

Theme: If we are to understand God's purpose and plan for creation, and our nature and purpose in it, we must study it through the lens of the One who made it. That "lens" is the Word He has graciously given us.

Series introduction: I want us to look the nature and work of the second Adam, Jesus Christ. This means going back to the nature and role of the first Adam in the history of redemption.

Unfortunately, many today are wrestling with the historical nature of the first Adam. Our "beginnings" are facing mounting challenges. If we cannot trust the Bible's account of our beginnings, can we trust or understand the Bible's story?

- I. The Secular Explanation of "Beginnings": Creation through the lens of science
 - A. Creation by accident
 1. At best a "random" beginning
 2. With no design – just random interactions
 3. With no guiding purpose or end – though some maintain we are "Designed by Chance"
 - B. The Bible story is myth – Just one of many such myths
 - C. The human animal – The proof of macro evolution – we are just part of the animal kingdom
 - D. The implications of a "chance" Universe
 1. We need not exalt anything or anyone other than ourselves
 2. There is no creature/Creator distinction
 3. No basis for the order which we observe and trust
 4. No basis for ethics beyond what we determine/choose
 5. No basis for determining beauty in art or life

- II. The Biblical Account of Creation: Creation through the lens of Scripture
 - A. The work of God
 1. God alone
 - a. "In the beginning..." – with nothing before His work
 - b. God created – "bara"
 2. Out of nothing
 - a. By His Word (Psalm 33:6)
 - b. Its (and our) existence is dependent upon God (Hebrews 11:3; Hebrews 1:2-3a; Colossians 1:16, 17)
 3. The creation is "good"
 4. With a beginning and an end – The work of creation had a beginning and an end, at which point He "rested"
 - B. For His own glory – Creation itself exalts God! (Psalm 19:1)
 - C. Creator vs. created
 1. "I Am that I Am" – Self-existent, not "made"
 2. All creation bears the label "Made by God"
 - D. And all good! – The created order, creation itself – matter – is not evil
 - E. The root of true worship
 1. Made to bring Him glory; made to worship Him – to enjoy Him (Psalm 103 to 104)
 2. If we refuse to acknowledge God's work, we lose our identity

- III. Where Will You Start: Which lens will you choose?
 - A. Looking at the world strictly through the lens of science?
 - B. Seeing the world through the lens of God's revelation?