

1883- Rom 1:19,20 GOD MADE KNOWN by CREATION!

PRELIMS. As Xns we believe that the Bible is God's Word and that it is absolutely true. Everything we say this morning, is what the Bible teaches about God and creation. I want to talk about God and creation this morning. If the Bible is wrong, so are we! We believe there are **strong grounds** for believing all the Bible says, in fact we believe there is more grounds/reasons/evidence for the Bible than any other writing or authority in the world.

So, as I said, I want to talk this morning about God and **creation**. God **can** be known - at least **some** things about Him can certainly be known! Our text: *what can be known about God is plain, because God has shown it to them* [19] Our text ends by saying *So they are without excuse* [20] The 'they' obviously means those who deny that God can be known and that He created the heavens and the earth!

WHY DID GOD CREATE the EARTH?

Our Conf says He did it for several reasons. One was to '**manifest**' His glory – there is a 'glory' in creation. I am sure you **noticed** it! Its beautiful/fascinating isn't it? We stand in awe! And we only see it after it has been **corrupted**! God wanted to **display** that beauty and glory. It brought Him **pleasure** to look on it – just as we can admire something we have made! Jesus Christ joined Him in creating it *His Son...through whom also He created the world* [Heb 1:1].

Reason 2, God did it to **make us** (created in His image) **to think** – to give us a good reason why we should believe in and glorify God! Having given us **intelligence** and **freewill** we would need **reasons** to believe things. There would need to be **evidence** for faith to rest on! Creation is there to '**provoke**' us to **enquire** about **why** there is a universe and what **purpose** is there in a universe! *You see, that is the **sin** referred to in our chapter! God's *invisible attributes, namely, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived...in the things that have been made*[20] Ie, we **ought** to see God behind creation!*But man, in his own foolish wisdom, says Paul *for although they knew God...they exchanged the truth about God for a lie*[25]! Man **rejected** this evidence of God and **refused to believe it!**

Another reason why God created the world is that He wanted to **display 'His Eternal Power'**! He just **spoke** and there was earth, sky, trees, animals etc! God has extraordinary power, physical as well as authoritative! **Reason** dictates that there must have been tremendous **power** in creating the earth and then **suspending** it in the heavens! Originating all the **laws** of '**nature**' to govern them systematically on their courses! Apart from the earth which we live in – what about the enormous expanse of the **galaxies**! In our galaxy the **sun** is 93million miles away; the nearest **star** 6 trillion miles away. That is just **our galaxy** - there are **over 150 billion stars** in our galaxy! And there at least **150 billion galaxies**! Try and **imagine**!

Every **discovery** of science was **already** supplanted by God– we just discovered it! Sol was right *Nothing new under the sun* – but plenty new things **discovered** under the sun! Much more to be discovered!

Another reason for creation is that God wanted to display His **wisdom** *He...established the world by His wisdom* [Jer 10:12] *the Lord by wisdom founded the earth, by understanding he established the heavens* [Pro 3:19] *How manifold are Your works! In wisdom have You made them all* [Psa 104:24]. It wasn't a **mistake** for God to create the earth. It was **wise** of Him to do so. It is wise/right to **display/truth/righteousness/goodness** – creation manifests all these things! There was no folly or evil in creation. It was all **very good**!

God put **life** into creation – the trees, and plants live! God is the **creator** of life! No scientist has any idea how to create life! He can **examine** it and **describe** it but cannot create it. The word for create in Hebrew is 'bara' and it always has God as its subject! God only creates out of nothing. While it doesn't always say God created 'out of nothing', **no materials** are ever mentioned with the verb 'Bara' referring to God. God of course created the **animals** also. All **living** things, insects, fish that swim, birds that fly!

But God also made **invisible** things – there **are** invisible things!! God is invisible. So is the **wind**! We can't see the wind but we can see the **effects** of it! So are the **angels**! God created angels! Speaking of Jesus Christ, Paul said *For by Him all things were created, in*

heaven and on earth, **visible and invisible**—**all things** were created through Him and for Him [Col 1:16] Stand in **awe** at God's creation!

CREATION of MANKIND

God finally created **Mankind** – Man was the last of God's creation the apex! Male and female! Mankind is **not complete** without the female gender. Woman is the **complement** of man, the **completion** of man! He was created (and gifted) to have **dominion over all** creation (not just the animal world – lions/tigers!) but over the universe too *and over all the earth* [Gen 1:26]. Ie, have as much power/authority over the sea as the fishes have – thus our **ocean liners!** Have as much power/authority over the air as the birds have – thus our **air liners/jumbo jets!** Man is God's vice-regent on earth!

Mankind was **special!** Because he was made in God's **image**. Nothing else was made after God's image. Not even the angels! What was special was that man was given a **soul** as well as a body! Thus Sol says about the end of our physical life *the dust returns to the earth as it was and the spirit returns to God who gave it* [Ecc 12:7]. There are these two **constituted** parts of mankind! Body and soul! The spirit is to the soul, what the flesh is to the body! The soul of man was given by God *the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living soul (nefesh)* [Gen 2:7] God never did that to any other living creature. Man was unique because of this **dignity!**

Man is **completely different** from the animals. It is sad to hear so many discussions concluding 'Well the animals do.....or it is not like that with animals'? The inference is that if it is true for animals, then it is true for humans! No a 100 times! Animals do not the **spiritual dimension** that man has through God's breath of life in Him! God breathed 'His life' into man - He did not do that to any other creature.

Having God's image on us means that we have a truly spiritual dimension – we have **moral character!** Mankind has *the law* [of God] *written on their hearts* [2:15] Animals don't have that! They can be **taught** what is right/wrong and they **remember** things, but no law of **God** written into their **conscience!** Paul said re Gentiles *For*

*when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. **They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them** [2:14,15] Man's **conscience testifies** to an **inbred moral code** in his heart/soul/conscience.*

In the *things that have been made*, God has been **clearly perceived** [20] so mankind are **without excuse** regarding the existence of God as Creator! There are tremendous facts out there to convince the world that there is a God, if we have **the mind to pursue it!** The sad reality is, not many today are interested enough to discover their own destiny! Such is the condition of their spiritual state of mankind that they are prepared to take an **enormous risk** that there is no God! They leave it in the hands of Doris Day: 'What will be, will be'!!

*There is one other **reality** that we **must not omit!** We have to come to a **decision** about this - what are you going to do with the **fact that God Himself has come into His and our world?** In Jesus Christ! That is the **claim** of the Bible! That is the **claim** the Man Christ Jesus makes 'I am God'! Jesus Christ is a **fascinating Person!** He existed! If you do not believe that, you cannot **consistently** believe anything!

What are **you** going to do about the **many claims** Jesus made? The **truths** He uttered and taught? About the life hereafter? That there was a **historical** Person as Jesus Christ and that He **claimed** to be God's Son, did many miraculous works, and died to save sinners, is **very, very hard to disprove!** But you/I have to make up our minds about these **claims** and the many wonderful things He said about life and death and after death - is it **fiction or fact?** You will need to have very, very good reasons for saying it is all fiction!

Let me **assure** of this: the whole message of the Bible is of a God who is **deeply concerned** about **you** as a person and where you will spend eternity. The whole message of the Scriptures is about a God who **truly loves** you, and **despite the fact** that you have **grievously sinned against Him. God still loves them enough to die for them!** **He HAS died for them!** The **best love story** you've ever heard!