

SW023 - ZACH MABRY, SNOWBIRD

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT CREATION

INTRODUCTORY IDEAS

- ▶ In general the clearest interpretation should always be accepted
- ▶ We use Scripture to interpret Scripture
- ▶ It is helpful to ask the question, "What does the whole Bible say about this?"
- ▶ Remember the Bible is not a science textbook but it can be trusted to make comments on Creation

THE CREATION OF THE UNIVERSE WAS A MIRACLE

- ▶ God spoke the universe into existence out of nothing:

“By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.” Hebrews 11:3

JESUS IS THE SUSTAINING POWER OF THE UNIVERSE

- ▶ Not only did Jesus (the Word) create the world but he holds it all together

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.” - Col 1:15-18

THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS “THE NATURAL WORLD”

- ▶ This is how we can understand both:
 - ▶ The regularity of the universe
 - ▶ Miracles
- ▶ If you take the Bible seriously you believe in a God that is constantly interacting with Creation exercising His sovereignty over it.
- ▶ The world is filled with the miraculous... even when there are “natural” reasons
- ▶ The natural laws are supernatural tools that Jesus is using to keep the world working the way that He intends

THE UNIVERSE WAS ONCE “VERY GOOD”

- ▶ Genesis 1:31

“And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.”

GOD CREATED A MATURE, ORDERLY CREATION

- ▶ “According to their kinds”
 - ▶ Vegetation (Gen 1.12)
 - ▶ Sea creatures and birds (Gen 1.21)
 - ▶ Land animals (Gen 1.24-25)
 - ▶ This is same wording as to what went into the ark (Gen 6.20; 7.14)
- ▶ Everything was capable of producing after its own kind (plants and animals)
- ▶ Grown ups, Fruit trees, tree rings, fossil fuels, and light rays

GOD CREATED IN SIX DAYS

- ▶ Evening and morning (Gen 1. 5,8,13,19,23,31)
- ▶ The use of "ordinal numbers"

CAN'T DAY MEAN MORE THAN A DAY?

- ▶ Yes
 - ▶ Day of the Lord
 - ▶ Working Day
 - ▶ Day's Journey
 - ▶ Day of Judgment
 - ▶ Back in the day

2 PETER 3.8-10

- ▶ But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one **day** is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

WHAT DID MOSES MEAN IN GENESIS 1?

- ▶ Exodus 20.8-11

- ▶ “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

WHAT DID MOSES MEAN IN GENESIS 1?

- ▶ Exodus 31.17

- ▶ It is a sign forever between me and the people of Israel that in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed.

JESUS QUOTED GENESIS 2 AS IF IT WAS ACTUAL HISTORY

- ▶ Jesus quoted Genesis 1-11; 25 times
- ▶ And Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." Mark 10:5-9

PAUL QUOTED GENESIS 1-2 AS IF IT WAS ACTUAL HISTORY

- ▶ 1 Cor 11:8-9 He references woman being made from man
- ▶ 2 Cor 11:3 He refers back the serpent deceiving Eve
- ▶ 1 Tim 2:13-14
 - ▶ Adam formed first, then Eve
 - ▶ Eve being deceived

ROMANS 5:12-21

- ▶ This passage hinges on Adam being a real, historical person, who is the biological father of all mankind.
- ▶ Adam sinned and it has been passed down to ALL
- ▶ Adam was a type of the one to come => Jesus
- ▶ Christ's perfect obedience can reverse the effects of sin for ALL

GOD CREATED ON PURPOSE WITH A PURPOSE

- ▶ Romans 1.18-23 "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things."

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND?

- ▶ We should honor Him and give thanks to Him
- ▶ Recognize His goodness in creation
- ▶ Recapture the wonder
- ▶ We can trust in Him

WE CAN ALWAYS TRUST HIM

- ▶ Thus says the LORD, who gives the sun for light by day and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar— the LORD of hosts is his name: “If this fixed order departs from before me, declares the LORD, then shall the offspring of Israel cease from being a nation before me forever.” - Jeremiah 31:35-36