

The Bible Tells Me So

SERMON NOTES

Week 3 January 23, 2022
"The Bible and Science"
Genesis 1:1-8



I. Introduction

- A. For many, the perceived tension between science and the Bible has caused a _____ of faith.
- B. The Bible is a very _____ text.
- C. To understand the Bible, we need to understand what the Bible is trying to _____.

II. Ancient Cosmology

- A. The ancient Hebrews imagined "Rakia," translated from the Hebrew sometimes as "dome," was a body of _____ up above.
- B. The writer of Genesis was in _____ with other ancient, Near Eastern origin stories.
- C. The emphasis in Genesis is not that God creates material or matter, but God is designating the _____ of time.

III. Human Origins

- A. Genesis 1 and 2 contain two different accounts of human origins, and in Genesis 2, man is formed _____, before the animals and plants.
- B. The Lord God formed Adam from the dust, the Hebrew name means _____ and Eve means _____.
- C. The idea that the Bible is divine as well as _____ should not upset us, but thrill us.

Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message



ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *January 24-29, 2022*

INTRODUCTION

Many people perceive a tension between science and faith, particularly as we consider the origins of the cosmos, the earth, and humans. Some insist science must conform to the Bible, or insist the Bible must fit with their scientific understanding. Others believe science and faith cannot be reconciled and this leads some to believe they must walk away from science, and some decide they must walk away from faith. To understand science and faith are not enemies, we need to explore our core assumptions about the Bible, what it is, what it is for, and how it communicates, which can deepen our appreciation of both approaches to our understanding of the world.

Monday: Genesis 1:1-13

Genesis has two accounts of creation. Here, God speaks and things happen. God's word brings light, structure, rhythm, growth and newness. God calls creation "good," and brings order out of the chaos. Can you think of areas of your life or community that are chaotic? As you pray, talk to God about this chaos, and ask God to bring creative order to these situations. As you go about your day, can you see new life and goodness? Give thanks for what you see.

Tuesday: Genesis 1:14-2:3

As you read the continuing story of creation, imagine the array of animal life in the seas, on the land, and in the sky. What images come to mind? This account makes a crucial claim—that human beings were created in God's own likeness, and here God declares everything that has been made is "very good." How do you respond to this understanding human creation? How do you respond to knowing you are one of God's creatures? Talk to God about what is on your heart and mind.

Wednesday: Genesis 2:4-25

In the first creation account, God created humans first, but in this account human beings are created first, before plants and animals—so if one were to read Genesis as literal history or science, already the two accounts contradict each other. An important theological claim, however, is being made as God forms a man from the dust of the ground, breathing life into his nostrils. God gave man the garden to care for and live from, but also a strange warning about a tree of "knowledge of good and evil." How do you respond to these images, and what moral choices are you facing? Take time to listen for God to speak to you today.

Thursday: John 1:1-18

As John writes of "in the beginning," light and darkness, and children of God, he is clearly referring to the Creation accounts. Now Jesus has come to bring new creation, light and presence that can totally transform us. Today, do you sense darkness in the world? In your life? Can you ask that God's light shine through you? Pray to accept the "Word" into your life and ask for the gifts and graces you need for your day.

Friday: Hebrews 11:1-6

Scientists draw conclusions about the earth's origins based on relevant evidence and reasoning. The writer of Hebrews describes faith as drawing conclusions based on love, trust, divine grace and faithfulness. The writer says this is an assurance of what we cannot see. Faith and science are not enemies, but speak to different realms of experience. Today, ask God to open your eyes of faith to that which is beyond your abilities of analysis. Pray for an assurance and hope that would fill your heart.

MOVING FORWARD

The scientific method involves observation and the testing of theories, and has benefitted our world in remarkable ways. But perhaps not all knowledge and understanding is discoverable through scientific method. The words of one of our greatest hymns speaks to the mystery of our faith: "Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes, most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise." While not a scientific explanation, the Creation accounts teach us "whose" we are and speak to us of the wonder of God's goodness.

Answers to the sermon notes: IA) crisis, B) ancient, C) communicate. IIA) water, B) conversation, C) rhythm/sequence. IIIA) first, B) "humanity" and "life," C) human.