

Date : 8 January 2023

Theme : Mastering God's Word

Topic : Starting from Genesis

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

Introduction

We want to start with the first five books of the Bible, beginning with Genesis, because all the major principles of life are found in them. Like a traveller navigating through uncharted territory, he must always identify the start point before he can proceed to his next destination.

- The first 11 chapters of Genesis are foundational to the Christian worldview
 - salvation, faith, justification
 - incarnation, death, resurrection, rapture
- The Lord Jesus is patterned, promised and present throughout the first five books, such as
 - Creation...*let us make mankind in our image... Genesis 1:26*
 - Redeemer...*He will crush your head... Genesis 3:15*
 - Salvation – Jesus is refuge from the flood of God's judgement *Genesis 6*
 - Priest – Jesus, our Priest as Melchizedek, King of Righteousness, a priest *Genesis 14*
 - Sacrifice – Jesus our Substitutionary sacrifice at the very site where Abraham offered Isaac. *Genesis 22*
 - Faith – nations are blessed through faith in Jesus. *Genesis 12, Galatians 3:8*
- Genesis tells us two important principles
 - Who to believe in - God the Creator
 - Who believed in God - good examples of men we can follow

What is the Word of God – the Bible?

- Recorded Word of God's Covenant (testament) with mankind; so that we understand how man's covenant relationship functions.
- The first 5 books are called the Torah which means instructions. They are God's instructions (like a maker's instruction manual for new car owners) for *Operations in life* (How to live?). The Designer basically wants users to know how His design works optimally. The rest of the bible shows how these principles work out.
- God's guide book on how we are to please Him and live in His blessings. This book is God's message, not just to Christians, but to the whole world. The Old Testament was written in Hebrew, the New Testament in Greek. These languages were used for communication at that time.
- Various descriptions depict the Bible's character and purpose
 - Food for the soul
 - Faith for the journey
 - Fruit for our labour
 - Foolishness replaced, foolish becomes wise
 - Firearm for resisting the enemy

1. What are evidences for accuracy of the Bible's reliability?

a. Original writers, Written records

- Eye-witnesses:
 - example Genesis: Creation and beginnings
 - Adam was there within 5 days. God spoke directly to him
 - Exodus to Deuteronomy by Moses
 - Gospels by Disciples who lived with Jesus
- Investigators and researchers, like detectives, interviewed eye witnesses and collaborated evidences, example Luke, Ezra
- In both cases they lived within the time period when other witnesses were still alive to confirm their writings.

b. Manuscripts or manual scripts are copies of the original which were carefully copied. The copying process involved counting the words. If the number did not match, they had to check against the original. Extreme care was taken to ensure even the dots and tittles are correct simply because the entire parchment scroll would have to be scrapped if one error was found.

c. Translations

- The original documents were mainly in Hebrew for the Old Testament and Greek for the New Testament. Translations into other languages were carried out by scholars. Scholars of these languages testify that our modern translations are accurate. The characteristics of the Hebrew language, both ancient and modern, do not vary significantly. New Testament Greek is the most accurate language compared to other languages.
- The Old Testament was translated into Greek around 250BC. Manuscripts of the Old Testament were confirmed by the Lord Himself who quoted frequently from them, whether Hebrew or Greek.

d. What confirmation is there that the Bible has not changed in transmission?

- The Dead Sea scrolls confirm that the Bible has not been altered over more than 2000 years.
- The scrolls were securely sealed in clay containers and some were dated 100BC.
- One book that had been unfurled was Isaiah, found to be unchanged, word for word.
- For the Old Testament, we have the Septuagint Greek translation of 250BC to verify that what we have is unchanged. There are 250,000 manuscripts to check against.

2. What is unique about Gods' Word? (the like of which is in no other book)

- The oldest book in the world – with the first chapter penned by Adam 6000 years ago.
- The only book that tells what happens from the beginning to the end of the world.
- The only book that records the verbatim words of God, the Creator; therefore infallible.
- Every word recorded by eye-witness, present at the point of time, not hundreds of years after. This is essential for reliability.
- The truths recorded have stood the test of time
- It records supernatural miracles which God performed through faithful man.
- It has hidden codes that authenticates God as the Author.

3. Why is Genesis 1:1 the most important statement in the bible?

a) It introduces God to us

(i) His existence. He is eternal without beginning.

(ii) His name: ELOHIM

EL is God = a proper name for one God

im is plural, 3 persons (His name is threefold). This is grammatically an anomaly.

God is a community of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

This explains why God (when He created man), said *...Let us...*

(iii) He is the Creator who creates something from nothing.

(iv) What did He create?

- Created the 3-fold heavens
 - third heaven (where God dwells)
 - second heaven (the spiritual realm where spirit forces fight to be in control)
 - first heaven (our physical universe, the stars, galaxies, some visible in the night sky)
- Created the earth and everything on and in it.

b) Pseudo science claims there is no God, everything came from nothing.

How do we answer this statement?

Creation involves energy, power, design,

Information and Judgement

Reproduction and Renewal

Controls of function,

Clear purposeful goals

(i) The existence of design clearly posits there must be a designer.

How do we recognise design?

- Shapes – squares, triangles, ratios, patterns which are non-random
- Beauty – Fibonacci Ratio – twisting of spiral arms in seashells or the galaxies.
- Irreducible complexity

A simple mouse trap has 5 parts

A bacteria tail motor has 40 parts. This motor cannot be evolved part by part.

- High level of skill behind design

Complex systems in the human body require high skill.

(ii) Fine-tuning

When something works like clockwork, it involves fine tuning.

- All planets follow a fixed pattern in speed, route movements.
- Planet earth has precisely tuned in movements.
 - Rotation 360° , tilt at $23\frac{1}{4}^\circ$.
 - Planets in our solar system revolve around the sun along a fixed elliptic individual orbit, at a fixed speed for that particular planet which needs precise controls. The distance between earth and sun is controlled at 150 million km. Everything works like a time clock. Fine tuning needs a fine tuner.

(iii) Origin of life

Darwin's theory is that life came from a primordial soup that is, life comes out of nothing.

Darwin knew nothing about DNA, the discovery of which in 1953 has undermined

Darwin's theory of evolution.

- DNA is information, elegance, language, digital codes and many more. All of these DNA components must exist all at one time, not evolved gradually,
- Evolutionists try to prove that evolution is true. Their evidences were all found to be fakes.
 - Missing links between 2 kinds of the evolutionary process are non-existent, so they forged evidences by fraud; calling them Heidelberg man, Piltdown man, Nebraska man etc.
 - Evolution relies on the study of fossils which is called Paleontology. This field of paleontology is basically filled with fraud. 150 years have gone by and they are yet to find an example of a missing link.

ARGUMENTS FOR EVOLUTION

How do evolutionists suppress the truth?

1. Fossil records, gaps in the records

- Their biased interpretation of rock formation.
 - Their claim: Lower strata of rock formation have fossils that are less developed while larger and more complex fossils eg dinosaurs are found deposited higher up in rock formations.
- Why is this claim fallacious?
 - a. The fact that all fossils were found only in sedimentary rocks posits that since these rocks were formed from accumulated sediments, these creatures had been suddenly killed and buried in the sediments as a result of a flood.
 - b. In the layer called Pre-Cambrian, all kinds of creatures had been fossilized. Does the Pre-Cambrian explosion prove that their assumption is false?

2. Circular arguments, self-defeating arguments.

To the question: *How do you know it is millions of years old?* The answer is simply *...It is based on the geologists' rock age...* Ask the geologists and they will say it is determined by the paleontologists.

- Falling back on Paleontologists

The Science for the study of fossils is called Paleontology. This psuedo science is rife with deliberate frauds. Paleontologists claim that fossils are millions of years old when ever any piece of fossil is found. Even when fossil bones are found with tissue and blood on them, and they know that such fossils could not then be millions of years old, yet this evidence is expunged from their reports.

3. Missing links, malicious hoaxes

Although evolutionists concede that if creatures had evolved from the single cell of the amoeba to higher forms, intermediates called links would have been abundant. None, however, had been found, so evolutionists have made embarrassing wrong conclusions as a result of the archaeologists' own hubris or plain old human error. These archaeological mistakes in history are, unfortunately, to this day, still printed in text books of biology sciences to teach the theory of evolution in schools.

The 5 most quoted ones are:

- Neanderthal man – Neanderthals were actually the first early human fossils ever found. DNA sequencing show Neanderthals share more than 99% of DNA of 21st century man.
- Piltdown man claim by Charles Dawson in 1912 to be an important missing link was one of science's most famous hoaxes. The hoax was uncovered in 1953 when modern scanning analysis revealed Piltdown man's bones were an amalgam of carefully carved and stained human and ape bones. Yet 200 PHD's were awards based on this fake.
- Nebraska man in 1922, hailed as missing link from America, was based on the tooth of a pig. As always, the tooth that became the Ape of the Western world, was discovered, debated, doubted and finally dropped.
- Java man, an early fossil discovered in 1891/92, Java, so-called missing link, was actually the bone of an orangutan. The 2 bones that were discovered represented less than 1% of a complete human skeleton (an adult human has 206 bones) or less than one thousandth of the entire body.
- Peking man, from fossils found near Beijing, was identified as a missing link in 1927 on the basis of a single tooth.

What is the truth?

- The science of microbiology undermined assumptions of Darwin's theory. The discovery of DNA in 1953, is something which Darwin knew nothing about (Charles Darwin died 1882). DNA discovery shows that each kind of creature is governed by its DNA sequencing making it impossible for a monkey to become man.

Application

How would you give evidences that men did not come from monkeys?