missed the mark about what is wrong with people and how to fix them. God the Holy Spirit moved on Moses for him to write that human beings are in a “fallen” state of being. And this “fallen condition” is not best understood in “what we do”, but in “who we are”.

Since Adam and Eve sinned, it is entirely *unnatural* for human beings to love God. We now find delight in that which is passing away and *not* in our Maker. We don’t simply “do” darkness, we “love” darkness, and we prefer almost *anything* other than God and His Glory. And that disposition is called “Sin”.

And contrary to what Psychology, Psychiatry, and Sociology says, **Genesis** goes on to tell us the insulting news that we no longer have any capacity at all for “Good”, as **Genesis 6:5** says:

Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

So, understanding **Genesis** correctly, we see that sin is so pervasive, so all-encompassing, that we cannot *educate* our way out of it. But, we cannot *medicate* our way out of sin either. Technology and Government cannot remove sin from our lives. Our nature must be *transformed, radically* transformed, or we are doomed. So, the “Bad News” of our fallen condition in Genesis paves the way for the miracle of the New Birth and the “Good News” of Salvation in Jesus Christ.

Later on, the rest of the Bible builds on this Reality and teaches that Death itself, both spiritual death and physical death, is caused by Sin. So, based on what Genesis says, we understand that Original Sin is passed on from one generation to the next through the seed of the father.

14) The First Prophecy. Finally, when **Genesis 3:15** tells us:

I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.

... God was prophesying that a “**seed**” of the woman would:

- ✓ Be a Man
- ✓ Would be bruised by satan
- ✓ Would bruise satan-fatally

... which we understand now to be Jesus Christ, Who would take the Punishment for Sin, and would steal the souls of the elect from satan and give them to God.

All of this, and much more, is at stake in whether **Genesis 1-3** is true. So, be aware, the War against the Genesis Record is *not* merely an academic argument between a “new and an old earth”. All of these issues that we just studied are at stake in the Truth portrayed in **Genesis**, and *that* is why we need to study this.

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.