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A Learning and Worship Center

The Lessons for Worship this week focus on having faith in God's promises.

Genesis 15: 1-6 Because Abraham believed God to do what seemed impossible and stepped out and acted upon his faith, we are told God counted it to him for righteousness.

Psalms 33: 12-22 declares that our hearts will rejoice when we realize what God has promised.

Hebrews 11: 1-3 declares that by faith we believe God spoke the heavens and earth into being from that which did not exist before. God shaped and formed the matter into animals, plants and man, but the first order of business for God as recorded in Genesis 1:1 is that he spoke the heavens and earth into existence. Creation from nothing.

Luke 12:25 Jesus tells us to Gird up our Loins

1 Peter 1:13 to be Holy we are to Gird up the loins of our mind, be sober, and hope to the end.

Job 38: 1-3 God asks the ultimate question of Job who for 37 chapters was consulted by all manner of philosophy and says declares....Gird up your loins... Gird up means to get ready for action...get ready to answer my question if you can....."were you there when the foundations of the worlds were created"?

The point is that the only response that can be made to God's question is silence, because not one person was there to witness the creation...only God...so no human has ever been able to put forth anything but a theory when it comes to the beginning of all things.

The Bible as a whole would surely be considered as the book that has exerted the greatest influence on history of any book ever produced. Genesis is the first and most important book of the Bible because it lays out the beginnings of all things. The origin or beginning of the universe, order and complexity, solar system, atmosphere and hydrosphere, life, man, marriage, evil, language, government, culture, nations, religion, chosen people, are but a few of the beginnings explained and recorded.

The Book of Genesis is the only written form that is bold to declare how things came into existence. If Genesis is not Historically Trustworthy, then by logic neither is the rest of the Scriptures.

Throughout the Old Testament Books are numerous references by name of the patriarchs in the first 11 chapters of Genesis. The New Testament is, if anything, even more dependent on Genesis than the Old. There are at least 165 passages in Genesis that are either directly quoted or clearly referred to in the New Testament. Every one of the first 11 chapters of Genesis is mentioned in the New Testament. On at least six different occasions, Jesus Christ Himself quoted from or referred to something or someone in one of these chapters, including specific reference to each of the first seven chapters of Genesis. None of these references are the writers regarding the events or personages as mere myths or allegories. **"It is quite impossible, therefore, for one to reject the historicity and divine authority of the Book of genesis without undermining, and in effect, repudiating, the authority of the entire Bible.** Of course that is the position some scholars are taking...not to believe the Bible. The consequences of this are alarming at best. If the first Adam is only an allegory, then by all logic, so is the second Adam. If man did not really fall into sin from his state of created innocency, there is no reason for him to need a Savior. If all things can be accounted for by natural processes of evolution, there is no reason to look forward to a future supernatural consummation of all things. If Genesis is not true, then neither are the testimonies of those prophets and apostles who believed it was true. Jesus Christ Himself becomes a false witness, either a deceiver or one who was deceived, and His testimony concerning His own omniscience and omnipotence becomes blasphemy. Faith in the Gospel of Christ for one's salvation is an empty mockery.

By all means, therefore, we must oppose any effort from any source to mythologize or allegorize the Genesis record. It was written as sober history, the divinely inspired account of the origin of all things. No one, therefore, can hope to attain a true and full understanding of anything, without a basic acceptance and comprehension of the origin of everything, as recorded in Genesis.

This is what we will be studying over the next weeks and month. Getting you acquainted with what has happened to the translations of the Bible over the last 150 years and familiarizing you to the truths of the Book of Genesis and how they relate as real history to the rest of the Bible. We will begin to see what has gone radically wrong in the churches and how they can fall victim to theories of evolution that attack the very foundations of the Word of God. We will see what has allowed the churches to make social decisions that align themselves with the secular world society that are obvious to any thinking Christian are contrary to Biblical historical interpretations.

There are natural divisions in Genesis that show a progression of form that has a compiled history. Key phrases in the texts are still there as seams with the words "generations of"....followed by the recording of the end and death of the

preceding section. Look at Genesis 2:4 where here records the end of the beginnings of things only God would have been a witness to. Genesis 5:1; Genesis 6:9; Genesis 10:1; Genesis 11:10; Genesis 11:27; Genesis 25:12; Genesis 25:19; Genesis 36:1; Genesis 36:1; Genesis 36:9; Genesis 37:2 The events recorded in each division all took place before, not after, the death of the individuals so named, and so could in each case have been accessible to them. Thus it is probable that the Book of Genesis was written originally by actual eyewitnesses of the events reported therein. The timeline of the patriarchs overlap so that Noah's father would have been a contemporary to every patriarch before him including Adam. Abrahams father would have been contemporary to Noah. This means that they could have known each other and have passed on the writing to the next generations to record. Moses then would only have to compile what was passed down under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

The first chapters of Genesis describe a perfect world, made for man and placed under his dominion. Had man not sinned, he would have continued to rule and develop that perfect world, for man's good and God's glory. Genesis is not only important as a history of man's origin, but also as a prophecy of man's future. The Book of revelation should be taken literally no less than the Book of Genesis. Paradise lost, in Genesis, becomes Paradise regained, in Revelation. It is instructive, therefore, to compare the people and events in Genesis with those in Revelation, and to a lesser extent in other prophecies of the future. We can learn much about the original world by the study of Revelation, and much about the final world by the study of Genesis, since in a very real sense, these are essentially the same. WE WILL STUDY HOW THESE TWO BOOKS RELATE TO EACH OTHER AND OUR HOPE AND FAITH IN THE RETURN OF CHRIST.

For example we will look deeply into the following comparisons.

Probationary World (Genesis)	Eternal World (Revelation)	Cursed World (Genesis)	Eternal World (Revelation)
Division of light & dark (1:4)	No night there (12:25)	Cursed ground (3:17)	No more curse (22:3)
Division of land & sea (1:10)	No more sea (21:1)	Daily sorrow (3:18)	No more sorrow (21:4)
Rule of sun & moon (1:16)	No need of sun or moon (21:23)	Thorns & thistles (3:19)	No more pain (21:4)
Man in a prepared garden (2:8,9)	Man in a prepared city (21:2)	Sweat on face (3:19)	Tears wiped away (21:4)
River out of Eden (2:10)	River out from God's throne (22:1)	Eating herbs of field (3:18)	12 manner of fruits (22:2)
Tree of life in garden (2:9)	Tree of life throughout the city (22:2)	Return to the dust (3:19)	No more death (21:4)
God walking in garden (3:8)	God dwelling with His people (21:3)	Satan opposing (3:15)	Satan banished (20:10)
	Redeemer promised (3:15)	Redemption accomplished (5:9,10)	

Without Genesis the Bible would be incomprehensible, which is why so many people cannot make the whole of scripture come alive for themselves. ONES BELIEF ABOUT THE FIRST VERSE OF THE BIBLE AND THE ORIGINS THAT ARE TAUGHT IN GENESIS WILL INEVITABLY DETERMINE THEIR BELIEF CONCERNING THEIR PURPOSE AND DESTINY. Either one must believe that God created from nothing and we depend on Him for our existence or believe that matter was pre-existing and we depend on ourselves.

A believing understanding of Genesis is a prerequisite to understanding God and His meaning to man.

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