

LISTEN UP & WRITE IT DOWN

The Making of the World

The Gospel According to Genesis: Beginnings

Genesis 1:1-25

Sunday, January 25

Essential, Non-Negotiable Truths from Genesis 1 . . .

1. God created the universe _____. (ex nihilo) (Heb.11:3)
2. God sovereignly and actively initiated, caused and controlled _____ that is described in the formation and filling of the universe.
3. God uniquely and specially creates _____ in His own _____. (Gen. 1:26)

This Week's Assignment: (pick one or both)

1. Download and read *Chapter 15: Creation* of Wayne Grudem's *Systematic Theology* from the Grace website sermon download page.
2. Rent and watch the recent documentary *Expelled* for a perspective on the scientific establishment and the intelligent design movement.

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An Approach to Handling Science and the Bible . . .

1. Where the findings of science are _____ with our interpretations of Scripture, we should _____ those findings and _____.
2. Where the findings of science seem to _____ with our interpretations of Scripture, we should carefully go back and _____ both the scientific findings and our Scriptural interpretations in a spirit of humility, openness, patience and _____. It is ok to reserve judgment on these matters.
3. When Christians _____ in their conclusions regarding the findings of science and the interpretations of Scripture, we ought to be _____ and _____ with one another. These are not issues over which to break _____.

THINK IT OVER!

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1. Read Genesis 1 again. What sorts of questions arise for you in reading this text? Why do you think these questions arise? If it were possible to “wipe your brain” of all you know and have been told from the world around you, what might we hear and take away from Genesis 1?
2. What sorts of questions is Genesis 1 answering for us? What sorts of questions are not answered here? To put it another way, what is Genesis 1 telling us and what is Genesis 1 not telling us?
3. Is Genesis 1 not giving us a comprehensive, exhaustively detailed account about the creation of the world? If you don't think so, why don't you think so?
4. From what perspective is the text of Genesis 1 written? Is it telling us about other happenings around the universe or merely about the earth? Give some scriptural evidence to support your argument.
5. Why is Darwinian evolution based on random selection not compatible with the Genesis 1 record?
6. Review and discuss together the 3 “essential non-negotiable truths” taught in Genesis 1. Where are these rooted in the text? Do you have any issue with these 3? Would you add any more to the list?

WORK IT OUT!

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1. What was new and most challenging for you in this week's text/message?

2. Slowly read over and think about this Derek Kidner quote again. . .

The creation story has stood as a bulwark against a succession of fashionable errors -- polytheism, dualism, the eternity of matter, the evil of matter, astrology and not least against the tendency to empty human history of meaning. It resists this nihilism explicitly, in displaying man as God's image and regent, but also implicitly, in presenting the tremendous acts of creation as a mere curtain raiser to the drama that slowly unfolds throughout the length of the Bible. The prologue is over in a page; there are a thousand to follow. If every generation has needed this emphasis, perhaps, none has had greater need of it than the age of scientific knowledge. The scientific account of the universe . . . overwhelms us with statistics that reduce our apparent significance to a vanishing-point. Not the prologue, but the human story itself, is now the single page in a thousand, and the whole terrestrial volume is lost among the uncatalogued millions.

Through the apparent naivety of this earth-centered and history-centered account, God says to each generation, whether it is burdened with the weight of factual knowledge which our own possesses, with the misleading fantasies of the ancient religions, “Stand here, on this earth and in this present, to get the meaning of the whole. See this world as my gift and my charge to you with the sun, moon and stars as its lamps and timekeepers, and its creatures under your care.”

Is this helpful to you? Why or why not?

3. What is scientific naturalism? What is nihilism and how is it a result and consequence of scientific naturalism?
4. Why do you think Christians are so invested in their own interpretations of the Genesis record? Why is it so challenging for us to “disagree agreeably?”