

Review: Man is the keeper of the creation story to pass down to future generations.

We also discussed that man was created in the image of God and that if we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we have the fruit of the Spirit. In Ch. 4 we discussed “Natural Evil” in the world and our reaction to it as we know the world was not originally created with this evil. Adam ushered in death and corruption while Jesus ushered in justification and life. And we discussed being a Noah or Lot in a world full of those “of the world” rather than “not of this world”.

Isaiah 44:24-26 – “Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, who formed you from the womb: “I am the Lord, who made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself, who frustrates the signs of liars and makes fools of diviners, who turns wise men back and makes their knowledge foolish, who confirms the word of his servant and fulfills the counsel of his messengers...”. What is God telling us in this scripture? Why?

Isaiah 46:8-10 – “Remember this and stand firm, recall it to mind, you transgressors, remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose...”

Transgressor – (a person who breaks a law or moral rule) Who are the transgressors? Why is God telling them this?

Doctrine of Providence – What is providence?

Providence – (God’s work of upholding the existence of the universe while guiding history to His designated ends).

Psalms 33:10-11 – “The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing;” What does this mean?

“He frustrates the plans of the peoples.” Have you experienced this and/or seen others experience this?

“The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations.” What does this mean?

1 Jesus Christ not only created the world, but He continually upholds every aspect of it by His power.

Heb. 1:1-4 – “Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.” What is this scripture telling us?

“He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the words of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.” God controls all history. He knows all things because He oversees all events. If God controls all events and history, how are we to think and respond?

2 God created the earth for man to live on, then revealed His creative work in Scripture to ensure man knew what He had done. – Why is it important to God for man to know what He has done?

Isaiah 45:11-12 – “Thus says the Lord, the Holy One of Israel, and the one who formed him: “Ask me of things to come; will you command me concerning my children and the work of my hands? I made the earth and created man on it; it was my hands that stretched out the heavens, and I commanded all their host...”. Why did God create the earth?

Isaiah 45: 18-19 - “For thus says the Lord, who created the heavens (he is God!), who formed the earth and made it (he established it; he did not create it empty, he formed it to be inhabited!): “I am the Lord, and there is no other. I did not speak in secret, in a land of darkness; I did not say to the offspring of Jacob, Seek me in vain.’ I the Lord speak the truth; I declare what is right.” Was the earth void of life when God created it?

The conventional view of history has a universe devoid of an earth for 9 billion years; it has a universe devoid of people for 13.8 billion years. Why is that view of time and history the opposite of what Isaiah tells us?

3 God has ordered when and where people live in time so that they will seek Him and repent before the coming Judgment.

Acts 17:22-34 – “So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: ‘To the unknown god.’ Do you sometimes feel as though God is unknown?

“What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.” What does God need from us?

“And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. What are allotted periods and boundaries?

“Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, for “In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we are indeed his offspring.’ How should we consider or think of God?

“Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent,” What does this scripture tell us about how God treats the early generations of humans?

“because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.” Why is Jesus so important for the salvation of man?