

In the Beginning...

An Examination of the Genesis Account of Creation and the Fall of Mankind

Genesis 1:20-23

9- The "Days" of Creation, Day 5

March 11, 2018

Genesis 1:20-23

20 Then God said, "Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens."

21 God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarmed after their kind, and every winged bird after its kind; and God saw that it was good.

22 God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth."

23 There was evening and there was morning, a fifth day.

To the Glory of God

There has risen a concern, during the 47 years of my pilgrimage with Jesus, about the lack of "Christo-centric" preaching and teaching. Now you may have heard this phrased as "Christ-centered" or "Cross-centered" preaching and teaching. But it has to do with *all* preaching and teaching, about virtually *any* subject, sooner or later, getting back to Jesus, and His Birth, Life, Ministry, Death, Resurrection, Ascension, His ongoing Ministry in Heaven right now, and His *immanent* Second Coming.

The concept of "Christo-centric" preaching and teaching was established by Jesus, Himself, in **Luke 24:25-27**, when he told the two travelers on the road to Emmaus:

25 And He said to them, "**O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!**

26 "**Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?"**

27 Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

Now notice that Jesus mentioned two parts of the Scriptures that He said were about Him:

1. Moses
2. The Prophets

... and back in the 1st Century, that phrase was commonly used by the Jews to mean the *entirety* of what is now the 39 Books of the Old Testament in our English Bibles. So, Jesus is saying here that *everything* in the 39 Books of the Old Testament is *eventually* about Him. *Every issue, every statement, every person and character, every action, every narrative, every promise, in every Book of the Old Testament, has more to do with Jesus than it does with the people involved at that time, or the people who spoke it.*

All throughout the Old Testament, Jesus is explained and displayed and seen and understood through signs and symbols, and in portions and in part. So, we are to see Jesus as the One and Only of the Father. He is the most unique Person Who ever lived. He is the Son of God, and the Son of David, and the Son of Man. He is the Lily of the Valley, and the Bright and Morning Star. He is the Rose of Sharon, and the Fairest of ten thousand to my soul. He was Adam's Covering, Noah's Ark, and the Ram caught in a thicket by his horns. He was Abraham's tithe Collector, and Joseph's Promise. He was Moses' Angel and Prophet. He was David's Buckler, his High Tower and Sword and Shield. He was Solomon's Wisdom, and He whom his soul loved. He was the Star that brought the kings; He was promised Seed.

Jesus is the Lamb of God that was slain before the foundation of the world. He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and no man comes to the Father except through Him. Jesus fulfilled the Law by perfectly and continually obeying it, and, thus, fulfilled both the Promises and Prophecies of the Old Testament. In Jesus, and in Jesus alone, dwells all the fullness of the Godhead, bodily. He is the Man Who lived and died and rose again, and Who ascended up on high, and He is the One Who sits at the Right Hand of the Majesty on High even now to make intercession for us.

Jesus is both the Lion and the Lamb, the First and the Last. He is both the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. Jesus is both the Savior and the Judge, and He is both the Agent by which God created all things, and the Heir of all things that God created.

I tell you that God the Father has given Jesus the Son a Name that is above every other name. And that at the Name of Jesus, every knee will bow, and at the Name of Jesus, every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the Glory of God the Father. And the damned will do that as they burn, while the redeemed will do that in the Joy of their Father.

And I tell you that Jesus is the Head of the Church. And in His Church, that He bought and paid for with His Own Blood, Jesus is to have the preeminence. And He *alone* is to be worshipped, and He *alone* is to be adored, and He *alone* is to be magnified, and He *alone* is to be glorified, and He *alone* is to be honored, and He *alone* is to be the focus of all that we do.

And *that* is what it means to be "Christo-centric". And it is my conviction that Jesus is best seen and valued, and all 66 Books of the Bible are best known and comprehended, by us understanding the Truth that God magnifies Himself in all that He does in a *Christ-centered* direction. And *nowhere* is that seen more and comprehended better than it is in what Moses wrote about Creation in the Book of **Genesis**. And I have been driven in this direction by a myriad of insights:

1. The very Apex of the Display of God's Own Glory is the *Display of His Grace*.

Ephesians 1:5-6a

He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace ...

This tells me that Grace is the "endpoint" in the Revelation of God's Glory. And that means that the Glory that supernovas and subatomic particles and blackholes, and green grass and trees waving in the wind, all demonstrate, *pales* in comparison to the Grace of God

being displayed in turning committed rebels into bond-slaves of Jesus Christ.

And to try to image how glorious and how serious and how valuable and how important God's Grace in Redemption really is, we need to look no further than the frightening and eternal and consuming Wrath that God pours out on the children of disobedience. Because that Wrath serves to make Grace *infinitely* glorious for the vessels of Mercy.

Romans 9:22-24

What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction? And *He did so* to make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory, *even* us, whom He also called, not from among Jews only, but also from among Gentiles.

2. The Glorification of God's Grace was Planned *before Creation*.

Ephesians 1:4-6

Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

3. The Glorification of God's Grace was always to Happen *through the Son of God, Jesus Christ*.

Ephesians 1:5-6a

He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace ...

2 Timothy 1:8-10

Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with *me* in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, but now has been revealed by the appearing of

our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,

4. From Eternity Past, the very Apex of the Glorification of God's Grace was Designed to be *Christ's Crucifixion for Sinners.*

Before there was any human sin to die for, God planned that His Son be slain for sinners. And we know this because of the name given to the "book of life" *before* Creation.

The Revelation 13:8

All who dwell on the earth will worship him [the beast], *everyone* whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain.

5. The Glorification of God's Grace in the Crucifixion of His Son for Sinners was the *Ultimate Purpose for Creating the Universe.*

Colossians 1:16-20

For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. For it was the *Father's* good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, *I say*, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

... and throughout all eternity, we will sing the "Song of the Lamb".

The Revelation 15:2-4

And I saw something like a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, holding harps of God. And they sang the song of Moses, the bond-servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, "Great and marvelous are Your works, O Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Your ways, King of the nations! Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy; For *ALL THE NATIONS WILL*

COME AND WORSHIP BEFORE YOU, FOR YOUR RIGHTEOUS ACTS HAVE BEEN REVEALED."

... and we will say,

The Revelation 5:9b-10

... "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood *men* from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. You have made them *to be* a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth."

6. Therefore, God planned from Eternity that the Revelation of the Glory of His Grace would be the *ultimate* Reason for creating the Universe.

Nothing, in all the created Universe, brings God more Glory than when His Grace is supremely displayed in, by, and through Jesus Christ to patently unworthy rebels. So, the very pinnacle of the Glory of God is seen when Jesus was slain to save a people who would spend Eternity magnifying the *greatness* of that Grace.

In other words, the Universe was created for the glorification of God's Grace at Calvary, which would echo throughout all Eternity in the Christ-exalting Joys of the redeemed. And that makes two things true:

1. The ongoing *rejection* of the **Genesis Record** of Creation is actually an attack against the *Purpose* of Creation, the displaying of the infinite Glory of the Grace of God.
2. We must not only *accept* what God says about Creation in **Genesis** to be true, but to be absolutely *critical* in understanding what God says about Salvation (the displaying of the Glory of God's Grace).

Now this morning we are looking at what the **Genesis** Record says about Day Five in the Creation narrative. And as we have gone Day by Day through the Creation "Week", we have already seen some amazing things. So far in our Study, we have seen four different kinds of "Separation":

Day 1- God separated the Light from the Darkness

Day 2- God separated the Heavens from the Earth

Day 3- God separated the Land from the Sea

Day 4- God separated the Day from the Night

... and today, we are looking at Day 5, which reads like this:

Then God said, "Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens." God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarmed after their kind, and every winged bird after its kind; and God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth."

... and then Moses was moved along by God the Holy Spirit to write:

There was evening and there was morning, a fifth day.

So, on Day 1, God created the Material and Light. On Day 2, He created the Seas and the Heavens. On Day 3, God created the dry land and vegetation. And on Day 4, God created the lights, the luminaries, the moon, the stars and the sun.

So, now we come to Day 5, and during this fifth "Evening and Morning" division of time called "Day", God created all the various creatures that populate both the seas and the skies. So, this is the "Day" in which God completes the home for the "crown jewel" of His Creation, Man. Now look again at the first part of verse 20:

Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens....

... so, two things:

1. Swarms of living creatures in the waters
2. Birds flying... in the open expanse of the heavens

Now this is the first time that what God created was categorized as "living", which seems to distinguish *these* creatures from the Plants

and Trees which also have a form of "life" to them. So, evidently, the "life" that these creatures possess is different than the "life" that Trees and Plants possess.

So, just what are "swarms of living creatures" that live in the waters? Well, they are the many living organisms that have a *form* of life. But the "life that these organisms have is *unique* in that it isn't a "conscious life". And yet this life is *different* from the life of Plants and Trees. And this tells you that there is some form of a *hierarchy* of life. And so, whereas Trees and Plants have a form of life in them, it is evidently not as complex or not the same as the "life" that these organisms have. And as we look next time into Day 6, we will see that the land mammals and the fish have and even *more* complex life to them than do these living organisms. But then, we will see that Man is the *highest* and the *best* form of "living being" that God created, because unlike anything else that God made, Man has a soul, and Man has the capacity to know God, to love God, and to enjoy God forever.

And this shoots a huge hole in Darwinian Evolution that tries to suggest that humans are no different than monkeys, and that monkeys are no different than fish, and fish are no different than one-celled amoebas. Nothing else that God made has the ability to know and love and enjoy God except human beings. And so, we are the *highest* and the very *best* of God's living creatures. And just to give you a little preview of where I'll be going next time, just look at the way that the writer of **Hebrews** takes what King David wrote back in **Psalms 8** and expounds on it from **Hebrews 2:6-8a**:

6 But one has testified somewhere, saying, "WHAT IS MAN, THAT YOU REMEMBER HIM? OR THE SON OF MAN, THAT YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT HIM?

7 "YOU HAVE MADE HIM FOR A LITTLE WHILE LOWER THAN THE ANGELS; YOU HAVE CROWNED HIM WITH GLORY AND HONOR, AND HAVE APPOINTED HIM OVER THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS;

8 YOU HAVE PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET." For in subjecting all things to him, He left nothing that is not subject to him....

... so, *nothing* is like Man. And Woman is even *more* unique than Man. And we will get into that, next time.

But the first “living beings” created by God came on Day 5. And the symmetry of all of this is breathtaking. So, Day 5 corresponds to Day 2, and Day 4 corresponds to Day 1. On Day 1, God created the Light. And then on Day 4, He created the stellar bodies to be the “light givers”. On Day 2, God created the seas and the heavens, and then on Day 5 He populated those seas and the heavens.

On Day 3, God created the earth and its vegetation, and then on Day 6 He created the animals and Man to populate the earth and to *consume* that vegetation. So, there is amazing Order and an amazing symmetry all through this. God created the sea and the sky on Day 2, and then He created the inhabitants of the sea and the sky on Day 5. So, the sea was made into its complete, fully functioning form on Day 5, but the *elements* that make up the waters were created on Day 2.

Now like any language, Hebrew has different aspects to it that makes it a unique language. For example, there are grammatical rules to the Hebrew language, just like there is with English that you either have to just learn and know, or else buy software that helps you. And one of the ways that the Hebrew language works is by using what are called “literary devices”. And the name says it all. These are “devices” that are used, all throughout the Old Testament writings, to convey certain things to the readers that are unique to the Hebrew language.

For example, we read here:

Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures...

... which in the original Hebrew reads:

Let the waters swarm with swarming things that live...

... so, there is a *repetition* in how Moses wrote this where the same word is used as both a noun or an adjective and a verb. Back in verse 11, the original Hebrew reads:

Let the earth vegetate with vegetation...

As we look at this Passage, we see two phases in the Act of Creation of Day 5:

1. The creation of *conscious* life
2. The creation of *reproductive* life

Now, “conscious life” is life that is able to *react* to their environment, and move around from place to place. Plants and trees don’t do that, even though there is some form of life in them. And “reproductive life” is life that is able to reproduce itself so that it will *not* become extinct.

And the Hebrew word for “swarm” has the idea of *movement*. So, even though, technically, plants and trees are “alive”, they don’t move, they don’t “swarm”, and that is why they’re *not* called “living creatures”.

So, God filled the seas with “living creatures” that swarm. And back in the early part of the 20th Century, the Jewish commentator of **Genesis**, Umberto Cassuto, wrote:

“The primary significance of the ‘stem’ [literary device], *sherets* in Hebrew, is movement with specific reference to the abundant, swift movement of many creatures who jostle one another as they proceed to crisscross in all possible directions. God willed that into the midst of the waste an inanimate waters from one end of the sea to the other. There should now enter a living being and that there should be born in their midst moving animate beings subject to no limitation of numbers or intermission of movement.”

So, at the Voice of God, the sea began to instantly swarm with all these living creatures swimming everywhere and that would include both fresh and saltwater, all the “waters” of the earth. And the term “living” is a familiar Hebrew word *nepesh*, which is used to describe “life”. This word literally means: “*that which breathes*”. And that word is used here for the very first time because this is the first time we have a true “living creature” that moves on its own.

So, Plants and Trees have a *form* of life, but not like these creatures. And while these creatures have higher form of “life” than trees and plants, they are *below* the animals. And while animals have a “conscious life”, they don’t have a “*self-conscious* life” like humans do. Plants and trees don’t respond. Animals do. Now this is going to offend some of you animal lovers, but even though animals do respond, they respond based purely on an engrained *mechanism* that doesn’t require thought or cognitive reasoning. Animals respond purely based on what

is called "instinct", which is "hardwired" into their DNA by God to help preserve them. So, yes, animals respond, but they don't *know* they are responding.

So, for the first time, God creates full-grown, fully formed conscious beings that can move through the sea in swarms. So, this is a *huge* amount of created beings here.

Now when God created the fish and all those mammals and all those animals, whether you're talking about fish or whether you're talking about whales or whether you're talking about sea-going dinosaurs or whether you're talking about eels or whether you're talking about microscopic plankton, when God created all of that, there was *no* "evolutionary process". He literally, in a moment, spoke into existence all the creatures that swim.

And that means that all of the biology books in the public-school system in this country are just wrong about this, my beloved. *True Science* does *not* teach Evolution. *True Science* categorically rejects Evolution. And so, if we are thinking, intelligent human beings, who are not ignorant of what is provable and what is accurate, and not mindlessly indoctrinated by silly superstition, then we have to categorically *reject* the madness and the foolishness that is being forced to the children of this nation about Creation.

I have said this numerous times in this Sermon Series, and I will repeat it now: Not only is Darwinian Evolution completely *incompatible* with the Bible, it is completely incompatible with *Science*. All of these creatures came into existence at the *same* moment on the *same* day. They were *not* in some ongoing *process* that involved billions and billions of years as one species evolved into other species, and mutated into other species. They were all *instantaneously* created, fully-formed and fully-mature, in these massive swarms moving through the seas and the fresh water, by a supernatural miracle when God spoke them into existence. *That* is what the **Genesis** Record says.

Now look again at the next part of Verse 20:

... let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens....

Now this was a lot of birds, but the birds were probably a lot *less* than the sea creatures, for a number of reasons. When we look down into the depths of the sea, like the Mariana Trench in the Pacific Ocean,

where the water hasn't been polluted, there is an almost *infinite* amount of life. But when you look into the air, the birds don't block the sun out. So, Moses doesn't use the word "swarming." here. He simply said, "*Let the birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of heaven.*" So, the birds were also instantly created as fully-formed, and fully-mature birds, who had the ability to fly throughout the heavens. And in the Hebrew, this gives us indication that these birds were all over, all throughout the sky, flying all over the place. So, literally one instant the sky was empty, and when God spoke, the sky was instantly filled with birds who all had the God-given instinct to fly all over the place, swooping down to grab some of the living creatures from the water and landing in the trees that were literally created the day before. It must have been a beautiful sight! Now look again at verse 21:

God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarmed after their kind, and every winged bird after its kind; and God saw that it was good.

Now there are a few things to ponder here. First of all, when Moses wrote about God creating the plants and the trees, he didn't mention all the various *kinds* of plants and trees. When he created fish and birds, he didn't mention all the different *species* of birds and fish. So, why did God the Holy Spirit move Moses along to talk about "great sea monsters"? As you progress through verses 21, Moses said:

... every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarmed after their kind, and every winged bird after its kind; and God saw that it was good.

... which is pretty self-explanatory. But, why did Moses go out of his way here to specifically mention the sea monsters? And as I told you previously, when you begin to read through and study the Old Testament, there are a number of references to "sea monsters" and "dragons", and a creature called "Leviathan". So, what is going on here?

Some suggest that actual fire-breathing dragons, like we read about in pagan mythology, existed at one time. There is a fairly large percentage of people who believe in the Loch Ness Monster and the Abominable Snowman. Others suggest that this is referencing some

form of dinosaur that walked the earth back then. While still others think that alien beings from outer space visited earth many thousands of years ago.

Let me say to you that while I personally believe that some of what we call "dinosaurs" lived, they lived during the same time that human beings lived. But I think that there is something else going on here that is very important that has nothing to do with fire-breathing creatures and frightening monsters of the deep.

We must understand that formalized, codified man-made religion existed way before Moses was ever born. As I have taught you during our "Journey through **Luke**", demons are real. Demons, of course, are fallen angels who are neither born nor do they die. And the fallen demons live down here on earth and can no longer access heaven. And they are angry, because they know that there is coming a time when God will cast them into hell, and yet, God has not granted them the gift of repentance. So, they know they will be tormented forever, and yet they can't repent. And that fear mixed with anger cannot be used against God, so they use it against the crown jewel of God's Creation, people made in the Image and Likeness of God.

And the Bible teaches that demons can literally inhabit the bodies of unsaved people, and cause great torment and agony physically, mentally, and emotionally to the one they inhabit. Now we live in a day when people, who don't believe the Bible, like to group all of what we now call "mental illnesses" as what the writers of Scripture called "demon possession". These people say that what the writers of the 66 books of sacred Scripture called "demon possession" was simply different forms of mental illness along with epilepsy and other ailments that we have since diagnosed because of our advancements in Medicine and Science and Technology.

In other words, they say that the 40 writers of Scripture were ignorant, uneducated, nomadic people who didn't understand Medicine and human anatomy and Biology like we do, and that made them superstitious and backward, and so they called every physical or mental ailment "demon possession". And that is just, flat out, not true. The men who wrote the Bible didn't know about many of the advancements that we have today, that's true. But these men were moved along by God the Holy Spirit to write down what they wrote, and God knew all

about everything we know now, and He knew about things we haven't figured out yet.

So, it is true that there is something called "Mental Illness". And it is real, and it can be seen in tests, and it can be diagnosed and treated. And the "Common Grace" of God has shed abroad God's Love to all human beings in that people have been given the ability to develop treatments and surgeries and medicine and all kinds of wonderful tools that help lost, as well as saved people, live better and more fruitful lives. And we should all be very thankful and grateful for all of this. And we should avail ourselves of every good and merciful gift of God that He has wondrously provided for us.

But, while that is true, it is also true that much of what is today diagnosed as "Mental Illness" is really not an "Illness" at all. It is either sin on the part of that individual, or it is demon possession. The term "Mental Illness" has been way overused in order to attempt to remove the *guilt* that the individual sinner has when he sins, and to relieve his *responsibility* to repent for the sins he commits. We must understand that we cannot *medicate* our way out of sin, dear friends. We must *repent* our way out of sin. And repentance has to be *granted* by God. So, sinners, who willfully and continuously transgress God's Laws should beg God to grant them the gift of repentance, or they are doomed.

Much of the upsurge that we are seeing in our day in violence and wickedness has a *spiritual* genesis to it, rather than a mental or emotional one. It is the work of demons possessing lost people, who engage in terrible and unspeakable sins. And no matter what action the Government takes, this will continue and grow, the closer to the Coming of the Lord we get.

But, even with that, the main way that demons manifest themselves is not by any of that. Little girl's heads spinning around and vomiting green bile makes for good Hollywood movies, but that is *not* the main way that demon possession is done. Demon possession is mostly manifested when human beings are empowered and enabled to invent and propagate false religion. So, for example, when Joseph Smith or Mohamed received their so-called "revelations" that resulted in them creating Mormonism and Islam, this was demons at work. And those who spread these false religions around, either by manifesting

supernatural acts or by forcing people to convert by the edge of the sword, this, too, is demon possession.

So, while it is true that many, many people are deceived by what they believe, it is also true that most people are *not* demon possessed. And even though far too many people preach and teach and believe the wrong things, most of them are *not* heretics. We must understand that Heretics *cannot* be saved. Jude said that real, sure- nuff heretics are:

Jude 4b

... certain persons [who] have crept in [to the Church] unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

So, while both Adam and Eve sinned, they didn't create false religion. With their fallen nature, they normally and naturally became enemies of God. And in their fallen state, they attempted to fix their problem by what they could do for themselves, without Grace and without God. So, what they did was what *all* lost people do. But they didn't create a formalized, man-made religion.

Formalized, codified, man-made religion was first created by a man named Nimrod, who was the catalyst behind the Tower of Babel, and the cause of God confusing the languages of the world. It was not the relatively tiny three-story Tower that concerned God, it was the fact that by teaching and learning Nimrod's false religion, and passing it down from one generation to the next, the people were now in "one mind and one accord" around a false religion and God said:

Genesis 11:6b

... Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they began to do, and now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them.

So, from **Genesis 10** till now, demon possession is *mostly* manifestly in the creation and propagation of false, man-made religion that dooms people to everlasting destruction. And so, in every area of the world where the Gospel of Jesus Christ *triumphs*, you see Divine Truth confronting satanic lies and deception *that is already there, and that is*

already believed and practiced, and, by God's Grace and to God's Glory, the Truth is believed, and the lies are rejected and deception ends, and eyes are opened and ears are unstopped, and hearts and minds comprehend and believe and trust and accept, and repentance is brought about and souls are saved.

And that is why, when human souls experience the miracle of the New Birth, that people don't just start going to church. You also see a radical and comprehensive change in the way they live their lives. So, when their souls are saved, their home-life changes, their attitude toward women changes, their philosophy about Government changes, their outlook about money and children and marriage and life and death and heaven and hell and what is holy and what is profane, all changes.

Salvation does not stop with the human soul being reborn. That supernatural, eternal, miraculous transformation begins to affect every aspect of their lives. And nothing stays the same. Here is how the Apostle Paul put it:

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

The Apostle says here that we are not simply improved versions of the same old man, but, by God's Grace, we have literally become new creations of God. And so, idols are torn down, false deities are no longer worshipped, and sinful ways are cast off. And when that doesn't happen, there is no reason to think that the New Birth has occurred.

So, satan has a vested interest in seeing to it that the Biblical Gospel is never preached, never taught, never heard, and never believed. And the most productive way for that to happen is *not* by keeping all mention of it out, but by creating and propagating a *competing "gospel"*, a *false "gospel"*, *another "gospel"* that *sounds* similar on the surface, and *looks* similar, but which is *not* the same, and which does *not* contain the miraculous Power of God to convert the human soul. And that will deceive millions and keep them in darkness.

And all throughout the Bible, the true prophets, the true messengers, the true men of God engaged in battles with the false. And these false, man-made deities all had names, and these false religions

all had tenets and doctrines and practices and beliefs that were written down and could be taught and learned and passed down to each succeeding generation.

And all of this was up and running before Moses was ever born. Another way of looking at this is that with the exception of the few people mentioned in the **Book of Genesis**, the entire world was already deceived! And that is the way it always works. You see, contrary to what many people say, human beings are not born saved. They are not born with a heart for God. The Bible teaches that all humans, born after the Fall, are born lost. Because of "Original Sin" we are all formed in our mothers as lost human beings, with both the sin *nature* of Adam and the personal *guilt* of Adam already there! So, all humans, born of woman, are "God-haters" by nature! And this is *why* we all have to be "born" the second time.

So, believing false things about God, and being deceived and being driven by our lusts, and believing and trusting and accepting the wrong thing always comes *first*. Salvation *fixes* the problem *that is already there*. But the problem always comes *first*. False teaching always comes *before* the Biblical Truth that defeats it. Since the Fall, Heresy rears its ugly head *first*, and then God raises up a man or a group of men to defeat that false teaching by the Scriptures, and by the Scriptures alone. But the written Revelation of God to Man is *not* what came first. False, man-made, demon-inspired religion came *first* and was *already* working and was *already* deceiving people, and was being implemented and was dominating entire nations and even civilizations, way before God's true Revelation to Man came in the form of sacred Scripture.

So, the first human to receive Revelation from God to write it down and codify it and formalize it so it could be taught and learned and passed down from one generation to the next was not Adam, it wasn't Noah, it wasn't Abraham. It was Moses. Adam knew God, and he enjoyed fellowship with God before he fell. But Adam never wrote down a single thing. He received Commandment from God not to eat a certain fruit, but he never wrote that down. Noah had amazing fellowship with God and heard His Voice and obeyed His Instruction to build a boat in the middle off the desert and tell people for 120 years to repent before God destroyed them. But Noah was never told to write

anything down. And neither did Abraham. Or Isaac. Or Jacob. Or Joseph.

These men taught their individual families, and perhaps even their neighbors and communities, what they had personally seen and heard from God and angels and through dreams and visions and personal experiences. But no Divine Truth was ever codified, formalized, and written down until God told Moses to do so. There was no sacred Scripture. No Book that contained Divine Truth that could be read by anyone and taught and learned and studied and pondered and believed.

But that was not true about the many false religions of the world. Many, many man-made, demonically inspired religions were written down and formalized, and were being taught and learned on a regular basis, many, many centuries before Moses was ever born. Entire nations and vast civilizations were completely captured and dominated by false religions. And so, not only did the individual people, who were deceived, worship false gods and sacrificed their children and bowed before idols, but the Governments and the military and the economic systems of those nations and empires were completely enslaved by the demons, who had deceived them.

And 1,450 years before Jesus was born, nowhere was this deception by false religion more obvious than in the nation of Egypt, which during the time of Moses was the richest and the most powerful nation on earth. And it was in that setting that Moses wrote down the **Book of Genesis** that not only describes *how* God created the Universe, but also separates the people of God from every other group of people on earth.

And it separated them, not by walls and palaces, but in what God's people believed and what they accepted and in Who they put their trust. And for the first time in human history, inspired, inerrant, and infallible Divine Truth was received and written down by a sinful human. And now Divine Truth could be forever preserved and taught and learned and accepted and believed.

And for the first time, point-by-point, issue-by-issue, doctrine-by-doctrine, belief-by-belief- teaching, by teaching between the false and the true could be compared and analyzed. And the lies and deception and false and man-made teaching inspired by demons could be confronted and defeated by Divine Truth!

So, keep in mind that in His great Wisdom, God didn't give the **Book of Genesis** to Moses to write down simply because He wanted Christians in the 21st Century AD to know what to believe in our day. But God moved on Moses so that the Jew of *that* day would know what to believe and what to trust in and what to accept. What God gave Moses in the first five Books of the Bible was the foundation to not simply another religion, but the revealed Word of God that created and sustained and prospered the entire nation of Israel until the Messiah could be born.

We need to remember that the Jew was a slave in Egypt when God raised up Moses. And they owned nothing. God had to give the Jew *everything* so that thousands of years later, Jesus Christ could be born to a Jewish family and fulfill the Promise of God. So, God had to give the Jew not simply his religion, but his language and his culture and his government and his land and his entire economic system. We must remember that God had to *forcefully* and *unfairly* take the land *away* from the Canaanites, who legally owned it, and give it to His unworthy and sinful people, which in effect, offended the entire population of every nation over there. And is the source of all the tension in that region to this day.

And the reason I'm bringing all this up is because *this* is the setting in which God moved upon Moses to discuss the "giant sea monsters". Because not only is **Genesis** the foundational Book for modern day Christians, and not only is **Genesis** the foundational Book of what the ancient Jews were supposed to believe, but it was also the Book that created the demarcation line between Divine Truth, and the false teaching that was inspired by demons, that was *already* up and running and was *already* dominating nations and civilizations, and was *already* in place and functioning, and was *already* believed and practiced by the majority of the people of the world before Moses was ever born.

And these false religions all had monsters and hideous beings and grotesque creatures in the tenets of their beliefs. They all had half-man, half-bird, or half-man, half-fish, or half-man, half-horse, or half-man, half-tree-deities, who dominated the mere mortals, and who struck fear into their minds and hearts, so much so, that most, if not all of these demonically inspired religions routinely *commanded* fathers to sacrifice their own children.

And Moses, very simply, but very powerfully, said:

God created them.

And by saying this, he was not *necessarily* giving credibility to those who think that these beings actually existed, although that may be the case. But he was telling every pagan on earth that the one, true, living God, Who created the Universe, was infinitely *superior* to all the other man-made and false deities revealed in all of the many false religions and that had been worshipped for centuries by deceived people.

Leviathan and Rahab and the dragon and the serpents and the giant beasts of the seas terrified people, and compelled them to bow before them and worship them. And even the ancient Jew had been sucked into the various demonically inspired religious nonsense. And it was common for even God's people to fear and worship and obey false deities. Until Moses wrote this.

By the time God revealed His Word and Will to Moses, these creatures had taken on mythical status and very elaborate and detailed rituals existed so that farmers and seamen and business owners and governmental officials could find favor with them.

But here Moses says that they weren't false gods. They weren't false deities. They didn't have power over God's people. They didn't make it rain or give you a good crop or allow your wife to bear you a son. At best, if they actually existed at all, these giant beings were nothing more than creatures that God made, just the way He made everything else. And if they were nothing but creations of demonically inspired and deceived people, then God was superior to them all.

Now, to be honest with you, I'm not exactly sure which way to go on this. These giant monsters could very well have lived back then. But one thing I *am* sure of is that *after* Moses wrote this, all those who promoted false religions, with their false deities, were very troubled by what Moses wrote here. Because they wrote about how Moses' writings troubled them. A lot. From that time until now, Divine Truth, which categorically *rejects* the notion of monstrous deities and polytheism itself, shattered the cruel and brutal domination that demonically inspired religions had over the nations of the world. And even where

false religion dominates a country today, there is a remnant of genuine believers in that nation who reject false teaching and believe the Truth.

But what I *am* sure of is that by the time Isaiah and other Prophets and the **Psalms** talked about these creatures, the Divine Truth of Scripture is referring to satan and his efforts to deceive and keep lost people lost. And so, whether these beings were literally real or simply part of the religion of demons, look again at what God said in verse 21:

... and God saw that it was good.

... and that would include the sea monsters. So, God created the great sea monsters, and God saw that it was good. Now look again at verse 22:

God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth."

.. and how did they multiply?

after their kind

So, there is no evolution of species from one "kind" to another "kind". That doesn't exist. God initially created everything fully-formed and fully-mature, and after God created them the processes by which all things function today kicked in, and the various "kinds" reproduced in the same "kind", and that is how they *continue* to exist. That is *not* how they were created, but that is how they *continue* to exist. And then Moses wrote:

There was evening and there was morning, a fifth day.

God sovereignly made everything all in its own kind. And everything that lives in the sea, everything that lives in the sky, God created the way it is, in its own species. And there was no progress, no mutation, no natural selection, because God saw it all and said it was "good". And there was no death in the Universe, at all. At all. Nothing died.

And so here, Moses heralded a powerful, radical Truth that the world had never heard before:

Everything came from God and everything will go back to God.
God created everything.

And the logical, reasoned conclusion that we can get from that Reality is:

There is nothing to fear, except God

There are no false deities, no mythological creatures that we need to fear. There is no power, no force, no energy, no religion, no deity, no fate, no chance, no luck, no happenstance, no circumstance, and no situation that we need to fear. We need only to fear God. We need to fear that we are *dishonoring* God. And we need to fear that what we think and what we believe and what we trust in and what we love and what we do might be in *opposition* to this great God. We need to fear *offending* God. We need to fear *insulting* God. We need to fear *sinning against* God. We need to fear that we might be *fighting against* God.

And that fear, that wise and healthy and proper and correct *reverential respect* for the mighty, powerful, almighty God, Who made all things, is the very basis of both Wisdom and Knowledge. So, it is *good* to fear God. It is *right* to fear God. *Loving* God will cause you to *respect* God. So, it is very *intelligent* to fear the God Who holds your next breath and controls your next heartbeat and holds your eternity in His Hands.

And this God has *commanded* us to love Him. And He has told us to come near to Him for Hope and Peace, and the fullness of Joy. And this great God took on flesh and became Man. And this God/Man was born of a virgin and lived a perfectly sinless life for 33-1/2 years. He fulfilled all of God's Laws, and then He voluntarily, lovingly took our place underneath God's Wrath. And those Who come to Jesus will not be cast out. And those who fall on His Mercy will not be disappointed. And those who beg Him for Forgiveness will find it. And those who cry to Him for rescue from all of God's Wrath against all of their sins will possess it. And those who trust in Him and in all that He said and all that He did will never die.

Amen. Let's pray.

© 2018 by The Covenant of Peace Church. All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America

The Covenant of Peace Church 13600 John Clark Road Gulfport, Mississippi 39503 228.832.7729

Scripture quotations, except those noted otherwise, are from *The New American Standard Bible* © 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

This is a single transcript in a larger series of teachings taken from a verse by an examination of “**The Genesis Account of Creation and the Fall of Man**”. You are free to reproduce it and distribute it as the Lord leads you- without cost or reimbursement to us with the stipulation that you may not add anything or take anything away from this transcript without the express written permission of The Covenant of Peace Church and that this complete copyright statement be at the end of all copies.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.