

Evolution vs. Creation

Lesson Nineteen

The Big Bang: Yep, It's in the Bible

October 29, 2006

- Today will be our “final exam” of sorts. The exam will be based on 2 Peter. The test is to discern how Peter contrasts creation doctrine and evolutionary doctrine.
- Peter’s second letter is concerned about exposing false teachers – both in terms of their behavior and in terms of their doctrine.
- This is Peter’s farewell letter – he knows the time of his death is approaching. We should expect, therefore, that his final inspired words would go right to the heart of the matter.
- As we read 2 Peter, be on the lookout for the Big Bang!

- In chapter 1, Peter is stirring up the faithful to pursue works of righteousness
 - grow in the faith
 - let your works and your growth give you assurance of salvation
 - look forward to the eternal reward of heaven
 - Peter is not correcting his hearers, only reminding them of the truth already established
 - Peter refers to the nearness of his death
 - Peter reminds his readers that he was an eyewitness of the transfiguration and that he heard God’s voice – then says that the Scripture is even more sure
 - three references to light
 - Scripture as a light shining in a dark place
 - dawn of day
 - rising of the morning star
 - last two references are to the Second Coming – the end of the world

- In chapter 2, Peter warns of false prophets and false teachers
 - they are among you – *within the church*
 - they blaspheme by their sin
 - sensuality, greed, disdain for authority, deception
 - they are bold and stubborn in their sin
 - they do not fear God
 - they love wrongful gain
 - they boast loudly
 - they entice those who are spiritually weak
 - they promise freedom, but are slaves of corruption
 - they are like irrational animals – creatures of instinct, not reason
 - they are like Balaam, who was rebuked by a beast – they have less sense than a donkey
 - they are like dogs and pigs – going back again to that which is unclean

- they will lie to you to take advantage of you
- God will judge them
 - God didn't spare the angels
 - God judged the world by the Flood
 - God judged Sodom and Gomorrah
 - God's judgment is intended as a warning
 - God will preserve the righteous from trials
 - God will preserve the unrighteous for the day of judgment
- God intervened in history with catastrophic events which point to his future day of judgment
- In chapter 3, Peter reminds the brethren to be watchful
 - scoffers will come in the end times
 - they follow their own sinful desires
 - they mock God's future judgment by appealing to uniformitarianism – nothing much has changed
 - they deliberately deny the truth that God created the world, brought a Flood in the past, and will bring fire in the future
 - the day of judgment will come without warning
 - the appearance of scoffers should remind us that the end is drawing near
 - the heavens and earth will pass away with a roar
 - the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved (v. 10); the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved (v. 12); the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn (v. 12)
 - all works will be exposed
 - live in light of the knowledge of God's coming judgment
 - exercise holiness and righteousness
 - wait for the coming of the Lord
 - hasten the coming of the Lord
 - since you are waiting, be diligent and be at peace
 - count the patience of the Lord as salvation, just as Paul did
 - don't be carried away by the error of false teachers
 - don't lose your stability
 - grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ
- Is evolutionary doctrine implied by 2 Peter 3:4? How about 2:12? Isn't one of the cornerstones of evolutionary doctrine that humans are no different from the animals? How does God turn the tables?
- What is the promise of spiritual liberalism? Where do we first see the promise of freedom in the Bible? How does that compare to postmodern society? Has anything changed over the years?
-
- What are the parallels between the false teachers of Peter's day and the false teachers today?
- What is the spiritual significance of denying the historicity of the Flood?
-

-
- We've spent many weeks discussing the question of beginnings (how things got started) and history (how things got to the way they are). We'll complete this series by talking about how everything will end.
- As it turns out, the Big Bang is described in the Bible – but not at the beginning of the universe, at the end!
- 2 Peter 3:10 – heavens will pass away with a roar
- we saw how uniformitarianism as a myth is mentioned in the Bible – and it's mentioned in reference to the end
- 2 Peter 3:3 – all things are continuing as they were from the beginning
- And yet, catastrophism is evidence of God's judgment – which is part of the reason why it's denied
-