

Sent: Wednesday, September 19, 2018 10:04 PM  
Subject: Last Nite's MOB Study on the Creation Story!

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth!" (Genesis 1:1)

Genesis opens with perhaps the most monumental verse in all the Bible! With this statement the Holy Scriptures, God's Word, affirms that the existence of the universe and everything in it is a product of God's creative act! This is not allegory or poetry! This is an historical account of the beginning of the cosmos! The physical universe! Written by Moses, but inspired by God! It didn't evolve by chance over billions of years! God did it in six 24 hour days, according to this account--as only God could do!

Wow! I've been a baseball fan all my life (I'm 78 years of age) and, as a kid, I remember thinking of this opening to the Bible as saying: "In the BIG inning"! And, speaking of baseball (now that it came to mind), I just happened to wake up yesterday morning with a special message on my iPhone that said: "Keep on running, Christian!" The crowd was cheering wildly in the background as Christian Yellich, star baseball player for the Milwaukee Brewers, went sliding into third base with a triple, thus completing his nite by "hitting for the cycle"--having hit a single, double, triple, and home run, all in the same game--something not done very often by a major league baseball player! Christian Yellich may well win a trophy this year as MVP! For Christian, it was a "big inning"! But for me, it started off my day on a good beginning!

Last nite we talked about something so much bigger! The historical account of the creation story which should really excite us and which should be heard on everybody's iPhone, or wherever!

So how did God do it? Well, according to Genesis 1, it started out with the "Spirit of God" (presumably the third person the Trinity) "moving upon the face of the waters!" And we know that the second person of the God-head, Jesus, the Son of God, was involved in the creation story too! John 1:1-5 says: "In the Big inning, oops! In the beginning, the Word was with God and the Word was God! He was in the beginning with God! All things were made by 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!"

How interesting that Genesis 1:3 then says that "God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light!" And the question which is often raised: where did this light come from, since the sun, and the moon, and "also the stars" weren't created until the fourth day? (Gen. 1:16) Was it possibly the "shekinah glory" spoken of in Revelation 21:23 (and elsewhere in the Bible), where--speaking of the future New Jerusalem--it says that the city will have "no need of the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illuminated it, and its lamp is the Lamb" (speaking of Jesus)! And, then too Jesus, in John 8:12, said: "I am the Light of the world..."! Just a thought!

Bill Arnold, in his book "Encountering the Book of Genesis," describes the "recurring creation pattern" exhibited in the six days of creation! "Shepherd's Notes" notes the poetic quality and the "orderliness and care" exhibited by God in the creation process! The repeated statements "God said" and the commands "Let there be..."! And the reports that "It was so!" And God's

evaluation that that "it was good"! And always with a special reference to the time sequence: "And there was evening and there was morning"--as if to reinforce the fact (so hard for unbelieving man to accept!) that it was all done in six 24-hour days!

There are a few notable exceptions, of course! When it came to plants and animals there was a clear recognition that all vegetation would "bear fruit after their kind," and that "every living creature that moves" would reproduce after their kind--making it clear that there would be no "crossing of the species" in God's creation!

We also see a significant variation in the sixth day when God inspects His creation of man and woman and deems it not just "good" but "very good"! Giving the distinct impression, according to Arnold, that "humankind is the climactic moment of God's creation! "Shepherd's Notes" calls it the "crown of God's creative work"! Of special note is how humans were called into existence with God's special command: "Let Us make in Our image, according to Our likeness and let them rule over..." all of God's creation!

Dr. Constable observes how God "blessed" all living things, coupled with the command to "be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth"--and how the "blessing of God" would become one of the great unifying themes of Genesis!

And then day seven! When God pronounced creation work done! Finished! You could say that He "completed the cycle"! And so "rested from all His work, which He had done"! And He's back to the "blessing"! Genesis 2:3 says, "Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it...!"

So why did it take God six days to complete His creation work--and "go for the cycle"? Seems kind of long, doesn't it--for God? Being God, He certainly could have done it all in an instance! But, in all likelihood, He did it to "set the pattern for man's daily living"! To establish the "cycle"! Exodus 20:11 says: "For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath and made it holy"!

How should we respond? Psalm 148:5 says: "Let them praise the Lord, for He commanded and they were created!" Last Sunday, we heard the words, "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord"! And Jesse spoke from James 3 about the tongue and how we speak and otherwise react to brothers who are "made in the image of God"! (How often our Sunday sermons seem to hit on issues we deal with in our Tuesday nite MOB sessions!)

The creation story flies in face, of course, of much of the evolution-oriented teaching that consumes our culture! John MacArthur charges that "evolution is the single, greatest satanic lie the world has ever known because it eliminates the need for a creator! People can avoid God altogether! And particularly the God of the Bible!

Dr. Constable has stated that "blind devotion to chance is an act of defiance against reason, and more importantly against revelation, and more importantly against God Himself!"

Romans 1:19-20 says "...that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them! For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse!"

And so, we all have a choice! We can either believe what Genesis and many other supportive passages in the Bible have to say about the creation story--or not! What we believe about the Genesis account has implications for the veracity and truthfulness of everything else in the Bible--including the gospel message and the redemptive plan of God! As MacArthur says: "there either is Creator God or there is not! If there is not, everything is an impossible, implausible, irrational result of chance! If, on the other hand there is a creative intelligence, if there is a Creator God, then creation is understandable! It is possible, it is plausible, and it is rational!"

More on the creation story as we move on to Genesis 2:4-25 and, specifically, more on the creation and plight of Adam and Eve!

Keep on running, Christian!

Lowell