



THE BEGINNINGS!

The Book of Genesis

A Very Good Beginning!

Genesis 1:1-31

Message #1 of 50 – S898

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Sunday Morning Service

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A Very Good Beginning!

Genesis 1:1-31

Opening Comments

- Good morning – turn to page 1 of your Bible – to **Genesis**
- Today we begin our journey through **Genesis: THE BEGINNINGS!**
- The book of Genesis is a book of beginnings – the universe – the planet – sun – moon – stars – plants – animals – man – sin – the nation of Israel – the Law – the beginning of God’s plan of redemption
- The Holy Spirit inspired Moses to write the first five books of the Bible after they had left four hundred years of bondage in Egypt
- Genesis was written while they were in the wilderness on the way to the Promised Land
- It is a book of history – chapter 1-11 are a history of the world
- Chapters 12 to 50 are a history of the Jewish people up to when they went down into Egypt
- But it is so much more than a history book
- Keep your finger in Genesis and turn to **Matthew 22**
- It is a book about God – His creative power – His holiness – grace, mercy, and love for mankind
- It is also a book about mankind – it helps us to understand why this world is the way that it is
- Genesis also reveals to us God’s plan to fix this world, including redeeming mankind back into the relationship that God created us for
- We study the Bible, the whole Bible, for two reasons – found here in **Matthew 22:35-40**
- Jesus said that the two most important things that any human can do with their lives is to love God with their whole being and to love others
- But that is not natural
- No one book or part of the Bible teaches me everything I need to know so that I can love God with my whole being
- We are studying the book of Genesis because there are things about God that you will not learn in the gospels or the epistles

- So, turn back to Genesis and let's begin this journey to learn how to love God more and more
- Let's pray and then get into our text
- **Pray**

Teaching

- **A Very Good Beginning!**
- **Genesis 1:1**
- The Bible begins with an unapologetic statement that God exists
- Also, that He existed before the universe was created
- Elsewhere in Scripture we learn that God had no beginning – eternal
- In **John 1:1-2** we see that God was not alone
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.
- Later the Word is identified as Jesus
- And in the next verse we will see that the Holy Spirit was present also
- The Hebrew name for this book is 'ray-sheeth' – the first word of the book in Hebrew – 'in the beginning'
- The English name Genesis comes from a transliteration of the Greek translation of the Hebrew word (תּוֹלְדוֹת תּוֹלְדוֹת tōwledâh, to-led-aw') found in **Genesis 2:24**

This is the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens...

- As we go through this text today, I would like you to notice how simply things are expressed
- In ten words we are told that God created everything that exists
- The whole creation account is contained in 31 verses
- This is meant to focus us on the Creator rather than on the creation
- As I read this account, I want a ton more information
- I want details about how it happened and what it looked like
- Were the animals created full grown?
- Did the plants start as little seedlings and grow normally or rapidly?
- God chose not to tell Moses to write down any more than he did
- That must mean that we don't need to know those things
- **Genesis 1:2-3**

- ‘Then God said’ – God speaks and instantly, the darkness is shattered by light
- As humans, we are bound by the natural laws, like gravity
- God is not bound by those laws, He created them
- Jesus manifested this same power – in the windstorm – He said, ‘Peace, be still!’ – and they did
- He raised Lazarus from the dead – He multiplied the loaves and fishes
- God said – and it was!
- **Genesis 1:4-5**
- ‘it was good’ – Everything that God creates is good – God is good!
- ‘the first day’ – there are some who do not believe in a literal six days of creation
- There are several different theories, including some that try to reconcile the theory of evolution to the creation account
- One of the basic rules of Bible interpretation is to always interpret the Bible literally unless the text indicates that it is symbolic
- There is nothing in Genesis 1 that gives us any indication that this is symbolic – ‘evening/morning = 1 day’
- Day two
- **Genesis 1:6-8**
- There are approximately 55 trillion tons of water suspended in the atmosphere as vapor and clouds.
- It is believed that what is being described here is a thicker, denser layer of moisture in the atmosphere that would have created a greenhouse effect
- The third day
- **Genesis 1:9-13**
- Note the phrase ‘according to its kind’
- The fruit trees produce fruit with seeds that produce the same kind of trees
- An apple tree does not grow apples whose seeds produce oranges
- Evolution claims that given enough time everything will produce something of a different kind
- The theory of evolution was put forth in 1859 by Charles Darwin

- Science has advanced exponentially in the 161 years since then and yet there is still not a single shred of proof that it is true
- And yet, it is still taught in schools as true
- Because, if it is not true, then the origin of our species can't be natural
- Then the fourth day
- **Genesis 1:14-19**
- Here we have the creation of the sun, moon, and stars
- Anyone who looks up into the heavens on a clear night can't help but be awed by the wonder of God's creation **Psalm 19:1**
- The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork.**
- There is an interesting truth in these verses that we don't want to miss
- As Christians, we have nothing to fear from science
- In fact, science regularly 'discovers' what the Bible proclaims
- And then look at how verse 16 ends 'He made the stars also'
- Five words to describe the trillions times trillions of stars in the universe – focus on the Creator, not the creation!
- The fifth day
- **Genesis 1:20-23**
- It doesn't say how many of each God created, but if we take a clue from the creation of man, then He made a male and a female of each
- And then got busy populating the oceans and skies
- The sixth day
- **Genesis 1:24-25**
- In two verses, the hundreds of thousands of species of animals and insects are created
- As you look around this world, let the variety and sheer volume of God's creation fill you with awe
- God didn't have to create 10,000 species of birds – He did so that we would be blown away by it
- Day six continues
- Now we come to the creation of humans – men and women
- As a general rule I don't spend a lot of time pondering upon my reflection in the mirror
- Someone is probably thinking – that is obvious!

- I would like you to think about this next verse then next time you are standing in front of a mirror
- **Genesis 1:26-30**
- If you are not opposed to writing in your Bible you ought to circle the word ‘man’ in verse 26, draw a line out to the margin, and then write your name
- You were made in the image of God, according to the likeness of the Triune Godhead **John Walvoord**

“Being in God’s image means that humans share, though imperfectly and finitely, in God’s nature, that is, in His communicable attributes (life, personality, truth, wisdom, love, holiness, justice), and so have the capacity for spiritual fellowship with Him.”

- Every human is an image-bearer of God – we carry the image of God out into the world
- The next time you look into the mirror, remind yourself that God made you like Himself
- We will see in chapter three that the image has been marred by sin, but it is still God’s image and likeness **Genesis 9:6**

Whoever sheds man’s blood, by man his blood shall be shed; for in the image of God He made man.

- It is verses like this one that are the foundation to how we feel about abortion
- Every aborted baby is the murder of an image-bearer of God
- It should also be the foundation for other beliefs we should have
- If every human is an image-bearer of God than racism in any form is evil, wicked, and blasphemous
- There is no question that there is a racism problem in this nation
- It is a very deep-rooted and complex issue – I don’t know what the answer is
- My concern is that the response we have seen over the last couple of weeks will not make things better – likely to make things worse
- I don’t have the answer to systemic racism – it is a generational problem that is likely to take a generation to fix
- All I can do is examine my own heart
- I am an image-bearer of God
- And as an image-bearer, I have intrinsic value not in myself but in how God made me

- And every other human I come into contact with is an image-bearer of God as well with the exact same intrinsic value
- God created all the races – He doesn't differentiate between one race over another – with the exception of the Jews – His Chosen People
- God is colorblind and we should be also
- Let's get back to our text
- God made man in His image and then gave him dominion over the other creatures God created
- Verse 27 says God made them male and female – two genders
- In God's economy two genders was enough – no need for more
- 'Be fruitful and multiply' – every new baby is an act of faith and obedience to this command
- Verses 29 and 30 tells us that humans and animals were vegetarians
- That changed after the Fall
- Then God looks over His creation
- **Genesis 1:31**
- It was very good – every other time God surveyed His creation He said it was good
- Only after the creation of humans was it very good
- Humans are the greatest part of the creation
- Again, sin has messed that up and the result is that damage that we see happening to this world and the way people are treating each other
- We can't change the whole world, but we can let the Holy Spirit change us
- So that we love God and each other as divinely created image-bearers of Almighty Creator God
- As you leave this place, remind yourself that you are carrying God's image with you
- And try to remind yourself that every interaction with another human being is an opportunity to let them see Jesus
- What this world needs is Jesus – let it see Him in you!
- **Pray!**