

Sent: Thursday, September 13, 2018 5:39 PM
Subject: Last Nite's MOB Overview on Genesis

So why should MOB members set aside time to read, study, and want to "live out" and share what they're learning from the Bible?

Because it contains a message that has changed--and continues to change--their lives! Because they've come to realize that it's actually God's inspired Word! That God is the Author! And that He's chosen the sacred Scriptures as the way of revealing Himself and His "truths" to all mankind (and, like any author, we know He's pleased when we've read "His book"! That it addresses the most basic and important questions of life--including how we got here, why we're here, and where we're going! That it's actually like a manual for living! The B-I-B-L-E--as our "basic information before leaving earth"! And that it all begins to make sense now that they've believed and trusted Him "by faith"! And now can see His handiwork in every aspect of nature itself--and sense His sovereign control and leading in their lives, and even in the "twists and turns" of the world!

The Bible, in fact, says in 2 Timothy 3:16-17, that "all Scripture is inspired (or breathed out) by God and is profitable for teaching what to believe (doctrine), for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; so that the man of God may be complete (mature), thoroughly furnished (fully equipped) for every good work!"

The Psalmist writes (in Psalm 19) that "the heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands..."

Hebrews 11:3 notes that "by faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible!"

The writer of Hebrews also notes right up front (in verse 1-2) that "God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom (by the way!) He made the world!"

Jesus Himself said (in Matthew 4:4) that "it is written (referring to Deuteronomy 8:3) that man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God!"

Paul wrote in Romans 10:17 that "faith comes from hearing, and hearing the word of Christ!"

Peter put it this way: "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth forever!"

And while you'd think we would want to do it anyway, we're actually commanded to "study (the Bible) to show ourselves approved unto God, a workman who needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth!"

And isn't it interesting that Jesus, in the garden--just prior to heading to the cross--prayed to the Father (in what is called His "intercessory prayer") that His followers "would be sanctified by the truth," noting that "Your word is truth!"

And so we off to beginning our study of the book of Genesis! Where it all begins! The book of beginnings, or "origins"! The origin of the world! And of the universe and our solar system! Of life itself as we know it (or don't)! Of marriage! Of sin and "the fall"! Of languages and nations! And more! But, most importantly, of God's redemptive plan!

John MacArthur and others have rightly pointed out that understanding the origins in the book of Genesis is foundational to the rest of the Bible!

Willmington's Guide to the Bible depicts the Bible as moving from a floodlight to a spotlight as our attention is drawn from the entire world and the universe to a nation (Israel), then to a tribe (the tribe of Judah), and to a family within that tribe (Jesse), to David the king, and finally to the "babe in a manger"--Jesus the Messiah, who came "in the fullness of time" to provide redemption for man and, eventually, a return to the Paradise, and a relationship, God planned for man from the beginning! And so, the Old Testament, beginning with the creation story in Genesis, finds its fulfillment in the New Testament!

Dr. Constable notes, in fact, that "in some ways the rest of the Bible is an elaboration of the basic themes we see in Genesis!

And Shepherd's Notes observes that Genesis boldly and unapologetically declares that God is involved in every detail of human life!

And so, next week we're beginning with the story of creation, in Genesis 1-2:3! Can't wait! And as we do, we're going to be looking for, among other things, the person of Jesus! Our first memory verse just so happens to be John 1:1-5--"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God! He was in the beginning with God! All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made! In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men! The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it!"

That's how we're going to begin! And as we do, we want to praise and thank God for His Word--and all His promises--and commit our study of this great book of Genesis to Him!

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