

ALL THINGS WERE MADE THROUGH HIM

The Implications of Creation

What Really Happened in the Beginning?

Genesis 1:1, John 1:1-3, Romans 1:18-20

Last Sunday I completed my sermon series on BUILDING GOD'S WAY. I left those truths of God's Word with you for you to meditate on as you prayed and heard from God about what commitment He wants you to make toward the rebuilding of our Worship Center.

We are off to a good start. About half of you have responded declaring your commitment:

103 to be exact, for a total commitment of \$791,698

If you have not yet made your commitment, you can do so online. Just go to sabc.org and click the Building God's way button.

Let us pray for all of our brothers and sisters who are part of St. Andrew Baptist Church to join God in this work He is doing among us, building our Worship Center and building our church!

This morning I begin a new study with you.

This study comes from the beginning point of what I consider to be the **three most important books of the Bible.**

- **Genesis**
- **The Gospel of John**
- **Romans**

I believe these are the three most important because

- **Genesis tells us about the beginning of all things.**
- **The Gospel of John because of its clear presentation of Jesus as the Son of God, the Promised Messiah/Savior.**

- **Romans because it is the consummate explanation of Biblical Theology**, theology simply meaning the study of God.

All three of these books of the Bible begin in the same place.

- **Genesis 1** offers us the history of God creating the heavens and the earth.
- **John 1** begins by identifying Jesus as being the Divine Agent of creation.
- **Romans 1** explains why creation is important for people.

My plan for each sermon in this series is this:

- Present a **FACT** about creation **and** the **TEXT** declaring it from the Scripture.
- Offer you some **EVIDENCE** that supports our faith that the fact of the text is true. (The evidence does not make the fact true, but it encourages our mind and heart to believe it is true.)
- Share the **IMPLICATIONS** and importance of this fact to each of us and for other people, these implications also drawn from the Scripture.

Let's begin with the first one.

TEXT: GENESIS 1:1

Genesis 1:1 NKJV In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

FACT: God created the universe.

This verse is only 7 words in the Hebrew,

BERSHITH BARA ALOHIM ATH HA SHAMAYIM VE-ATH HA ARETZ

7 words in Hebrew but its declaration of how the universe began still passes scientific scrutiny. People may not agree with the truth it declares, but they cannot argue that Genesis 1:1 clearly states that it was God who created the universe.

- BERSHITH – IN THE BEGINNING – **The beginning of time.**
- HA SHAMAYIM – THE HEAVENS – The expanse, space – **The beginning of space.**

- HA ARETZ – THE EARTH – Also translated dust of the ground, the material from which man and everything else is made. – **The beginning of matter** and since matter can be converted to energy and energy to matter we can say, the beginning of matter **and energy**.

And what does man's description of cosmology, the study of the beginning of the universe, say?

I go to that famous source called Wikipedia, because while it may not always be accurate, it is usually a pretty good description of the prevailing contemporary thought, whether that thought is right or wrong.

The universe is all of space and time and their contents, including planets, stars, galaxies, and all other forms of matter and energy.

Modern cosmological theory, known as the Big Bang, also defines the universe as space, time, and matter-energy.

So when the Bible says

Genesis 1:1 NKJV In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

it is clearly saying that at the beginning of time, it was God who created the universe.

Now, concerning this fact, the Gospel of John goes a step further.

John 1:1–3 NKJV 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

John 1:14, 17 NKJV 14 And **the Word** became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, **full of grace and truth**. ...17 For the law was given through Moses, but **grace and truth came through Jesus Christ**.

Clearly John is talking about Jesus, the second person of the trinity.

Although all three persons of the trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are involved in creation, the details of which we will see as we talk about more of the facts from the Scriptures about creation, it was Jesus Himself, who as the Word of God, spoke all things into existence during creation week.

So, putting Genesis and John together, we can say

TEXT: GENESIS 1:1, John 1:1-3

Genesis 1:1 NKJV In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

FACT: Jesus created the universe.

John 1:1–3 NKJV 1 In the beginning 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

This will be the theme of our study of the implications of creation:

Jesus – all things made through Him

- Nothing made without Him

And that brings us to the one word of Genesis 1:1 we have not examined.

Genesis 1:1 NKJV In the beginning God **created** the heavens and the earth.

The Hebrew word **bara**, translated created, - **called into existence out of nothing.**

So, according to the Bible, what was BEFORE THE BEGINNING?

Only God.

No one else. Nothing else.

God. Father, Son, Holy Spirit, Three in One, God.

God, the Son

Jesus, spoke the universe into existence. This fact is confirmed elsewhere in Scripture.

Hebrews 11:3 NKJV By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

That is what the Bible says.

What does Big Bang Cosmology say?

There was an article in SciTechDaily just last month entitled: *The Big Bang: How Could Something Come From Nothing?*

The author explores several untested and probably untestable speculations, yet comes to this conclusion. Here, let me blow it up for you.

“The most we can say with confidence at this stage is that physics has so far found no confirmed instances of something arising from nothing.”

Let's go to the next step.

EVIDENCE

Now remember that evidence does not make something true. Evidence reveals information to enable you to believe something is true or false.

So, is there any evidence that will provide information as to whether this universe was made purposefully by Jesus calling it into existence, or whether it just sprang into being by itself out of nothing, even though the physics that scientists know concludes that doesn't happen?

What evidence is there? Well, quite a lot actually.

You see, God declared His purpose in creating.

Genesis 1:26 NKJV Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

God's purpose was to make a man and woman in His own image to have dominion over everything on the earth.

And there is a lot of evidence that shows that the universe appears to be designed to sustain human life. Scientists call this Anthropic fine tuning.

- Anthropic comes from the Greek word for man, anthropos. **“Anthropic fine tuning” means that all of the seemingly arbitrary constants, parameters, and laws in the physics of the universe have one strange thing in common. They are precisely the values needed for a universe capable of producing and supporting human life.**
- These constants and laws do not have to have the values they do in order to have a universe. No, if a universe formed at random with different values a universe could exist. It just could not sustain human life.
- **One example is Gravity**

- **Suppose you stretch a tape measure from one edge of the universe to another. 93 billion light years!**
- Let the tape measure represent the range of the possible strengths of the force of gravity, from the weakest known force to the strongest known force.
- **Suppose you wanted to try a different value for the strength of the force of gravity, so you increase the setting by one inch, one inch out of 93 billion light years!**
- The results would be catastrophic for human life. Any animal the size of humans would be crushed. Nothing larger than insects could live. The earth would be reduced to a rock less than 40 feet in diameter and could not sustain an ecosystem.
- All of this would result, even though the change was extraordinarily small, one part in ten thousand billion billion billion. One in 10^{28} .
- **Physicist Stephen C. Meyer said, “There are more than thirty separate physical or cosmological parameters that require precise calibration in order to produce a life sustaining universe.” Gravity is just one of the thirty.**

EVIDENCE: The design of the universe

Does this evidence indicate a universe that just happened, with no design or purpose?

Or does this evidence indicate a universe that was planned and made by Someone with the power to create it in such an amazing way to accomplish His own purpose?

Walter Bradley wrote, “It is quite easy to understand why so many scientists have changed their minds in the past thirty years, agreeing that the universe cannot reasonably be explained as a cosmic accident. Evidence for an intelligent designer becomes more compelling the more we understand about our carefully crafted habitat.”

Now,

IMPLICATIONS

There are many, but I am going to share the main one with you from the Book of Romans.

Romans 1:18–20 NKJV 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.

20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

Folks, God says that what can be seen in the world and the universe is sufficient evidence for anyone who is looking to see that God created it all.

You don't have to be a scientist or have a Ph.D.

Like David said,

Psalm 19:1 NKJV The heavens declare the glory of God; And **the firmament shows His handiwork.**

When people respond to the testimony of creation with the thought, "There must be a God who made all of this." And they seek God with all their heart, God sends them more revelation so they can come to know Him. As they continue to seek Him, God gets the gospel to them.

That is what God did for the Ethiopian Eunuch in the desert when He sent Phillip to explain the gospel.

But when people ignore the testimony God has built into the creation that points people to the reality of an all-powerful God, God holds them responsible.

Their ignoring or refusing to believe the evidence God has left of Himself and seeking Him, makes them the objects of God's righteous wrath because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. So they are without excuse,

FACT: Jesus created the universe.

EVIDENCE: The design of the universe

IMPLICATION: Everyone is responsible to seek the God who created the universe.

Those who seek Him, get to hear the gospel.

Have you trusted Him?