

Before the Beginning Even Begun

Gen 1

Two weeks ago, we started a new series going through the entire biblical narrative in a year. I know reading the bible is intimidating, and can be very confusing sometimes, but that's why we are here to help each other through it together.

In the pass, we have been jumping around learning little stories here and there, but we have never brought it together in **one unified story.**

We're calling this series "Year of Biblical Narrative," because that's what we're going to see—in all the stories, commands, genealogies, and characters, there's really just **ONE story being told,** and it's a story not about you and your life; it's a story about Jesus.

And the irony is that when you begin to see that, your life will change.

In other words: The point of the Bible is not to tell you how to fix your life, but to **fix your eyes on Jesus, and his power will begin to fix your life.**

That's why for this year we will have a **daily bible reading plan.** And in small groups we will be discussing through the Sunday messages in order to help us apply it to our lives.

So today please open your real bible to **Genesis 1,** it's right before Exodus if you don't know where it is. Here we see the whole message of the bible being introduced to us in just one sentence.

Gen 1:1, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."

Which in hebrew: bə-rê-šît/ bā-rā/ 'ě-lō-hîm/ 'êt/ haš-šā-ma-yim/ və-'êt/ hā-'ā-reš. (yes, I have been studying that all week, just for you guys.)

This month someone asked me, "can we even learn anything from just the first sentence of the bible..." So I took that as a challenge... today, we will be studying Gen 1: verse 1,2, and 3.

In these three verses I want to show you 3 things that existed before the beginning even begun.

Gen 1:1, In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.3 And God said, let there be light! And there was light.

1. **Before creation, there was the Trinity.** (God the father, the son and the spirit)

I know that sounds a little dumb to state, but it's true. **Before time pulses, the triune God was present.** They created time, but he was not in time, because he is not bound by time, he created everything in his time. He created the heavens and the earth. Which means he alone is a powerful God, they alone made everything. The heavens and the earth.

You ask, "Nhat what are you talking about, I only see it says, God, where is the other 2?" look again...

You have **God the creator, God the spirit, and Jesus the word of God the light of the world.**

When John wrote his gospel, he borrowed Gen 1 in saying, "1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

Before creation there was the Trinity.

Now you have to question how in the world is there one God but three persons? To me that is a mystery I don't fully understand. But I do know is that 1+1+1=3 person. Yet when 1*1*1=1 God. This is not the best example to explain God, but what we need to understand is that they were in perfect union and understanding with each other.

Ex: When I was in Israel, I used the word "trinity" at a Christian church, and this Jewish Christian man said "no", we don't use the language, because that was a word created by the western world to separate God. I then ask "what word do you use?" he said, "**God is one**". That blew my mind.

Why is this important to us? Because Genesis was written by Moses once God rescued Israel out of Egypt, the land of idols and many gods. To teach his people that **the Lord your God, the Lord is ONE**. You have no other. He alone made everything. It all came from him; it all exists for him.

Genesis also tells us that God made man and woman in his image.

26 Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness..."

27 So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

So here is what this means; if God made us in his image, then we can only find **life's purpose and reason** in him.

Without God, there would be no standards of living. There would be no measure of bad or good, right or wrong.

- ❖ Many atheists of our days have also come to that conclusion.
 - You see, in order to say something is "right" or "wrong," you have to have a standard you are comparing it to. and if the universe is simply random materials hitting each other, there can't be any design or purpose, and thus no right or wrong.
- ❖ You might argue that the human race does what is useful. In other words, does what's best for them, like "survival of the fittest". Well that sounds fair, but does that mean it's right?
 - The Nazis also thought that genocide was useful, but we see that as wrong and evil.
- ❖ You say, "maybe, whatever the majority of people think is right should be the law."?
 - Really? Where does that leave the African slaves in the 1840's when the majority assumes that their oppression was good for society?

Because we come from God, he provides the MEASURE for our lives; and we find **our MEANING** in him.

He is the missing piece that you have been searching for. The heart was designed to work properly only when God is back at the center of it. Without God, we will try to fill that hole with other things, (Parents' love; praise of others; success and money; family; even alcohol or drugs.)

Until you find Him, **life is like a tool** that you don't really know what it's for.

Ex: When I made Ana, Elizabeth, and a few friends cleaned my office we have discovered a key. I have tried to fit this key in every lock that I could find, but nothing worked. My fantasy was maybe I'll find a hidden door that leads to my own national treasure. But 2 weeks ago, I was called to sub for a classroom. I had to walk them through this library. And to my surprise this key had a purpose all along. (open door) this key was made specifically for this door and not any other. It may fit in different locks, but not everywhere you fit is where you belong.

Because you are made in the image of God, you'll never find your place in life, until you have found yourself in God.

C. S. Lewis says one of the most powerful arguments for the existence God.

- ❖ *"A baby feels hunger: well, there is such a thing as food. A duckling wants to swim: well, there is such a thing as water. Men feel sexual desire: well, there is such a thing as sex. If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that **I was made for another world.**"*

Everything is **from** him and **for** him—you can only find your **measure and meaning in him**. We were created to worship and glorify God the father, through the Son, by the Holy Spirit.

2. Before creation, there was Love.

Now you ask, "where did I pull that out of?" Think about it, because God is a **triune deity**, which means **in his very essence**, from the very beginning, God has **existed in relationship**. 3 person in one being.

- He **didn't create us because he was lonely**. He created us an overflow of his love.
 - **Ex:** Think of marriage, when 2 people come together in loving union, they produce a child.
 - In a **good marriage**, you don't have kids because you are lonely. If that is the case than that child will be messed up.
 - You are supposed to bring them into a loving union. **That's what we see in Genesis. God's love spills out** onto the canvas of the universe and he invites us into his love.

Here's what that means: Because we are created in the overflow of God's love, our lives will never be complete until we are living in love and community with him and others.

- Being a healthy Christian always leads toward community— toward relationships and small groups.
- MEN, let me talk to you: as we get older, we tend to get more and more **isolated**. Look at your dads, can you name 10 of his close friends. Its rare.
- The absence of a loving community will lead you to destruction and unhealthiness.
- David Powlison, a biblical councilor said, "*Things that grow in a secret garden always grows mutant.*" Means if you don't live in community **you will change for the worst.**
- God created our hearts and lives to work only when we are in deep community with Him and others.

App: So even though we started rehearsals please don't miss Friday nights, because **without the loving arms of the body in Christ, you will grow cold.**

Now before we move on to point number 3, I would like to camp here at point 2.5 just to explain one of the biggest questions about Genesis 1.

- **Does Genesis 1 teach that God created the world in 7 literal days?** Or does each day maybe represent millions of years, and maybe God used things like evolution as part of the creation? Or maybe some mixture of the two? And what about dinosaurs?

I know that there are godly scientists that believes **God used the processes of evolution** to accomplish just about everything. And I know others that have their mind made up about the 7 days.

Please understand that as brothers and sisters in Christ, we can discuss about such matter and have thought provoking arguments about it. But on the level of importance, it's not worth fighting over.

- **Here is what I'll say, whenever you interpret something in the Bible, first you must observe the text. you have to ask *why* it was written before you press it for answers.**
- **We see that Genesis 1 is an artistic and poetic telling of creation.**
- For your reading this week you will see that Gen 1 and 2 are telling the same creation story, but one is a **celebration** and the other is for **information**.
- **It's pretty obvious that the author of Gen 1 didn't have** in mind the scientific agenda or try to argue for it.
- The FOCUS of Genesis 1 is not HOW God created, **but THAT God created it alone.**
- So if you are struggling with that question, just know that **both positions have been held throughout Christian history, so we are not alone in this matter.**
- **Do your research.**
- And if you have question about it, just ask your small group leaders, because they have all your answers.

Now, if you have been lost in this whole intellectual conversation so far, I promise you that point 3 is very touchy feely to bring us back in. So please give me your attention.

3. Before creation, there was Darkness.

2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.3 And God said, let there be light! And there was light.

What you must see is that God spoke. "LET THERE BE" always leads to "AND THERE WAS"

- **The word brings order out of chaos.**
- In the same way, **our lives are a formless void until God's Word comes in to bring life and peace and beauty and order.**
- And **when his word departs from our lives, our lives descend back into chaos.**
- Let me show you what I mean, in Exodus when Pharaoh rejects God's word, and so God sends the plagues. At first, they seemed like random plagues. But when you look closely you will see a pattern.
- God turns the Nile to blood, which destroys the natural ecosystem of the Nile, so out of the Nile came the frogs; from the frogs come the gnats, from the gnats come disease. next darkness over the land. In the last plague the angel of the Lord hoovers over the land and killed the first-born sons. **It's as if creation is unraveling.**
- God was **demonstrating** in the plagues that he is in control of creation.
- In Genesis 1, God brings order out of chaos. In the plagues of Exodus, sin causes order to descend back into chaos. **The Word of God creates. Sin de-creates.**
- The same is true in your life: sin unravels your family. Puts darkness into your self-image. Puts you in bondage to addictions.

But there is hope in Jesus, because when John wrote his gospels he said.

*"1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was **the light of all mankind.** 5 **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**"*

The Word will one day redeem what sin has destroyed

- Jesus, THE WORD, is going to RE-enter a dark, sin-filled, chaotic world, and brought life and light to it again.
- Throughout his ministry, we see Jesus undoing the chaos and darkness left by sin.
- He heals diseases; he opens blind eyes and makes the lame walk;
- He walks on water, overcoming the chaos.
- Wherever sin had left a dark void, he said, "**LET THERE BE LIGHT!**"
- He forgives adulterers and thieves, removes their shame.
- He raises the dead.

But then, at the end of Jesus' life, the **strangest thing happens**. He is put into darkness and chaos. When he died, the earth shook, and it says, "a darkness fell upon the earth."

Gospel: The greatest mystery: Jesus, the architect, the creator "was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him." The Word, the son of God, came into the darkness and void of sin so we, who had rejected the Word, could have light and life again.
Jesus allowed himself to be **de-created** ON THE CROSS so that we could be **recreated** IN THE RESURRECTION.

Watch this: Which day did Jesus die on? A Friday! The 6th day, the day of man. And he rose on a Sunday, the first day. as if he is beginning a new creation again.

And after Jesus resurrects from the dead, the first time he meets his disciples, John recorded Jesus doing something really weird...

John 20:21-22

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." 22 And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

He is beginning the new creation by breathing into their lungs with the same life he gave Adam and Eve in the garden. He makes all things new again.

Is your life destroyed by sin? Addiction? Family UNRAVELING? Self- image distorted? In darkness.

- If you turn to God by faith in Christ, he makes all things new!
- But first you must let him and his word take over your heart
- The real problems are not your addictions, but that you were born with a dark heart and God is here to offer you life and light in Jesus Christ.