

Sunday, May 15, 2022
The Sixth Sunday of Easter
Pastor Matt Duerr

He is God Alone! Have You Not Read?!?

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father and from our Lord, and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen. Our Easter sermon series has been “He is God Alone,” and as we rush towards the end of Easter and into Pentecost, we end with three sermons. One on God the Father, one on God the Son, and one on God the Holy Spirit. The theme verse or the foundation is a verse from first Corinthians that we heard last week where Paul writes and says: “For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God and take every thought captive to obey Christ.” And if you think of what is said there, it’s warfare and we destroy arguments lofty opinions raised against the knowledge of God, I have to warn you this is a sermon series that will not be politically correct, nor will it be woke. Originally, I titled it “Take no prisoners.” It’s a sermon that is designed to fulfill scripture; to destroy the strongholds, the lofty opinions, that have worked their way into the church and have become the predominant viewpoint in society, in the world of politics, in the media, in our schools, and in the halls of higher education. The goal is to take every thought captive to obey Christ.

So where do we begin? God the Father, Creator. And we start in the Old Testament in Isaiah chapter 45. The context here is a courtroom, God’s courtroom. Listen to what He says: “Assemble yourselves and come, draw near together, declare and present your case, let them take counsel together.” God is laying out a challenge to the people at that time and I believe at this time; to lay their case before Him.

Now what case? Well, this is where context is everything. You find this challenge right between two godly claims. In verse 18, He said; “¹⁸For thus says the Lord, who created the heavens (He is God!), who formed the earth and made it (he established it; He did not create it empty, He formed it to be inhabited!): I am the Lord, and there is no other.” And I just quoted that word for word so the first claim is God is creator. He created the world. He created

it to be inhabited and he inhabited it. His second claim is in the second half of verse 21: "Who told this long ago? Who declared it of old? Was it not I, the Lord? And there is no other god besides Me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none besides Me." End Quote.

Now when He says, 'who told this long ago?' What is He referring to? He had just finished making a prophecy concerning Jacob/Israel/ Judah. A prophecy about Cyrus, the king of Persia. What's interesting is this. This prophecy was made before Cyrus was born, before Persia was even on the map as a country or empire. And it builds upon a previous prophecy that Babylon under Nebuchadnezzar would come and take the Jewish people into exile for a period of 70 years. Yes, God got that exact. But now He's saying that at the end of that 70 years, which hasn't yet happened; but at the end of that 70 years there's going to be a king in Persia which will be the empire that replaces the Babylonian empire. And that king, Cyrus, is going to return the Jews from exile back to the Promised Land. Not only that, he's going to return the vessels to the temple, and have the temple rebuilt. Not only that, he is going to pay for it himself. And what's critical here, is that we can look at that, and see did it come true, and yes indeed, it happened.

The foretelling of the future it's something that God does throughout the Old Testament and in every situation, He nails it. This is why He's saying, 'You don't believe in me, lay it before me, show me another God who has told the future. Show me another God who's gotten down to the precision that I've given you. In exile 70 years, under Babylon, under Nebuchadnezzar, Cyrus is going to come from her, he's going to rebuild the temple he's even going to pay for it. There is no other!' That's why he ends it by saying there is none besides me. And it's why the Old Testament is so important because it gives us a reference point. When God says, lay it before me, he said find one, find one other religion where the god of that religion makes a prophecy concerning the future and he nails it. There is none. Fulfilled prophecy belongs to our God and our God alone. There are no others and do not diminish Him. He's the one who says there are no others. But we diminish Him when we say, 'well there's many pathways to God.' No, God says there is no other. Here's how you know. Look at my prophecies, you disagree, lay it before me. It is a challenge because to say anything else is an abomination to our God.

Let's go to that first one now creation, He says He's Creator. And I'm going to make a statement here that some may not like. But if you say you're a Christian, you bear that name Christian, Christ like. You better get on board. We read from Jesus Himself that on the last day, many are going to look to Him and say, 'Lord, Lord;' and He's going to say, 'depart from me I never knew you.' They know He's Jesus, they know He's Lord, they know He's Savior, and yet He says, 'depart from me, I never knew you.' Why would He say that?

I believe it is because within the church we have not taken things as seriously maybe as we should. We've embraced a little saying, a little acronym W.W.J.D. What would Jesus do? And understand, that is flat out heretical because it's asking ourselves to consider what would Jesus do. And we have no business considering that. Instead, the acronyms we should have would be W.D.J.D. What did Jesus do? Or maybe more importantly, W.D.J.S. What did Jesus say?

And what did Jesus say in Matthew 19, verse four and mark 10:6? I mean parallel word for word the same: "Have you not read that He created them from the beginning, made them male and female?" He is speaking about marriage. It's a God thing, not a state thing. And He was addressing the Pharisees who were asking Him about divorce. What does Jesus say? "God made them male, female so that the two can become one. What therefore God has joined together let not man separate." And when He begins His discussion with these Pharisees, noticed how He begins. "Have you not read?" It's sarcastic. It's disgust-filled because they had taken marriage and turned it into an abomination by making divorce easy. I wonder what Jesus would say today as we talk about male and male marriage, or female and female marriage, or the outrageous rates of divorce and the outrageous rates of people just living together.

Jesus himself says God created. In John 17:24 He speaks of God founding the world in the word. Founded there, is literally the foundation. It's the very first step in building or creating. And He speaks about the beginning of the world starting with God in Matthew 24:21, and Mark 13:19 and in referencing that a tribulation is going to come. But that He'll cut it short. By the way, why would that tribulation come? Because man will trust man and man's

words instead of trusting God and God's word. Thankfully the Bible tells us He's going to cut that time short.

When we get right back to it, it gets us to where we were last week, wisdom. If you have a wisdom, you have the fear of the Lord because it is the beginning of wisdom. And what is fear of the Lord, standing in awe of Him because He is Creator God. And looking at Him also as judge and understanding He has the power to follow through on what He's saying. I am so tired of people saying, 'well creation isn't a salvation thing.' Really? Show me where Jesus said, 'by the way if you don't believe that God created the world, even though I've told you He has, it's OK, that's not a salvation issue.' It is why God is writing or has the prophet write in Isaiah; "lay your case before me. He's telling us what we're going to have to do if we don't believe He's Creator, like He said, we're going to have to put our case before Him and there is no case!

Now you might say, 'Oh Pastor Matt, science says... And I tell you, not because of COVID, but because of how science has become politically and socially motivated. That statement just makes me sick! It reminds me of Jesus talking of Laodicea and how He wants to vomit them out of His mouth. Please remember I am unique when it comes to being a pastor. And you'll probably say, 'boy are you pastor Matt! There's a lot of unique things about you.' One of the unique things is I don't have a Masters of Divinity. My degree is in education and in life science with an emphasis on the science. We have taken science in the last 30 years and so morphed it into something that just is not science anymore. They call it theoretical science. Let me give you a new definition of theoretical science; what we think science.

The science I was raised with is observational science. You see something, you make a hypothesis: I think this works this way because this is what it looks like. You then test it. You form experiments to test it and you observe. And if what you observe backs up your hypothesis and if you open it up to everybody to challenge your hypothesis through experimentation so we can observe. It can become a theory and eventually a law if no one can ever show that your hypothesis isn't right. What we have today, is people just saying it's science because the majority, well the majority says so. But is there any truth to it? Well, that's why I have put together a worksheet for you. Or a

little handout for you, it's titled "How big is our God?" What does Almighty look like? I don't have time to go through everything so I'm going to tell you how to use this. I want you to think about it and take it home.

But if you look at that very first page, it says look at what He (God) created. Look at it in this concept. If the earth was a golf ball, you know about this big. If the earth was a golf ball, how big would our sun be? Well, our sun would be a ball that is 15 feet in diameter which would be big enough to hold 960,000 golf balls. In other words, the sun is 960,000 times bigger than us. And God spoke and He brought that into existence.

We then go to Betelgeuse, the brightest star in Orion's belt. How big is it? Well, it's two times bigger than the earth's orbit around the sun. Two times bigger, putting it back into the earth was a golf ball; it would be a ball that the diameter, cut it across the you know in the middle, you could stack up six Empire State buildings, one on top of each other. That would take you from the bottom of the circle to the top; that's big enough to hold 262 trillion golf balls.

When we think of trillions, we go yeah, our government spends trillions of dollars every day that's not that big, really. Do you know how big one trillion is? If you were able to count one number per second and remember once you start getting up into the thousands and millions you know like 187,657,321, it's very hard to get that in one second. But if you could count one number per second 24 hours a day, 365 1/4 days a year, it would take you 7,860,640 years to count to 262 trillion. By the way, that's how big this star is, or that many golf balls. But that's a small star. It's nothing compared to Mucephei which you'll see there takes 2.7 quadrillion golf balls to fill, which isn't nearly as big as Canus Majoris, the big dog that is the brightest star in our sky. How big is it? It would take seven quadrillion golf balls. If you're going to count it 208,040,000 years. God spoke and these things came into existence. That just gives you an idea of how big God is!

But what about observational science? Well science tells us now, the theoretical science that everything came about from a Big Bang that occurred somewhere between 4.5 billion and 32 billion years, though there is a new estimate of 41 billion years. Is there any evidence for the earth being that old?

No, in fact, there is piles of evidence that says the earth is young and these are all based on observational science. And so, if you take a look at the next two pages that are here, there is the evidence that the earth is young. Things like since 1836 almost 190 years, the royal Greenwich observatory and later US Naval observatory has been doing this too, but on a daily basis, they measured the diameter of the sun and they find that it has been shrinking at the rate of five feet per hour, every day, every year, 196 years. They've not seen a change in that decay rate so if you work that backwards at 20,000 years the sun would be much bigger than it is now. Talk about climate change; at 200,000 years ago, it would be touching the earth. It's kind of hard to get life at that temperature, isn't it? Well, we know because we've measured this. We've observed this, the earth's magnetic field. It's losing half its power every 1400 years. So, work it backwards. At 10,000 years, it would have been as strong as our sun. In 15,000 years, it would suck itself into itself which is called a black hole.

There's uranium in our soil that gives off helium. That's the process of radioactive decay you get 8 atoms of helium for every atom of uranium there is. That helium gets into our atmosphere, and it is very, very, difficult for it to escape because it's earth's atmosphere it keeps the gases here so we can breathe kind of like it was designed. If the earth was millions of years old, we should have piles of helium in our atmosphere, and yet we have well, we have enough for about 10,000 years of decay. And speaking of helium, being the second smallest atom there is, it escapes through rocks and stuff like that very quickly. Yet we have large concentrations of it in the rock which if the rock was billions of years old like they say, we should not have any helium in it. And the list goes on and on.

Bringing it back, the heavens declare the glory of God. The earth declares the glories of God. When we look this, it is what God is talking about when He says, 'you don't believe me, bring your evidence, lay it in front of me, I dare you to make a case.'

And I think we as Christians, we shouldn't be thinking about, oh thank goodness we don't have to make that case before God. I think we have to think about the case that God has given us. And we are to make that case to a world that is being lied to by the educational elite, lied to by the politicians, lied to

by the media, and yes lied to by compromises within the church. When God says He's God, there is no other, He is not kidding. And He is who He says He is. He is the creator, and He is the one who prophecies and foretells the future.

If you would like to hear more on this, because I don't want this sermon to go on forever, but if this intrigues you it's something you think you might be able to use to talk to a neighbor or family member or whatever. All I need is one person; one person at Valley Springs, one person at Jackson, one person at Lodi to say, 'Pastor Matt, could you do a seminar on that creation/evolution thing that I can invite friends to or that I can learn from it take the information to my friends with to or my family to;' I will be there! That's how strongly I feel. Because as I read what Isaiah writes, "The day is coming where God is going to say to a whole lot of people; "Come to my courtroom, make your case before me." Thankfully for us, indeed Christ has made the case for us.

Next week we look, and we see why Jesus is flat out awesome. And I think, I can almost give a guarantee on this; you're going to see something about Jesus in scripture that you've probably never seen before. In our Saviors Name. Amen