

## Let us pray...

Almost 27 years ago, I accepted our Lord Jesus Christ as my Lord and my savior.

My friend Ed Pena, who was my boss at the time, had set up an appointment for me to go see one of the pastors at his church and it took less than five minutes once he started speaking for me to make my decision. You see, the Lord had already started softening my heart years earlier.

This tremendous burden that I had throughout my teenage years was suddenly lifted from my shoulders.

As the pastor gave me a bible, he instructed me to read it every day. He even suggested starting off in the Gospel of John.

Later that night, I get home, open to the Gospel of John – I read the first verse and I said to myself, “What??”

It is hard to understand the solution, Jesus Christ, until we understand why He had to come to the world and become that perfect sacrifice.

And, in order to understand the why? We must journey all the way to the beginning.

**John Wooden** the famous college basketball coach for UCLA, he passed away a few years ago. Back in the 60's and 70's when he was winning all those championships – before he would have the incoming freshmen run any drills – he would teach them a very basic lesson.

He would teach them on how to put on their socks.

His reasoning was that if your socks were not put on the right way – it would lead foot issues or possible injury. If you were hurt – you could not contribute to the team.

To know the book of Genesis is to know the fundamental truths—the basics—about God, the world, ourselves and other people, law, sin, salvation, marriage, faith, redemption and spiritual fulfillment.

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Moses wrote Genesis and tells us where we came from, why we're here, and what God expects us to do.

The book of Genesis will also reveal to us the beginning of God's chosen people, the people through whom God would reveal Himself to the world, write the Bible, and ultimately give us our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Genesis is the foundational book of the bible.

There are about 200 references to the book of Genesis in the New Testament. This makes it very important for the Christian believer.

## Day 1

[Gen 1:1 CSB] 1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

It has been said that if you really believe Genesis 1:1, then you should not have any problems with any of the other verses in scripture.

- What about Jonah and the great fish – Genesis 1:1
- What about the events in Jericho and later on in the book of Joshua where God holds the sun still for Joshua – Genesis 1:1
- The parting of the Red Sea – Genesis 1:1

Our God is All Powerful and creator of everything. He is the Giver of Life.

If we can grasp this, why would we go to anyone else regarding our problems?

Marriage: How many times have we heard the following, Well I don't know if even God can fix our marriage – really.

Troubles: I remember one time before I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior, I came to Ed Pena to pour out my heart to him regarding the issues I was having at that time, he listened very carefully and said, “Wow, I think you need Jesus” I mocked him for that because at that time, I did not really believe Genesis 1:1.

[Jhn 1:1-3 CSB] 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 All things were created through him, and apart from him not one thing was created that has been created.

Now, John 1:1-3 speaks of a different beginning. John 1:1-3 predates Genesis 1:1.

We must understand that God is eternal – He has neither beginning nor end.

He is self-sufficient meaning that He didn't need to create the universe or man to exist yet He created both.

Why?

Day One Continued

[Gen 1:2-5 CSB] 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths, and **the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters**. 3 Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. 4 God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." There was an evening, and there was a morning: one day.

So at the end of verse two, we see the Holy Spirit.

When God began to transform the earth into something beautiful and compatible with His great plan, He started with the work of the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit begins every work of creation and even re-creation when you take into account how we are born-again or re-created.

**Recap: The first day of Creation – God creates the heavens, the earth, and light.**

**Notice that it doesn't say the sun. That was until the 4<sup>th</sup> day. It says light.**

Someone else might say, well it says that there was evening and there was morning. How could you have evening and morning without the sun.

You only need light and the earth to rotate to have evening and morning.

In fact there will come a day when we will have no need for the sun,

**[Rev 22:5 CSB] 5 Night will be no more; people will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, because the Lord God will give them light, and they will reign forever and ever.**

**Regarding evening and morning –**

As we read through the first six days of creation, I want you to take notice as each day it states that there was evening and morning. I believe that it is very important to believe that creation was done in six literal days (24 hour days)

There are many people out there – some of them pastors who try to fit in science with the bible and start preaching that science and the bible are compatible.

They will start making claims that the 6 days of creation are not 6 literal days but 6 different ages in order to fit scientific claims to the word of God.

I have even heard of some who preach that God could have used evolution in creation???

They will even quote a bible verse taken out of context.

**[2Pe 3:8 CSB] 8 Dear friends, don't overlook this one fact: With the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day.**

When this verse is read in context, it implies only that the Lord is not bound by time.

Let's look at the bible to interpret the bible...

**[Exo 20:8-11 CSB] 8 Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy: 9 You are to labor six days and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. You must not do any work; you, your son or daughter, your male or female servant, your livestock, or the resident alien who is within your city gates. 11 For the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and everything in **them in six days**; then he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and declared it holy.**

The Hebrew word for **day** utilized in chapter 1 is "yowm" and it is the Hebrew word for a 24 hour period.

Everywhere else in the Old Testament, when the Hebrew word for “day” (יוֹם, yom) appears with “evening” or “morning” or is modified by a number (e.g., “sixth day” or “five days”), it always means a 24-hour day.

Why is it important to believe in a 24 hour day in creation?

The reason it is important to believe in the literal 6 days is because the minute that we start compromising the Word of God here, what will stop us from compromising the word of God elsewhere. The first 11 chapters in the book of Genesis are our foundation.

Creation

Marriage

The Fall of Man

God’s judgment - Flood

Many years ago, Satan realized that he did not have to attack our Christian beliefs directly, all he had to do was to chip away at our foundation. That is why there has been this push for evolution and claims that the world is billions and billions of years old.



That is not what the scriptures state.

## Day Two

[Gen 1:6-8 CSB] 6 Then God said, "Let there be an expanse between the waters, separating water from water." 7 So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above the expanse. And it was so. 8 God called the expanse "sky." Evening came and then morning: the second day.

The waters of the land are separated from the water vapor in the sky. There are many that believe that a canopy of water encircled the earth during this time up to the time of the flood. This is what contributed to the people living hundreds of years.

All this ended in the flood -

## Day Three

[Gen 1:9-13 CSB] 9 Then God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. 10 God called the dry land "earth," and the gathering of the water he called "seas." And God saw that it was

good. 11 Then God said, "Let the earth produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds."

And it was so. 12 The earth produced vegetation: seed-bearing plants according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. 13 Evening came and then morning: the third day.

We see dry land in day three. Vegetation and seed bearing plants again, without the Sun. A glimpse of how we will spend eternity with God radiance providing all the light we need.

Some scientists now say life on earth began when immense meteorites carrying amino acids impacted earth at a time when the sun was cooler and the earth was a watery ball covered with ice up to 1,000 feet thick. The idea is that a meteor hit the ice, broke through, and "seeded" the water underneath with the building blocks of life, which assembled into an "organic soup." However the process was triggered, the scientists said life on earth began in "a geological instant." But by an instant, they mean 10 million years or less.

I believe that it takes more faith to believe this than to believe in the account of creation in the book of Genesis.

## Day Four

[Gen 1:14-19 CSB] 14 Then God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night. They will serve as signs for seasons and for days and years. 15 "They will be lights in the expanse of the sky to provide light on the earth." And it was so. 16 God made the two great lights;the greater light to rule over the day and the lesser light to rule over the night;as well as the stars. 17 God placed them in the expanse of the sky to provide light on the earth, 18 to rule the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. 19 Evening came and then morning: the fourth day.

In Day 4, God provides us with the stars in the sky as well as the moon and the stars in order to be able to tell time. That was the whole point. So people could navigate and know when to plant their seeds.

In Day 4, He also creates all the planets in the Universe as well.

In the pursuit of science to find intelligent life outside our planet, I found out that the typical list of requirements for habitable life contains about 20 things.

Some of the qualifications for complex life to exist:

1. Liquid water –

2. Distance from the star – for water to exist, the planet must be the right distance from its star. Our planet is in the “Goldilocks” zone (not too hot, not too cold, just right) a very narrow zone in our solar system.

If the earth was just 5% closer to the sun, it would be like Venus, surrounded by vapor, too hot, up to 900 degrees.

If the earth were just 20% farther, carbon dioxide clouds would form in upper atmosphere, an ice age would occur, and the earth would become like Mars.

3. The type of star – if the sun was less massive or more massive than what it is right now, we would be sucked into the Sun's orbit or into the orbit of another planet

4. Orbited by a large moon –  $\frac{1}{4}$  the size of the earth, the gravitational pull of the moon stabilizes the earth's rotation axis at  $23\frac{1}{2}$  degrees, which insures temperate season changes and the only climate in the solar system able to support complex life.

5. Magnetic field – the liquid iron in the core generates a magnetic field that protects us from the solar wind; if our planet was smaller, the field would be weaker and the solar wind would strip away our atmosphere.

6. Oxygen-rich atmosphere – at less than 1% of the earth's diameter, our atmosphere is composed of 78% Nitrogen, 21% Oxygen, 1% Carbon Dioxide. This mixture provides a temperate climate, protection from the sun's harmful rays, and the correct mixture of gasses for water and complex life.

When you calculate the probabilities of the basics being in place on a planet and multiply it all out, scientists have come up with the probability being something like  $1/10^{15}$  (or, 1 over 10 with 14 zeroes, 1 thousandth of a trillion) compared to the 100 billion stars in the galaxy, it seems very unlikely that there is any better place for us to live than the earth.

Kind of ruins the Star Trek thing, doesn't it? Every planet they visit is vacant.

Where does E.T. phone home to?

**What does all this point to? It points to design. It points to a Designer.**

Notice how God calls the Sun and the moon the greater light and the lesser light. Now we all know that the moon doesn't emit light – it simply reflects that light that is emitted by the Sun. Make a note of this...

## Day 5

[Gen 1:20-23 CSB] 20 Then God said, "Let the water swarm with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky." 21 So God created the large sea-creatures and every living creature that moves and swarms in the water, according to their kinds. He also created every winged creature according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. 22 God blessed them: "Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the waters of the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth." 23 Evening came and then morning: the fifth day.

Our text tells us that the birds and the whales and all the yummy fish that live in the ocean were created on the fifth day.

Notice how everything that is listed in Genesis, the secular world pushes the opposite.

- Bible says that the earth was created first, science pushes that after the big bang the earth was formed by chance.
- Bible says that water was on the earth from the first day, science says that the water on the earth is as a result from comets that by chance collided with the dry molten earth.
- Bible says that fish, birds and whale were created first. Science claims that everything evolved from an amoeba to a walking tadpole to dinosaurs and many believe that our birds are descendants of dinosaurs.
- Bible says that the moon was created after the earth. Science says that the moon spun off the earth or that the moon was a result of a collision of some kind millions and millions of years ago.

## Day 6

[Gen 1:24-31 CSB] 24 Then God said, "Let the earth produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that crawl, and the wildlife of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so. 25 So God made the wildlife of the earth according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that crawl on the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it

was good. 26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth." 27 So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female. 28 God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth." 29 God also said, "Look, I have given you every seed-bearing plant on the surface of the entire earth and every tree whose fruit contains seed. This will be food for you, 30 "for all the wildlife of the earth, for every bird of the sky, and for every creature that crawls on the earth; everything having the breath of life in it; I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. 31 God saw all that he had made, and it was very good indeed. Evening came and then morning: the sixth day.

On day 6, God created all the living creatures.

I asked you to highlight the words according to their kinds.

On day 6, God did not create poodles and pugs. In fact, it was by the work of man, that we have now have poodles and pugs. They do not exist in the wild. Man



through selective breeding over the years have come up with these variations of the domesticated wolf.

Poodles and pugs could not live in the wild. I apologize if I offended any poodle or pug owners.

God allows variations according to their own kind. But, what you cannot have is a poodle turn into a walrus.

This is what the people who push evolution state. There has never been an instant where someone said I had a dog as a pet and I saw it transform into a horse.

The famous sketches that Darwin drew while he sat and observed the birds on the Gallapagos Island – they were still birds. This is why they must use millions and millions of years in their arguments church.

Without the millions and millions of years – their case crumbles.

So creatures were created and God saw that it was good and then God created man.

Let's look at verse 26 again.

[Gen 1:26 CSB] 26 Then God said, "Let **us** make man in **our** image, according to **our** likeness.

Let Us make man in Our image: The repeated use of the plural (Let Us... in Our image, according to Our likeness) is consistent with the idea that there is One God in three Persons, what we know as the Trinity.

Notice how God didn't say "Let us make **angels** in our image or any of the **creatures** in our image." This is reserved for man. This is exclusive for me and you.

This is why we must be careful in our actions toward one another and have that loving heart toward those that are lost in the world. They were created in His image as well.

I had mentioned earlier about the Sun and the moon and how the moon does not emit light but is only a reflection of the light that the Sun puts out – you remember that?

[Mat 5:16 CSB] 16 "In the same way, let your light shine; before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

What does Jesus mean by light?

We must remember that Jesus also calls Himself "the light of the world." John the beloved calls Him "the life that is the light of men," "the light that shines in the darkness" (John 1:4-5).

The light in us is His light, the indwelling Christ, the Holy Spirit within us. The apostle Paul speaks of "the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ" (2 Corinthians 4:4).

We have that light shining through our lives **if** our actions reflect the nature of Christ—His love, compassion, and forgiveness. His light shines through our attitudes, words, and deeds.

When people see that our lives have been changed so that we have Jesus' values and see the power of God at work in us, they will agree that we do have a great Savior.

It has been said that the only bible some people ever read will be our lives. Think about that.

27 So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female.

We live in a world where people claim to be struggling with gender identity. God is not the God of confusion.

The Hebrew words utilized for male and female in verse 27 have only one meaning: male and female. There is no alternate definition church. We will get deeper into this next week.

The chapter ends with God giving man dominion over all the earth. In the pre-flood days, God restricted their diet to a vegetarian diet. It was only after the flood that God allows them to eat animals.

In the book of Isaiah 11, it is a reference to the Kingdom that Jesus will establish upon His return and it reveals that in the future, we will return to a vegetarian diet as it states that even the lion will eat straw like the cattle.

**In conclusion,**

We were created for a purpose church.

You see, God didn't create a world because He needed anything but that He might share His love with creature who are made in the image of God and can respond willingly (meaning free will) to His love.

**[Eph 1:4 CSB] 4 For he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless in love before him.**

Let that sink in church, before Genesis 1:1 He had already chosen us.

When we accept this by faith, I believe that no matter what happens, as long as we continue to walk to be obedient to His word, we will always be able to reflect the image of God to others. Just like we were created to.

Amen..

Let's pray...