



Overview

**Psalm 33:6 By the word of the Lord the heavens were made,
And by the breath of His mouth all their host.
7 He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap;
He lays up the deeps in storehouses.
8 Let all the earth fear the Lord;**

Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.

9 For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.

We begin Genesis with the creation of life and Paradise and we will end the book with two coffins. But the story is not over at the end of Genesis! It continues on even when you reach the end of the book of Revelation where we are given NEW LIFE and a new Paradise! And so shall we ever be with the Lord!

Genesis is the foundation of every other book of the Bible! **That is why Satan attacks the book of Genesis more than any other!** You see those attacks on TV, in school books, in the news... He would have us believe we evolved from slime! That life, whether unborn or elderly, is not precious! It's just Evolution! Satan would have us believe that there is no such thing as sin! That each of us should do what we "FEEL is right! Satan would have us believe that the judgment of the flood never happened and therefore no judgment is yet to come! Satan would have us believe that there was no call to Abraham or his descendants to be God's people making the birth of a Messiah impossible! Satan would have us believe that it was impossible for the Savior to be born of a virgin girl named Mary! But we must remember - Satan is a Liar! And the Father of all Liars!

God's Word is always true! As we read God's Word we need to pay attention to what God has done and the connections to what he is still doing today! Through His Word, we can gain the knowledge of the Truth!

What do you need to create a universe? First, you would have to start time and then you would have to have a place to put it? Something to make it out of? And then you need to organize it! Energy to run it with? In Genesis 1, God creates the four things that are required to have a universe. The beginning is the beginning of time. The heavens are the space in which to put everything. The Earth (erets) - means dirt - literally "STUFF" - matter... And then God said! God's Word carries power! And then God said let there be light! At that moment God took all of the matter in all of the space coming through time and put it together exactly as He wanted it fashioned!

But there is one more thing that is required to have a universe. And that is something to hold it together! What keeps everything from flying apart? If we split an atom, what is released? Energy! And it's no wonder so much energy comes out of a small amount of matter when we split an atom. God spoke matter into existence with the power of His Word!

So what holds it all together? says, ***“He is before all things, and in Him, all things hold together” (Colossians 1:17)***. See also: **Hebrews 1:3**. So we have to ask, who is the “He” in that verse? John tells us that the He that was, in the beginning, is Jesus - “Word of God”. In ***John 1:1-5 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...”***

John goes on in His gospel to tell us that they (he and the other disciples) knew He that was the Word. They traveled with Him. They ate with Him. John tells us that he (John) laid His head upon His (Jesus) shoulder during that last supper. “The Word” came down from heaven and became flesh and dwelt among us and here. “He” is in Genesis 1:1. In the beginning - there was Jesus! In fact, John tells us that the same “He” that is in the beginning is also the end - ***“And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end...” (Revelation 21:6)***. IN other words, “He” was not simply present “at” the beginning, “He” IS the Beginning! “He” will not simply be present at the end, “He” IS the end!

Lesson Objective: To understand that sin not only separates us from God but it also changes us to make us something God did not intend! Students should better understand that the Lord made us for His purposes and that we sabotage those purposes when we choose to sin and live the world rather than like God.

Key Truths

The Trinity is present at the Beginning.

It is By Jesus and For God that everything was created!

God created man in His image.

Lesson Outline

1. In the beginning is - Jesus!

So we have the Son in verse 1. In fact, that is an indication of what the Word of God is going to be about from cover to cover. It is all about Him. How could it not be when all things were created by Him and for Him?

In fact, the whole Trinity is present in verse 1, ***“In the beginning God...”*** That is the Father. He began time. In ***1 Corinthians 8:6*** it says, ***“yet for us, there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him.”*** In the beginning God... “created”! That word, “created” is proof of the presence of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. All things were created by Him. Then what does it say in verse 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.” There is the Holy Spirit.

The Trinity is more than I can understand or comprehend. The Trinity is God and God is the Trinity. 3 in 1 and 1 in 3. Hopefully, we will gain a better understanding of the Trinity as we go through our study over the next couple of years. It is important that we do so because we need to understand the full measure of what Jesus did for us by stepping down out of Heaven and emptying Himself, becoming obedient unto death on the cross. Why? He came because of us. He died because of us and it all started with Adam and Eve.

“Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness” (26). What does that mean? Make man in our image? First of all “Our image” makes better sense since we now realize that the Trinity is present in verse 1 at the beginning! ***“In the beginning”*** makes more sense since we now know that the beginning is Jesus Christ! He is the beginning and the end!

So when He says let us make man in Our image, man is made in the image of God! That makes man different from all of the rest of creation. Man has many of the same needs, wants, and desires that God has. Man wants to be loved. Man wants to create. Man wants to express his innermost being. Man desires to plan for the long-term future. Man thinks about where he has been and where he is going.

So Adam and Eve are in the garden and Eve is tempted by the serpent, that old devil. ***Genesis 3:5-7 - “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?’” Then we read 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.***

2. They knew they were naked?

There had never been any such thing as clothing in any part of creation. It's very unlikely they realize they didn't have any clothes since clothes had not been invented. It's much more likely that being created in the image of God had something to do with it. When they were created in the image of God, I believe it is very likely that they not only thought differently than the animals of creation, but that they looked different from the rest of creation as well. Could there have been a glory of some type that could be seen? Were they clothed in righteousness? Was there something seeable that was different about Adam and Eve? Could it be that when they sinned and they looked at each other, and realized that they now looked so different that God was sure to notice. And He was coming! They needed to figure out what to do. So they tried sewing leaves together to cover themselves. Maybe God wouldn't notice? But it didn't take long to realize that wasn't going to work. They heard God coming through the garden. It would be an awesome thing to hear God coming towards you... unless you were trying to hide something from Him. They ran and hid in the bushes! They didn't hide because they were ashamed of God seeing their bodies that He had created! They hid because of the shame of the sin that they had committed.

When God approaches, He calls out and says where are you? The God who knows everything, certainly knew where they were. That is not why He is asking the question. He is asking the question for them to answer for themselves. They would now have to admit where they really were. Living in sin, ashamed and afraid. So God kills the first sacrifice and sheds the blood of an innocent animal in order to make clothing to cover the shame of what they had done. The glorious bodies, the created ones that God had breathed life into we're now nothing more than flesh and bone like the rest of the animals of creation? Falling into sin and owing a debt they could never pay! Their righteousness was gone!

But God... had a plan! He announces the plan when He curses Satan. There would be One who would come! One who would reverse and undo what Satan has done. One who would come to clothe man in righteousness once again. Romans 5:17-18 "For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men."

"He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." 2 Corinthians 5:21 God's goal is to restore man to righteousness! That's what was lost in the garden! That's the fact that Adam and Eve tried to cover up and could not.

Why did Eve want to eat the fruit to begin with? Genesis 3:6, "...the tree was desirable to make one wise." There's the reason! The tree was desirable to make one wise. Who is wise? God Almighty is wise! Satan's sin was that he wanted to be like God and raise up himself to be

God! He convinces Eve of the same line that he is convinced himself of. That she can be like God. When she saw that the tree was good and could make one like God, who is wise, she took and ate and so did her husband

Application - What does this lesson teach us about God? Man? Sin? Grace?

How do you apply all of this? In this lesson, it seems like the application would be to use this as a stepping stone off into the deeper meanings of the Word of God. But it is not difficult to understand what God is telling us here... We must come to the realization that people are out there and that they need the Lord! Somehow we must realize that God made people and God loves the people that He made.

We must realize that if we do not love the people that God loves, we are wasting the life that He is given to us. The Bible is about Jesus Christ from cover to cover and we must learn it and share it and teach it to others. It starts here in Genesis and it will continue all the way through Revelation again and again as we learned throughout our lifetime.

What we see in Genesis, is that God does not give up or quit. He intends to restore us back to what was His original plan. To spend eternity with us. So I echo the words of Paul in Galatians 6:9, "Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary."

Summary

God speaks and gives the couple a promise of redemption whereby they may walk by faith and abound in hope.

God acts by providing the couple with a picture of redemption when He slays an animal to cover their nakedness, so that they will understand that God Himself absorbs the cost of redemption.

God reveals that He accepts and justifies those who trust His promise of redemption and live in light of its fulfillment.

Discussion Questions

What would it have been like to have committed the very first sin by a human and then realize that something about your appearance changed because of the sin?

Then, what would it have been like to hear the Lord approaching?