

III. It is telling us about the importance of Creation.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

He is so committed to this creation, he was willing to take it on in the incarnation.

What does that mean?

- Christianity thinks God made the world
- But it also thinks that a great many things have gone wrong with the world
- Because the world is real and because God is committed to it, when we see poverty, disease, death, we are as committed to renovating it as He is.

IV. It is telling us God created everything through His Word.

³ And God said,⁶ And God said, over and over in Chapter 1.

- The Bible tells us in John's Gospel that *"the Word of God became flesh and lived with us."*
- Later at Jesus Baptism, God says, *"This is my Son in whom I am well pleased."*
- That was the first time since before the fall in the Garden of Eden any human being had gotten the good word. He had the delight and the love of God.
- Yet in another Garden (Gestsemane) Jesus got no word from God.
- On the cross Jesus cried, *"my God, my God, who have you forsaken me?"* Jesus took upon himself our curse.

*Colossians 1:22- But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation— **God recreates us anew in Christ.***

Sierra Community Church January 18th, 2015- Dan Wilvers



What Genesis tells us about God and life.

What Creation Means to Us In A Very Practical Way

¹ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

³ And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴ God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

⁶ And God said, "Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate water from water." ⁷ So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above it. And it was so.

⁸ God called the expanse "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day. Genesis 1:1-8

³¹ God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day. Genesis 1:31

¹ Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. ² By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. ³ And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done. Genesis 2:1-3

In the Bible there are places where you have two accounts of then same event, and they're covered differently.

Exodus 14, you have an historical account of the crossing of the Red Sea,

Exodus 15, you have Moses/Miriam's song about that event.

Judges 4, you have the historical account Israel's victory over the invading armies of Sisera.

Judges 5, you have Deborah's song about that event.

Genesis 1, has an enormous amount of repetition to it's writing, not unlike poetry/song.

"The evening and the morning was ... the first day," "The evening and the morning was ... the second day," "And God says," "And it was so," "And God said it was good." Repetition and more repetition.

Genesis 2, however has historical/literal writing style. Which tells us Adam and Eve were real people, and the events that transpired in the Garden were real historical events as well.

So if we see Chapter 1 of Genesis as a song, we are inclined to ask the general questions about the **significance of creation** rather than attempting to make **literal defense of the details**.

So I think it's fair to say when evaluating something like Genesis 1 you don't press for the kind of historical/literal details about what it means anymore then you would press Judges 5 or Exodus 15 for historical/literal detail.

Four Key Practical Results for Us What Genesis 1 is saying about the significance of Creation.

I. It's telling us about the goodness of creation.

- Only the Bible envisions spirit and matter existing in integrity forever.

The Greeks and the Romans, said this material world is bad. But the spirit is noble and virtuous. Even in Islam it says paradise is a spiritual world alone.

Walter Brueggemann, the great Old Testament scholar, says it was *"intellectually revolutionary for the book of Genesis to come and say the material world is that good."*

"In that day, the Lord will swallow up death forever and wipe away tears from all faces. The Lord of hosts will make for his people a feast of the finest meats and wines well-refined. Therefore the Lord God has spoken." *Isaiah 25*

II. It's telling us about the unity of creation.

which means everyone, **whether they believe or not**, reflects God. But also, whether you believe it or not, everyone is fallen. Everyone is a sinner.

Do you know what that means?

- It means people who don't believe, still have the image of God on them, so they are far better than their wrong beliefs should make them,
- and people who do believe, because of the sin in them, are far worse than their right beliefs should make them.
- Therefore, there's sometimes not a lot of difference between believers and unbelievers has far as abilities go.