

EXPOSITION OF GENESIS

Message #4

Genesis 1:3-5

Man's problem with Genesis 1 is that everything in the chapter is impossible for man to originally create: heavens & earth, light, air, water, land, plants, planets, fowls, fish, animals or man. Man cannot originate any of these things, but he also cannot deny their existence. To recognize and admit God's creative power is to wisely give God His due glory (Rev. 4:11) and to deny His creative power is to foolishly reject the revelation of God and deny His glory.

THE MAJESTIC POWERFUL GOD IS THE GREAT CREATOR OF ALL EXISTENCES AND HE SPOKE THINGS INTO EXISTENCE, BEGINNING WITH LIGHT.

Genesis 1:1-2 gives us the account of how the heavens and the earth came into existence and what that existence was originally like- primitive and chaotic . Genesis 1:3-31 teaches us how God, by using His word and power, organizes and systematizes this primitive and chaotic situation.

Some say the Bible is not scientific, but the Bible is very scientific. Dr. Henry Morris cites six very scientific areas, which are discussed in Scripture (*Many Infallible Proofs*, pp. 241-243).

1. Hydrology

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| a. Hydrologic Cycle | Ecclesiastes 1:7; Isaiah 55:10 |
| b. Evaporation | Psalms 135:7; Jeremiah 10:13 |
| c. Condensation Nuclei | Proverbs 8:26 |
| d. Condensation | Job 26:8; 37:11,16 |
| e. Precipitation | Job 36:27,28 |
| f. Run-off | Job 28:10 |
| g. Oceanic Reservoir | Psalms 33:7 |
| h. Snow | Job 38:22; Psalm 147:16 |
| i. Hydrologic Balance | Isaiah 40:12; Job 28:24-26 |

2. Geology

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| a. Principle of Isostasy | Isaiah 40:12; Psalm 104:5-9 |
| b. Shape of Earth | Isaiah 40:22; Psalm 103:12 |
| c. Rotation of Earth | Job 38:12,14 |
| d. Gravitation | Job 26:7; 38:6 |
| e. Rock Erosion | Job 14:18, 19 |
| f. Glacial Period | Job 38:29, 30 |
| g. Uniformitarianism | II Peter 3:4 |

3. Astronomy

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| a. Size of Universe | Isaiah 55:9; Job 22:12; Jeremiah 31:37 |
| b. Number of Stars | Jeremiah 33:22; Genesis 22:17 |
| c. Variety of Stars | I Corinthians 15:41 |
| d. Precision of Orbits | Jeremiah 31:35, 36 |

4. Meteorology
 - a. Circulation of Atmosphere Ecclesiastes 1:6
 - b. Protective Effect of Atmosphere Isaiah 40:22
 - c. Oceanic Origin of Rain Ecclesiastes 1:7
 - d. Relation of Electricity to Rain Jeremiah 10:13
5. Biology
 - a. Blood Circulation Leviticus 17:11
 - b. Psychotherapy Proverbs 16:24; 17:22
 - c. Biogenesis and Stability Genesis 1:11, 21, 25
 - d. Uniqueness of Man Genesis 1:26
 - e. Chemical Nature of Flesh Genesis 1:11, 24-27; 3:19; I Peter 1:24, 25
6. Physics
 - a. Mass-Energy Equivalence Hebrews 1:3; Colossians 1:17
 - b. Source of Energy for Earth Genesis 1:14, 17; Psalm 19:6
 - c. Atomic Disintegration II Peter 3:10
 - d. Radio Waves Job 38:35

W.H. Griffith Thomas says (*Genesis*, p. 29) that what God does in this chapter is:

A. Give form to the heavens and the earth in the first three days.

B. Give filling to the form in the last three days.

Dr. Thomas says that the “formless” and “void” of **Genesis 1:2** are nullified by the form and filling:

Day 1 - Light (**1:3-5**) = Day 4 - Fills up light with lights (**1:14-19**)

Day 2 - Air/Water (**1:6-8**) = Day 5 - Fills up air/water with fowls and fish (**1:20-23**)

Day 3 - Land/Plants (**1:9-13**) = Day 6 - Fills up land/plants with animals and man (**1:24-30**)

The first thing that God does in bringing order to the heavens and the earth is to create light.

It is not that God needed to see what He was doing...but He knew that everything He would create would need light for its existence (i.e. plants, trees, birds, animals, humans).

Approximately every 12 hours, this light, which God created right here in Genesis, comes and goes. Dr. S. Lewis Johnson said much about light is a “profound mystery” and according to Job 38:12-24 there is much we will never know.

ACTION #1 – God speaks light into existence. **1:3**

When we get to the specifics of creation, the **first point God wants to communicate is the power of His word**. The first glimpse we get of the Word of God is that God can speak and what He does speak happens. The fact that God has the power to speak things into existence is a dominating point of this chapter (**1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 26**).

Psalms 33:8-9 says – “Let all the earth fear the LORD; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him for He spoke and it was done; He commanded and it stood fast.”

Hebrews 11:3 says – “...the worlds were prepared by the Word of God.”

The thing God spoke into existence was physical light - not the sun, or moon or stars but light. Notice the source of light is not the sun, it is the Majestic God. Dr. Louis Berkhof said: “This creation of light on the first day has been ridiculed in view of the fact that the sun was not

created until the fourth day, but science itself silenced the ridicule by proving that light is not a substance emanating from the sun, but consists of ether waves produced by energetic electrons” (*Systematic Theology*, p. 155).

ACTION #2 – God evaluates the light He created. 1:4a

The idea communicated in a verb “saw” is the idea of God looking at, viewing and examining His light. The concept that God “saw that the light was good” is not one of God inspecting His work to see if it turned out okay, it is more of a classification that light is good, beautiful, pleasant and positive (*Gesenius*, p.319). God lets us know that His light has His stamp of perfection on it.

ACTION #3 – God separated the light He created. 1:4b

The word “separate” is a word that frequently shows up in **Genesis 1 (v. 6, 7, 14, 18)** and it means to separate or disjoin. God did not do away with darkness, He divided it to share time with light. As Derek Kidner wrote: “Darkness is not abolished, only subordinated” (*Genesis*, p. 47). Now the question of how God separated the light is still a major mystery. (Job 38:19,24). We do know that the earth enters into the sphere of light and darkness by rotation. This verse, plus the next one seems to indicate that the earth may have been spinning. A spiritual application may be drawn from the division of light: If we are to be classified as good by God, we must separate ourselves from things dark and radiate more of the light of God.

ACTION #4 – God identifies the light He created. 1:5

God identifies His light with the term day and He identifies darkness with the term night. A problem of interpretation exists on the Hebrew word “day” (yom) which actually comes from a root word that means heat or warmth. (*Gesenius*, p. 341).

1. Some say “day” refers to several geological ages that occurred prior to man’s existence.
This is based on fossil records which speak of death before sin entered the world.
2. Some say “day” is an anthropomorphism (language that man can understand) which really
Has to do to more than just one day (i.e. Ps. 90:4 - “thousand years...like yesterday”;
II Pet.3:8 “one day is as a thousand years”).
3. Some say that “day” refers to a literal 24 hour day, but gaps of time between each day.
4. Some say that “day” refers to a literal 24 hour solar day as we know it.

From a literal Biblical interpretive standpoint the best view is view 4.

- 1) The Hebrew word “day” normally refers to 24 hours.
- 2) Each Hebrew word “day”, in this context has a number attached to it- **1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31, 2:2.**
- 3) The O.T. law demands a literal 24 hour day – Exodus 20:9-11
- 4) The context of Genesis 1:5 not only includes the words “day” and “night”, but “evening” and “morning”. As Morris says there is no way one can apply this to a geological period (p. 56).
- 5) Moses is writing to Jewish people who lived in a normal time and space world. They would
Have understood day as meaning a literal day as they knew it.

The fact that light shines in our universe or our lives should leave us in awe of our great God.