

Genesis 1 As in the Beginning

4/22/2020

I. the Biblical Narrative

God wrote Genesis chapter one in a straight, forward, simple, and orderly manner. The combined skill of all the world's literary historians, poets, philosophers, etc... could not equal the 31 verses found in Genesis chapter one: for the grandness of theme, and yet the simplicity of language; for the comprehensive scope, yet the concise expression; for it's scientific exactness; yet it's lack of technical terms and formula.

Nothing in all the volumes of man's writing can be compared with it for a moment: Genesis chapter one is unrivalled; it stands in a class all by itself.

Shakespeare wrote: "brevity is the soul of wit" (*Hamlet*).

And the brevity of what is recorded in the opening chapter of the Holy Bible reveals the Divine wisdom of the Almighty God who inspired it.

Contrast : the labored formulaic writings of scientists,
the meaningless origin stories of ancient civilizations,
the confused, foolish mythologies of the heathen;
and the uniqueness of this Divine account of Creation and Renewal is self evident.

Every verse of this opening chapter has the autograph of God stamped on it.

At once the reader is impressed with:
the orderly manner in which God proceeded,
the ease with which He accomplished His work,
the excellency of His work and the simplicity of the narrative.

Out of the chaos was brought 'the cosmos',
out of the waters emerged the earth,
a scene of desolation and darkness was transformed into light, fertility and life;
so that at the end God could pronounce it "very good".

God's word needs no confirmation from man.
It stands on its own, without need of man's support.

(1) If any ancient document agrees with the Bible's history, that merely confirms the accuracy of the ancient document; if the document disagrees, it proves that the ancient historian was wrong!

(2) If science agrees with the Bible's testimony, then the scientist got it right; if a scientist disagrees, then his science is wrong.

God is Never Wrong! God's word is truth, John 17:17.

II. the Biblical Numerics

God brought it all about by His word; *ten* times He said "let there be" (v 3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 14, 20, 24, 26, 30): the 'Ten Commandments of Creation'. The first verse has *ten* words in our English text.

In Hebrew, the first verse has *seven* words composed of twenty-eight letters. $28 = 7 \times 4$: Seven is the number of completion; four is the number of creation. The Creation was complete as it left God's hands in verse one.

Renewing the earth required *seven* distinct phases:

- 1 - the moving of the Holy Spirit, v 2
- 2 - the entrance of light, v 3
- 3 - the making of the firmament, v 6-8
- 4 - clothing the earth with vegetation, v 11-12
- 5 - the making and ordering of heavenly bodies, v 14-18
- 6 - the filling of the waters with life, v 20-22
- 7 - the stocking of the earth with living creatures, v 24-28

Seven times in this section are found the three words *heaven, made* and *good* . The word *God* is found in this section thirty-five times (= 5×7) demonstrating His *gracious* seal upon His *complete* work.

III. New Testament Harmony

v 1 in Hebrew :

<i>Bereshit</i>	<i>barah</i>	<i>Elohim</i>	<i>eht</i>	<i>hashmayim</i>	<i>vaeht</i>	<i>haeretx</i>
In the beginning	created	God		the heaven	and	the earth

The middle word of the verse is ***eht*** (pronounced eight).

Hebrew rabbi's weren't sure why it was there.

It appears to add nothing to the meaning of the verse.

The six other words complete the meaning of the sentence without it.

It was a perplexing, enigmatic mystery to the scribes.

It consisted of only two Hebrew letters: *aleph* and *tahv* (the first and last).

Some rabbi's called it 'the word of creation'.

The NT verse that opens with "in the beginning" clarifies the mystery.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word (*eht*), and the Word was with God (*Elohim*),
and the Word (*eht*) was God (*Elohim*).

2 The same was in the beginning with God.

3 All things were made by him (*eht*),

and without him was not any thing made that was made.

IV. Biblical Typology

After the initial creation in verse one; judgment is described in initial sentence of verse two, followed by God's incremental renewal of the earth through the rest of the chapter. This early history of the earth corresponds with the spiritual history of a believer in Christ. The renewed earth pictures the regenerated man.

v 1 *In the beginning God created...a universe of beauty and harmony.* God reigned supreme, he had no rival. There was no iniquity, no darkness, no corruption: everything was very good.

So too, was the creation of man in his original state of innocence. Made in the image and likeness of God, given a helpmate, placed in a garden of delights, given dominion over the animals, "blessed" by his Maker; all was very good.

v 2 *And the earth was without form, and void ;*

and darkness was upon the face of the deep.

Satan had lifted up himself in pride against his Creator and judgment fell.

That which was very good was marred with sin and evil.

God's light was gone and the earth was submerged in the waters of God's judgment.

An ideal start was now a ruin.

A greater contrast between Genesis verses 1 and 2 can hardly be conceived.

Yet there it is: God's glorious creation had become a dark disaster.

Likewise, the tragedy which befell the first man, Adam.

He was made in the image and likeness of God.

But he willfully ate of the forbidden fruit.

So by one man *sin entered the world and death by sin.*

The handiwork of the Creator was blasted by a curse.

That which was very good was now evil.

Just as the earth before him, man became a wreck and ruin.

Note the similarity of Genesis 1:2 and Isaiah 57:20.

And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

Hope begins to dawn; God would not abandon His fallen creation.

No one could blame Him if He did; for it lay under His righteous judgment.

Why should He condescend to care for an abandoned waste?

Answer - Exodus 34:5-6

references

Gleanings in Genesis, AW Pink, 1922, Moody Bible Inst.

The Mystery of the Menorah, JR Church, 1993, Prophecy Publ.