

In the Beginning...

An Exploration of Genesis

SERMON NOTES

Week 1 April 14, 2024

“Out of Nothing”

Genesis 1:1-5, 2:4-7, 18-25, 3:1-7

I. Overview of the Book of Genesis

- A. The Book of Genesis is divided into _____ main parts, the primeval history (chapters 1–11) and the ancestral history (chapters 12–50).
- B. Tradition credits Moses as the Torah's author. Modern scholars attribute the books' composition to _____ authors between the 10th and 5th centuries BC.
- C. Genesis 1-3 is actually two distinct _____ stories from different traditions in Israel's history.
- D. The prevailing view of the history of our planet and of the origin of our species that comes from science seems _____ with the Bible's creation story.

II. Understanding the Biblical Creation Story

- A. Genesis 1 does not make a claim about scientific knowledge but about _____ and theology.
 - There is a God.
 - God is good and glorious.
 - Creation is good.
 - God created men and women in His image.
- B. In Genesis 2:4 and following, Yahweh lovingly forms the first two humans and he _____ them with the most wonderful things.
- C. In Genesis chapter 3, Adam and Eve's temptation story is _____ story.
- D. Evolution doesn't diminish God's glory, it _____ it.

III. Conclusion

- A. The lessons in the Biblical creation stories are not in _____ with science. They are deeper truths about the nature of the universe and our place in it.

Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message



ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *April 15-20, 2024*

INTRODUCTION

In Genesis chapters 1 - 3 we have the Biblical creation story. Upon reading these stories many people believe there's an irreconcilable tension between science and Christianity. If you become a Christian, you can't embrace science. If you embrace science, you can't have faith. What if faith and reason aren't enemies, but friends?

Monday: Genesis 1:1-13

These verses tell us that God is the Creator, but not how God created. Does it make life more meaningful to you to know that it originated with God, rather than as some cosmic accident?

Tuesday: Genesis 1:14-2:3

Is it possible that all these things happened over billions of years, but at God's direction? If this happened, does that create tensions between the view that God created everything and the view that science can tell us about the physical processes involved? Can you accept the idea that God was our creator and that science describes the tools that God used? Why or why not?

Wednesday: Genesis 2:4-25

If the Bible had begun with a science lesson, describing billions of years, the speed of light and the enormity of the cosmos, would ancient people have been able to comprehend that? Doesn't it make sense that it started with these creation stories with powerful God who simply said "Let there be light"?

Thursday: Genesis 3

During the sermon, Pastor Eric said "Adam and Eve's temptation story is our story." Do you agree or disagree with that statement? Why?

Friday: John 1:1-18

"The Word became flesh..." This goes way beyond science! God came and lived among us. Why did God do this? How much of a sacrifice must it have been for God to leave his divine kingdom and become fully human? How much sacrifice for him to suffer the pains and sorrows of this life? How much must God love us to do this for us? When have scientific facts alone moved you emotionally? When has the majesty of God's creation left you awestruck?

MOVING FORWARD

The lessons in the Biblical creation stories are not in conflict with science. They are deeper truths about the nature of the universe and our place in it. So you don't have to choose between science and faith. You can be a smart person who believes that God gave you a brain for a reason and a follower of Jesus Christ. Even as you explore the 'how' of science, remember to go beyond that and ask 'who?' and 'why?'. As you embrace those questions, read biblical accounts like the Gospel of Luke and the Gospel of John to gain a better sense of who God is and why he created us.

Answers to the sermon notes: IA) two, B) multiple, C) creation, D) irreconcilable. IIA) truth, IIB) blesses, C) our, D) magnifies. IIIA) conflict.