

Chronological: A Journey Thru Scripture

Beginnings Genesis 1 – 5

Happy New Year! As we welcome in 2021, I am excited that we are going to be reading and studying God's Word chronologically together. I'm looking forward to what the Lord will say to us over this next year.

While we are looking for a better year...and I hope it is, we need to focus our hearts on the Lord. If we are Christ-centered, then we can face whatever comes our way in 2021. He will give us strength; He will renew our hope and He will advance His kingdom!

Today we launch a new sermon series titled...

Chronological: A Journey Thru Scripture

My prayer is that this series will complement our chronological reading plan. I obviously will not be able to preach every text we read each week...but I will try to bring clarity to as much as possible.

Today we look at Genesis 1-5. The title of the message is Beginnings...that's what we see here.

No matter the worldview one holds, they all try to answer the question...Where do we come from?

But the only correct view...and you can disagree...is a biblical worldview that starts with God our Creator!

Let's look at four key beginnings from our text...

1. The Beginning of the World

Genesis 1:1 is such a crucial text...if we fail to catch it's truth our whole Christian worldview is out of whack.

Genesis 1:1 (NKJV) – 1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

The verse is a summary statement – general in nature but designed to focus on One – God our Creator.

The word beginning has reference to the beginning of time as we measure time...not the beginning of God Himself. For He has always existed as the Psalmist testifies...

Psalm 90:2 (NKJV) – 2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

Our Great God is eternal. That may be hard for you to grasp because you are time bound but as Jesus' followers, we believe His Word and accept this truth by faith.

He created everything and what is significant is that He created it "ex nihilo" meaning out of nothing. He had nothing to start with for nothing existed as of yet.

We see this clearly in verse 3...

Genesis 1:3 (NKJV) – 3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

God simply spoke into existence light...it would not be until day 4 that He would create the sun, moon and stars.

As you read the creation narrative you find that God created everything in perfect order...

- Days 1 – 3 we see that He created the blank slate

Day 1 – light and dark
Day 2 – atmosphere and land
Day 3 – waters and land

- Days 4 – 6 we see that He filled the creation with life

Day 4 – sun, moon, stars
Day 5 – sea creatures, birds,
Day 6 – animals and humans

All this He created in six literal days...notice each day is followed by...

"So, the evening and morning were the...day"

Not thousands of years but literally six days...can He do that? Yes! He is God!

And our response to all this...

***Hebrews 11:1–3, 6 (NKJV) — 1** Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. **2** For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. **3** By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible. **6** But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

This is the Beginning of the World...now let's magnify...

2. The Beginning of Man

For far too long the church has caved to science when it comes to the origin of man. Science teaches that man is an evolved creature...over time we became what you see presently.

But is this true? A lot of believers believe it is true. They believe that God created using evolution...we call that theistic evolution. But did God use evolution to create?

I don't believe so. Here's Why?

The biblical narrative doesn't teach that...look at it...

Genesis 1:26; 2:7 (NKJV) – 26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." **2:7** And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

Verse 26 is a general statement about God's creation of man in His own image...we will come back to this in a moment. And verse 7 is how man was actually formed and brought to life.

Let me summarize it this way...

- **Genesis 2:7: The Creation of Man from the Dust**

Man didn't evolve overtime he was created by God out of dust on day 6. May I add that man is created like no other created thing...he is God's special creation.

Pay attention here...man did not become a living being until the Father breathed the breath of life into his nostrils. Life is a gift from God!

- **Genesis 1:26: The Creation of Man in God's Image**

Being created in the image of God speaks to man's unique relationship to God. Man created in His images means that man possess attributes that God shares with us...reason, intellect, will

and emotion. We are distinct from all animals into we possess these attributes and they do not.

Before we press on let me point that God in Genesis 1:26 is speaking..." Let Us...in Our image..." Who was He speaking to?

Obviously, it was the other Persons of the Trinity...The Son and the The Spirit...How do we know this? Scripture says so...

***John 1:1-3 (NKJV) – 1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.*

And look back at...

***Genesis 1:2 (NKJV) – 2** The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.*

By the Way...the Genesis 1 account of the creation of man is a summary statement and Genesis 2 fills in the blanks with specifics.

Remember we are only summarizing as best I can our reading for the week...now look at...

3. The Beginning of Sin

A cursory look at Genesis 3 gives us a look at the origin of sin. Theologically we call this THE FALL OF MAN.

For summary purposes I want to summarize it in short statements...I trust you have read the whole text...

- We can clearly see the role of the devil in the fall of man. He embodies the serpent...which is why he is called..." *the serpent of old*" in Revelation 20:2.
- He engages Eve in a conversation...in which he calls into question God's Word and character. He is still at work...

1 Peter 5:8 (NKJV) – 8 *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.*

- Eve is deceived and duped into eating the fruit...Adam on the other had clearly rebelled against God and ate of the fruit.
- We learn from this text that sin can fall into three primary categories...
 - o The Lust of Flesh
 - o The Lust of the Eyes
 - o The Pride of Life
- We learn the result of their sin...they hid from God and fear came over them.
- We learn about the consequences of sin...the serpent, Eve and Adam all were punished as a result of their sin. But the greatest punishment was DEATH...physical and spiritual, and this extended to all mankind! Paul says...

Romans 5:12 (NKJV) – 12 *Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—*

Before we press on to my final point, I want to just point out that we see the consequences of sin entering into the world in chapters 4...Cain kills Abel.

Lastly, I want you to see...

4. The Beginning of the Gospel

Nestled in the narrative of sin is hope...the hope of redemption and forgiveness. We see it in...

Genesis 3:15 (NKJV) – 15 *And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."*

I like the way Warren Wiersbe describes the verse....

This is the first Gospel declared in the Bible: the good news that the woman's seed (Christ) would ultimately defeat Satan and his seed (Gal. 4:4-5). It is from this point on that the stream divides: Satan and his family (seed) oppose God and His family. God Himself put the enmity (hostility) between them, and God will climax the war when Satan is cast into hell (Rev. 20:10). Review the Parable of the Tares in Matt. 13, and note that Satan has children just as God does. In Gen. 4, Cain kills Abel, and 1 John 3:12 informs us that Cain was "of that wicked one"—a child of the devil. The OT is the record of the two seeds in conflict; the NT is the record of the birth of Christ and His victory over Satan through the cross.

And then in...

Genesis 3:21-23 (NKJV) – 21 *Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics of skin, and clothed them. 22* *Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"—23* *therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken.*

- Adam and Eve should have died as a result of their sin, but God provided a substitute...an animal was sacrificed to cover their nakedness.

A foreshadowing of what Jesus would do for us...He would be sacrificed for our sin, His blood cleansed us of our sin, He was our substitute...we deserved death, but He died in our place!

1 Peter 3:18-19 (NKJV) – 18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit..

- Being expelled from the garden may seem to be harsh but in reality, it was an act of God's grace. If they had remained there, they would have lived forever in their fallen state of sin and separation from God.

CONCLUSION:

Beginnings...we will see throughout our journey this year how everything goes back to Genesis!