

Genesis 1:6-13

(sermon notes)

Sermon Title:

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INTRODUCTION – GOD CAN BE TRUSTED.

Promises authored by God to man, properly understood consist of two types:

- Conditional (which are subject to certain qualifications or requirements.)
- Or, Unconditional (a promise that is made without attaching any conditions.)

This is why it is important to understand the **context of a promise**. It is not at all wise to pick a random promise and claim it for our own.

Allow me to share just a couple of UNCONDITIONAL promises that we CAN claim as Christians; those who, by God's grace have true evangelical Faith in the Person and Work of Jesus Christ:

Phil. 1:6 “Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:”

Phil. 4:19 “God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

Rom. 8:28-29 “...we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. V.29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son...”

It is when we pause and consider these promises and the reliability of the God who made them, do we discover their precise relevancy to our current study in the book of Genesis.

For, if we do not bow our knee to His testimony of Himself as: Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth ALL OF WHICH is being communicated to us in the very first chapter of the Bible, then how in the world will we have any confidence in these

promises...or for that matter, any promises which He makes throughout the Bible.

On the other hand, when we, by Faith (Heb.11:3) do embrace the divine truth presented to us here in this Chapter our hearts truly do rejoice, and our lips are ever ready to give him honor and praise.

KING DAVID - Ps. 28:7 “The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him.”

BODY

I. GOD HAS A PLAN

1. The general observation of vv.3-13 FIRST Day, SECOND Day, THIRD Day.

- **ILLUSRATION** – GIANT REDWOODS -seed to tree.
- **GOD HAS A PLAN FOR THE NATIONS**

Later in Genesis 10 we will find the biblical table of nations is where it deals with the time immediately after Noah’s Flood, providing us with a general picture of how the earth was to be populated by various ethnic groups. In **Deut. 32:8** the Song of Moses speaks of the time “when the Most High divided their inheritance to the nations, when He separated the sons of Adam, He set the boundaries of the peoples”

The Apostle Paul echoes this theme of God’s Plan for the nations in Acts 17:26 (AKJV)“And He [the Creator] has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings”

We discover the ultimate plan of God for the nations in

Rev.11:15 “And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.”

➤ **GOD HAS A PLAN FOR HIS CHURCH**

PRESENT: Eph. 4:1 “I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

v.15 – Speak the TRUTH w/ love.

ULTIMATE PLAN: 1 THES. 4:15-17 “15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”

➤ *****APPLICATION*** GOD HAS A PLAN FOR OUR PERSONAL AND PROGRESSIVE SANCTIFICATION:**

Phil. 1:6

Ezekiel 16:6-12 “...I passed by thee, and saw thee polluted in thine own blood, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, Live; yea, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, Live.

.....v.8 Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time was the time of love; and I spread my skirt over thee, and covered thy nakedness: yea, I swore unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord GOD, and thou becamest mine. 9 Then washed I thee with water; yea, I thoroughly washed away thy blood from thee, and I anointed thee with oil. 10 I clothed thee also with broidered work, and shod thee with badgers' skin, and I girded thee about with fine linen, and I covered thee with silk. 11 I decked thee also with ornaments, and I put bracelets upon thy hands, and a chain on thy neck.12 And I put a jewel on thy forehead, and earrings in thine ears, and a beautiful crown upon thine head.

- **Wolfgang Musculus** “By this example we are taught how God’s work USUALLY BEGIN (not always). Namely, not only is their initial appearance rough, but there is nothing (visible) of what is to come.

II. vv.6-7 THE FIRMAMENT / EXPANSE

- What we do know about this rā·kē'·ah (ra-qi-ya) “firmament” or “expanse”.
- The ancient Hebrews believed this referenced a “heavenly ocean”

Ps. 104:3 “Who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters: who maketh the clouds his chariot: who walketh upon the wings of the wind.”

Ps. 148:4 “Praise him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that be above the heavens.”

- Dr. Henry Morris (Creation Research Institute) “Canopy Theory” According to the canopy theory, there was a canopy of water above the atmosphere (acting as a greenhouse) until the cataclysm of the Global Flood in Noah’s day, at which point it disappeared either by A) collapsing upon the earth or B) dissipating into space.
- A) Gen. 1:14-17 “...let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the form the night...”
- B) Gen. 1:20 “fowl/bids may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.” This suggest what we would call the earth’s “atmosphere”.
- Used 9 times here in the first Chapter of Genesis and 8 more times in the rest of the OT

Ps. 19:1 “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.”

Ps. 150:1 “Praise ye the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power.”

- **Where I land** : These texts seem to me to suggest that the word “RA-KE-AH” is referring to the entire sky from the earth’s surface outward, where eventually in God’s plan the all flying creatures will inhabit and celestial objects will be placed.
- **But how can I be confident of this?**
In a consistent application of my initial observation of God’s orderly and preparatory plan (Days 1,2,3 coloration to Days 4,5,6) may logically conclude that here is a “firmament” which served the creative, preparatory purposes of God leading up to Day 4 when we see this particular form completed by being populated with the heavenly lights (which thus allow for the perpetual water cycle to begin) and then at that point in v.18 He called it good.
- **Gen. 2:5-6 would support this** “And every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was not a man to till the ground. But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground.”
- While we cannot prove that there was rain before the Flood, to insist that there was not (and even to deride those who think otherwise) stretches Scripture beyond what it actually says.

There are some arguments that Christians should avoid because of their absurdity and some we should avoid being dogmatic about because they are not truly supportable from Scripture.

However, we should use caution in making absolute statements about that environment, as there are many things about the pre-Flood world that we cannot know with certainty.

- **NO RAIN TILL NOAH...** To demand that rain didn't happen until after the Flood from this passage has no more logical support than to claim, from the passage, that no one farmed until after the Flood

III. THE SECOND "DAY" – "yom"

- **"yom" can mean in Hebrew:**

A) 24 hr. period

B) A time period:

Gen. 10:25 "And unto Eber were born two sons: the name of one was Peleg; **for in his days** was the earth divided; and his brother's name was Joktan."

Isa. 2:12 "For **the day of the LORD** of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low:"

- **Hebrew grammar rules qualify the correct interpretation:** when "yom" is connected with a number or the phrase "evening and morning" it always means a literal 24 hour period.
- **Additional Scriptural Support:**
Deut. 5:12 -15
Exodus: 20:8-11

IV. vv. 9 – 13 :

EXTEMPORANEOUS

1. GOD IS IN CONTROL

GOD CAN BE TRUSTED, GOD HAS A PLAN, GOD IS IN CONTROL.