

GENESIS 1-3
Message 3

INTRO: I invite you to take your Bibles and turn to Genesis 1. Someone this week mentioned they were interested in memorizing these three chapters of Genesis as we go along. I encourage you to that. Our topic is the creation of the universe. In our last message we talked about when this universe came into being. The Bible tells us that it is in the beginning. And then we talked about who created the universe. We're given all this information in four words in the Bible. I'm indebted to Norm who keeps me supplied with the Alberta Report and Time Magazine, and I have appreciated these because both have recently run articles on creation. I enjoy reading their material and am amazed at how little they know and how much they could learn in the first four words in the Bible. Well how much is here.

c. How they came into being

This morning we want to consider how the universe came into being. Well, if you look at our verse again in Genesis 1, "In the beginning God..." he will tell us now how this universe came into being. It was created. One word and you know how the universe came into being! However there are various views of how this universe came into being. There is first of all "atheistic materialism." It says that the universe came into being about 5-15 billion years ago. And up to that point all matter was concentrated in a huge ball which had a tremendous density. A density of 100 trillion times that of water. Now there are stars in the universe that have a density that is incredible. And then when this starry circle reached a critical point it suddenly exploded and in 30 minutes this universe was in existence.

I don't know if you've ever seen anything good come out of an explosion, but I haven't. In fact, we used to reload shotgun shells, and we'd load them up about twice what they should have. We were always experimenting. And one day we had these 3 ½ inch shells loaded to the

max. I said, "Let me take that pack of willows out of the water." KABOOOOOM. Well, it exploded. The gun exploded. It was one of these pump guns. There were springs all over the place. I held the stock, split stock in my hand, and the barrel was sticking in the ground over there. Explosion. Didn't notice anything good come out of that whatsoever.

Well here is a view that laughs that God could create the world in seven days and they say it came into existence in 30 minutes. Someone told a little girl about God creating the world in seven days and she said, "How come that long?" Well, here we have 30 minutes and the world came into being. Now I wondered what they did with the problem of where matter came from. But they hold that matter always existed eternally. It never began. Try to swallow that. Recently astro physicist Michael Turner told Time Magazine, "Either we're close to a break through or we're at wits end." I trust they're at wit's end. Then maybe they will give consideration to creation. This article says that Wendy Freedman says this world is 12 billion years old max. Up until now they thought it was 14 billion. She says it's 12 billion max. Time magazine says, "Moreover, their's is only the latest in a series of measurements that point to a relatively young universe." 12 billion. Well, they're coming down. They've got a long way to come down though.

Well, there is a second view called theistic evolution. It says God created the world, but everything developed to its present stage by the evolutionary process. God created the world and then He left it there for billions of years until it evolved to what we have now. So that's after God created the world. It took billions of years for man to even come into being. This view has been called the molecule to man theory or the atom to Adam theory. Now I want to tell you what this view is. It is simply Christians worshipping at the shrine of the world. They fell under the intimidation of

the evolutionary teaching and thought there must be some other answer. There must be room for the Bible and evolution too, so they came up with this abomination. The little girl said to the little boy, "What abomination do you belong to?"

Now our view is taught in one word here in Genesis in five words. "In the beginning..." tells us when, "...God..." tells us who, "...created..." tells us how. Fantastic information. Here in five words we have all this information. This is how the universe was created. The majestic God brought it into existence. The theological term says ex nihilo. God created everything out of nothing. Now the evolutionary theory says that matter was not created, it always existed. There is no beginning to matter. But the Scripture says, "In the beginning God created." There is a beginning to the existence of matter. The December of 1996 Alberta Report has as their cover page title this: "The miracle of Life: Science is discovering the last thing it expected. Evidence of divine purpose in nature." So maybe, slowly, there is starting to dawn a little light in this whole world's view of how the world came into existence.

d. What He created

Now in Scripture we are not left long to wonder how everything came into being. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." There we are. We're given how it came into being. Now, what He created. We're told that in this verse as well. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. I really have a hard time not being able to give you assignments. I would love to have given you an assignment before I give this message. The question would be, "What is he talking about when He talks about the heaven?"

I have in my library Alexander MaClaren's 17 volume set of expositions on the Bible. And it has many tremendous messages. But the first

words of his exposition begin like this. He wrote back when our Christian world was very intimidated by evolutionary teaching. He says we are not to look to Genesis for a scientific cosmogony. We're not to look here for a scientific explanation of how things came into being. He goes on to say that the purpose of the account of creation is not a cosmogony of how the world came to be. He says, nor must it be forgotten this vision of creation was given to people, ignorant of natural science. As if God would write a different account to our enlightened intelligencia today. I want to tell you, if God wrote the Bible today, He'd write the very same words. The Psalmist says, "Forever O Lord Thy word is settled in heaven." It was settled in eternity past. My friends, God was far past where our intelligence today is when He wrote this account. He wouldn't change it for our scientific world, I'm sure. We have a scientific cosmogony here in genesis one.

Now much of what has been written in the last century or two has been written by men who have been intimidated by the evolutionary process. You need to understand this. I encourage you to buy commentaries and to read materials but when you read material on creation you must beware that the last two centuries many Christians have written and they were intimidated by evolution. And so they have made space for a lot of things. And when you read these books you must be very careful. I'm going to share with you some of the views that have come up with regard to creation verses evolution with regard to Christians. And will warn of those as we move along.

I thank God that in our day He has raised up men like Dr. Dwain Gish and Dr. Henry Morris and Ken Ham and others. If you are wondering about creation, I want to encourage you there is such wonderful material available today that can help you. It explains much more than our present supposedly scientific world does.

If you are troubled about this topic I would like to help you to good material. I thank God for organizations like Creation Research Institute. Do you know where they have trouble when they go teaching? In our modern Bible schools. Oh, we're much more open than that in our Bible schools. We're not simply locked into a six day creation. Ken Ham says they have trouble getting into our Canadian Bible schools because of their narrow six day creation view. Its something to be aware of. I thank God for organizations like this, men who interpret the Bible in its literal, normal sense and are unafraid of standing on the Word of God though all the world oppose them. I thank God for them. Now I want to tell you in no uncertain terms that Genesis 1 and 2 gives us a cosmogony that is 100% accurate. God wrote it for today as much as He did for ancient Israel. I believe that with all my heart.

So, what did God create on the first day? The first thing that we are given is that He created the heavens. Now you will notice something. If we have various versions here you will notice that they do not know should they translate heaven or heavens? Some of your versions have heaven and some have heavens. What should they do? Is this a plural or what is it? It is the Hebrew word, shamaim. Now you remember what I told you last time about the Hebrew 'im? When you have the word shamaim you have a plural word. So how do you translate. Well some Bibles say it is heaven. So they say the plural is for the sake of intensifying the word so it should be translated singular. So shamaim is a plural ending but indicating either a plurality of heavens or intensifying a singular heaven.

I will refer to them as heavens, plural, from here on forward. The heavens then are all the space between earth and the abode of God and in the Scriptures the abode of God is called the heaven of heavens. Everything in between earth and the heaven of heavens is the heaven

God created. In my understanding, there are two basic places called heaven, and the first is the abode of God and the second is that space that God created when it says God created the heavens and the earth. Now that space is also divided into two heavens, and we'll come to that as we move along in this creation account.

So there is the space between the earth and the heaven of heavens and this is called the heaven. Now God created the heaven on the first day of creation. We had a question recently at one of our ministerial gathering. It was: what did God create on the first day? And the answer given was: He created day and night on the first day. No. God created the heavens and the earth and light on the first day. Just remember this morning that when God created the heavens on the first day He did not create all the stars and the moons and the sun and planets and all that. No. It is empty space with the earth at the centre. Everything revolves around the earth in God's creation. He didn't create the sun first and so on.

Now the second item that God created was the earth. Now the earth is not a star or a comet or a meteor. What is it? A planet. The Greek word for planet is planeetees, which speaks of wanderers. What a planet is, is one of those things in the universe that wanders around something else. That's what the earth is doing. That's why it's called a planet. Now in our universe a planet is any body that travels around something else. Now we have nine major planets in our galaxy. When God created the earth, it was the only body in all the universe. In the first day of creation there were no stars, no sun, no moon. Just the earth and space. That's it. It was also not visible, because it was blanketed in darkness. Not visible. And it seems to have been a ball of mud and water containing everything it contains now except for living things.

Now it is to be noted that God created the earth (Here's the next assignment I'd give you: What is the difference between the earth and the world? I wonder if anybody knows. Did God create the earth or the world? He created the earth. Now what's the difference between the earth and the world? You may say, "I didn't know this stuff gets so complicated." Well, it does if you want to check things through and be accurate." According to the TWOT the term world in the OT may refer to the entire universe, or to countries or to the inhabited part of the earth, or the people. Now think it through from there. John 3:16, "For God so loved the earth?" No. Why not? He loved the world. What is the world? Yes, the mass of mankind. The inhabited world. Yes God created the world, but it was when He created man. The earth is not the world as such.

Now only after the creation of mankind can we refer to it as the world because now we refer to it either as the inhabited part of the earth or mankind in general. So when Genesis tells us that God created the earth, it refers, not to mankind, but the planet earth. So what do we have this far? We have zillions of miles of space, and somewhere in this space we have the mass of mud and water called earth. That's what we have so far in creation. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. That's where we are at this point.

Now I want you to try to get a picture. Let's say you are out there in the Buffalo Head hills. You're out there hiking, walking through the Buffalo Head hills, and then, to your surprise, you come to a place that has been cleared out. And there is lumber over there, windows over here, scattered around this clearing; nothing organized. But you immediately put one and one together and get two. You say, "There is a plan here. Somebody is going to build here." So it was when God created space and the earth. He has a place for it and He has the material to do it. That's what we have this far. Now you wouldn't

go to that clearing and say, "Look at those crawler tractor tracks. It must have taken millions of years for those to come to be. I wonder how those things came to be? Maybe the wind? You could start to theorize on how they came into being and miss the entire point. That's what evolution does. It misses the entire point. When God made the universe, the earth and the empty space, He was beginning something and He had a plan in mind, just as you would assume if you found this place out in the woods somewhere.

e. What state the earth was in

1) Without form

Now we want to look at what state the earth was in. That moves us into verse 2. But we are not quite ready to look at verse two. Before we look at this verse I must explain something, and I told you before I would explain several of these theories that have come up. I wonder how many of you have heard of the gap theory. There is a view that says between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2 is a gap of millions and billions of years. Here's what happened. God created the world, and God would not create something that was not perfect, would He? He didn't create something waste and void. He created something beautiful and perfect and He gave it to Lucifer to administer. And then Lucifer fell. He wanted to become like El Elyon, the strongest strong one, and then he sinned. Now look at verse 2. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep.

Now this view says the word *was*, should not be translated *was*, but should be translated *became* because it is translated like that elsewhere in some places. So we should read, "...the earth became without form, and darkness was upon the face of the deep." It's called the gap theory. So

God made this world beautiful. Lucifer fell and it became waste and void and the next six days were days of recreation, where He remade the earth into something beautiful. Now there are two lines of argument used for this view. First, a perfect God would not create something waste and void and empty and full of darkness. Therefore, it must not have been like that in the first place. Second the word *was* can be translated *became* and therefore should be translated *became*.

Now it is not hard to find out when this view became popular. It was right after evolution became popular. The Christian thought, "Oh boy. They have such great facts over here, we must do something to find room for it in the Bible." And they too bowed their knee to the god of this world. I do not want to spend much time here. I only make you aware of it so that when you read you will understand what is happening. In my humble estimation, the gap theory is the Christian bowing to the pressure of this world. Now if you think this is a view taught by few, it is taught by many in our Bible schools.

Now with that we want to turn our attention to Genesis 1:2, (read). We want to look at a description of the world as God made it on the first day. Number one, it was without form. What does that mean? Well it wasn't that it became without form. It was without form. That is how it was when God created it. We're not told what state this original earth was in. The Hebrew word is *tohu*. Which can carry various shades of meaning like confusion, or empty place, or nothing or vanity and so on. Now Doctor Henry Morris concludes that the KJV translators are correct in rendering it without form. A nice assignment would be to discover what it means to be without form and void.

Now I'd like you to turn in your Bibles to Isaiah 45:18 (read). This is a verse used by the gap theory people. He did not create the world in vain. That is the word *tohu*. How then do we read in Genesis 1:2 that it was created *tohu*. Well, the gap theorists say, "That's no problem. It became that way when Lucifer fell." No, let's read on. He created it to be inhabited. He did not create the earth in vain. He created it to be inhabited by man. In its initial stage, the earth was uninhabitable, and you could not have lived there. And God is going to make this world for man to live in. After the first day it was uninhabitable, after the second day it was uninhabitable. It was not fully ready for man until we come to the sixth day of creation. And that's when the world as such, comes into being. So though the earth was formless and void on the first day, it did not remain that way. We will see that on each step of creation, God prepares it for the crown of creation: man. So Isaiah says God did not create the earth in vain. That is as Dr. Henry Morris writes God created not the earth to be forever unformed and uninhabited. In other words, He formed it to be inhabited by man. And that is the meaning of the word *tohu*.

2) Void

Second, it is described as void. The word void means empty. After the first day of creation, the earth was formless and void. Now we will see later that these descriptions are from man's perspective. From man's perspective it would not have been inhabitable and it was empty. There was nobody there. Later we will see that God calls everything good. Let me give you another little interesting assignment. You could colour in the various truths of creation. For example, you could colour in the word *good*. It occurs seven times.

Another word is the word *created* or *made* or *let there be*. Or *evening and morning* or *its kind* and so on. But I want you to notice that when God creates the earth He does not say, "It was good." Very interesting. When He made the light, He said it was good. Do you know why? God has never had to change the light. But the earth in its original state had to be changed and made habitable for man. So it is from man's perspective that it is *tohu wabohu*, formless and void.

So at this point, with relation to the purpose of creating the earth for man's habitation, it is formless and void. He will prepare this earth especially for man's existence, and here God will work out His final battle with the devil. Do you know where? On this planet earth. He will work out His final battle with the devil in your mind. This world has been made *existable*. It's been made so that we can exist on earth. There are many things that have to be in place before we can exist here. Oxygen, temperature, all these things. It's all there so we can exist. And here on this earth we will fight out God's final battle with the devil in the mind. That is the purpose.

3) Dark

The third description is that it is dark. It was enveloped in darkness. Now darkness is the natural state of anything. What is darkness. It is an energy-less state. It does not take any energy to be in darkness. To illuminate anything in darkness takes energy. A study of light is fascinating. Now what is darkness? Darkness can be defined as the absence of light but light cannot be defined as the absence of darkness. Are you with me? Light is the presence of energy. You can take out one of those solar calculators and cover it up and you see that the

numbers go off. As soon as you get enough light to the calculator, the energy will make it work and you will see the numbers. Light is energy. Energy dispels darkness.

Now the description of the primeval earth is that it was without form and void and covered in darkness. It was only the beginning stage. It was not evil. Like this cleared place you saw earlier. It is not evil to have the supplies scattered around there. No. It's just the beginning stage. And so it was with the earth when God created it here.

CONCL: In conclusion this morning, I want to draw some practical principles for life, out of an otherwise theological message. Let me draw several. The fact that God created everything out of nothing. Listen, God thrives on making out of nothing. Maybe you're here this morning and you're just a nobody. Just a nothing? God takes pleasure in making something out of nothing. If you are here this morning and you think you are something, God cannot yet make something out of you. It's a principle of the Bible. God can make nothing out of us until He has reduced us to nothing. And when we are nothing then He can begin to make something beautiful.

And maybe you're here this morning and you say, "I'll never amount to anything." You won't. You won't unless you come to God. And if you come to God, he can make something out of nothing. You say, "You don't know my life. It's really messed up. But when you come to nothing then God can make something out of you." Out of our shameful, sinful lives, He can make something beautiful. And He wants to do it this morning.

Second principle. The description of the world in its earliest stage is a description of a life lived without God, because it is formless and void, or empty. Maybe you are here this morning and your life is uninhabitable; formless. You see, the Spirit of God cannot inhabit just anybody. You can only change that by coming to Christ. Then He comes in to inhabit us. Maybe your life is tohu wabohu; empty. And it will always be so until you come to God. Whether we recognize it or not, our lives are empty,

formless and void without Him. It is uninhabitable by the Spirit of God.

Your life may be bathed in darkness. Does that describe you this morning. Darkness is the natural state of anything. It takes no energy to live in darkness. I tell our young people it doesn't take somebody big to guzzle down a couple bottles of beer. Oh no. It takes somebody big to not do it. It takes energy to resist the works of darkness. You have to do simply nothing and you fall into the works of darkness. It takes energy to illuminate. Scripture says Christ is the light of the world. When Christ came, Scripture says that people who sat in darkness have seen a great light. And so maybe you are here and you sit in darkness. That can change this morning. We see that in how short a time God created the universe. Then it says Christ came to give light to those who are in darkness (Luke 1:79). Ephesians 5:8 says we were once darkness, but now are we children of light. And Ephesians 5:11 exhorts us to have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness. All unrighteousness is darkness. Colossians 1:13 tells us God has delivered us from the power of darkness. And then Ephesians 6:12 tells us that we wrestle against the ruler of the darkness. To live the Christian life takes constant energy. You can never sit back and relax and say it is done. Never. It takes constant energy, day by day. When we relax, the same thing that happened to David happens to us. He was a man who moved for God, until he had conquered and then he relaxed. Maybe you are tired. Lift up those feeble hands and walk for God. It takes a lot of energy.