

## **GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH—(Message 4b)**

### **Main Points:**

- 1. To show that God created the heavens and the earth, and that he created them from nothing.**
- 2. To show God’s character and attributes as revealed through his creative acts.**

**This message should help you...**

- **To give consideration to the biblical account of creation.**
- **To have an increased awareness of God’s sovereignty, his holiness, and his power.**

### **PRAYER FOR TODAY’S LESSON**

Lord God Almighty we trust in your Word- to create in us Christ likeness, humility, trembling and fear. Illuminate our true inner condition so that the thoughts and intentions of our heart are revealed and purified.

O Holy God, Spirit of God who longs to teach us all things, try again today, to complete your work in each of us. We ask you to speak to us today, those things that only a humble, trembling heart can receive... And All God’s People Say... **Amen**

### **In the beginning**

The Bible begins with... *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1*

The word “genesis” means “beginnings” or “origins.”

- All things have a beginning
- Nothing/no one (except God) existed before the beginning.

What then did God use to make the heavens and the earth?

- “Created” means “to make out of nothing.”
- “To make something out of nothing” is a common saying.
- I’ve done this in the past... “Make a mountain out of a mole hill.”
- Consider: *If we want to build a house, what do we need? If we want to bake a cake what do we need? Can you think of anything you can make without first having materials to use??*

**READ... Hebrews 11:3** “By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.”

- God literally made the heavens and the earth out of nothing!
- God alone can make something out of nothing.... the Bible tells us that nothing is too hard for God.

**READ... Jeremiah 32:17** “Ah, Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you.”

God’s power is beyond human comprehension.

Is anyone stronger than God... *Angels? Satan? Demons?*

- No! God alone is all-powerful. (i.e.- omnipotent)

How did God know how to make the heavens and the earth?

- Did God need someone to teach him?
- Was anyone else living in the beginning who could teach God?
- God didn't need someone to teach him how to make the heavens and the earth.

There is nothing that God doesn't know and completely understand.

READ... Romans 11:33-34 "Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?"

## **THE EARTH, WHEN FIRST CREATED (Genesis 1:2)**

Let's set the stage as God begins his creative work...

- The curtains had been pulled back.
- As the entire angelic host watched, heaven and earth were placed on the stage.
- God is all-powerful, and he was about to unleash his mighty power to create.

In Genesis 1:2 we read... "*Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.*"

Let's explore, in more detail, God's majestic creative drama:

*In the beginning*—the earth was formless and empty.

However, in our chronological overview of the Bible...

- We will see God form it.
- We will see God fill it.

*In the beginning*—the earth was covered by darkness.

- Close your eyes/turn on your imagination... Try to imagine what it would be like if there were no light anywhere.
- Have you ever been in a cave or a closet with no lights? ...Notice that the darkness is so absolute that you can "feel" it! Now, imagine this kind of absolute darkness—everywhere.

*In the beginning*—the earth was covered by water.

- There was no dry land... water covered the entire world.
- There was no life anywhere on the earth.

The Bible says that the Spirit of God "*was hovering over the waters.*"

- God the Holy Spirit was moving, hovering, fluttering over the waters—vibrating with the dynamic energy to create all things.
- He alone sets things into motion; he alone is the source of all energy.
- He is the "First cause" or "First unmoved—mover"

God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit all participated in the mighty act of creation.

- God is one, yet God is three in one, the Almighty God, the Creator of everything.
- We cannot comprehend the Trinity; we cannot comprehend God's awesome power.

### **The first day: Light created** [Genesis 1:3-5]

**READ...** Genesis 1:3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

Only God could create light by simply speaking.

Consider:

- Wouldn't it be something if we could simply speak and create something like "light?"
- The closest we can come to experiencing this is to purchase a "clapper," to hook up to a lamp and then the light turns on or off whenever you clap your hands together.

Please note that God created light before he created the sun, moon and stars.

- He alone could do that because he alone is all-powerful and all-knowing.
- He created light out of absolutely nothing.
- Scientists have evaluated some of the wondrous characteristics of light and used this information to make many, many useful things that have enhanced our lives.

**READ... Genesis 1:4** God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness.

The light God made was very good. As we consider God's account of creation you will see that each time he created, he said... "*It is good.*"

Consider... are we able to make anything perfect?

- Even though the things man makes are usable, they still: need repair, wear out or become obsolete because someone designed something better.
- What we make can be improved upon... everything man makes is flawed.

But everything God made, God created, was perfect because... God is perfect. God is flawless.

- In other words, God is holy.
- Psalm 18:30 says, "*As for God, his way is perfect...*" Isaiah 6:3 says, "...*Holy, holy, holy is the Lord...*"

**READ... Genesis 1:5** God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

God divided the light from the darkness

- He called the light "day."
- He called the darkness "night."
- Please note that God created *light* on the first day, not the sun.

This was the first day in the beginning of the world.

- Five more acts of God's great drama are to follow in the next five days of creation.
- The Bible compares the earth to a tent in Isaiah 40:22... it's a place to dwell, the most unique homestead in the universe.
- But for planet earth to be a suitable dwelling, major construction needed to be done.

Turn on your imagination as we join the entire angelic host watching God at work.

- We see the angels hush
- The curtain goes up on Day Two with the creation of the *expanse*... the *expanse*, what is that?

### **The second day: Expanse created [Genesis 1:6-8]**

Day Two is recorded in Genesis 1:6-8

*And God said, "Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate water from water." So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above it. And it was so. God called the expanse "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.*

When God created the world, the earth was covered with water.

- On Day Two, we see the first indication that the world as originally created was different from what we now know.
- The Bible says God took some of the water that covered the earth and placed it high in the heavens.
- Above the *expanse*, probably synonymous with what we call the atmosphere, is where God said he placed some of the water from the world he had created.

The word *expanse* is synonymous with space, and can apply to either earth's atmosphere or deep space... God didn't tell us exactly where-up there-he put the water.

- The climate was substantially different from what we now know. It would have been uniformly tropical.
- The atmosphere containing more water vapor probably would have achieved some sort of *greenhouse effect*.

As we continue our chronological overview of the Bible we will see "the events" that may have changed the world, as created, to what we now experience.

- It is important to remember this point, in God's account of creation, because it will be an important factor in a later story.

### **Day One and Day Two conclusions:**

As we study the Bible, we see that God is absolutely sovereign, greater than all and more powerful than all... nothing is too hard for him.

- He is the source of all energy and the Creator of all matter.
- He made everything from nothing... God spoke and created the earth's entire atmosphere, and it was perfect.
- We know it was perfect because each time God created... "He saw that it was good."

God is infinitely greater than we can imagine, but he has given us the Bible, his Word, so we can know him.

- Why? Because he loves us and created us to have a relationship with him—as a father and his children—enjoying each other’s company... forever!
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## **WHAT ABOUT EVOLUTION?**

The Bible does not mention evolution... but the Creation-Evolution debate has generated much controversy, couched as a debate between religion and science—a head vs. a heart issue.

- However, many well-studied people argue that Evolution is not pure science, but embraces key aspects of religion.
  - This religion presupposes that there is no God, choosing to put its faith in massive amounts of time and chance—slime and time.
  - Evolution violates some basic laws of physics and therefore cannot be strictly science.
  - For example... the “big bang” theory evolutionists point to as the foundation for the beginning of the universe has some missing scientific details.
    - The laws of physics tell us that explosions are destructive—not creative.
    - It doesn’t explain where the elements, those supposedly on this collision course, came from... were they self-existent?
  - Therefore, evolution relies on faith... in the faith that they have guessed correctly.

Some folks wonder about the feasibility of the Creation account as it relates to dinosaurs.

- From a biblical viewpoint, there is no reason not to believe that God created them along with the rest of the animals.
- Evidence exists that the dinosaurs lived at the same time as man.

Others wonder about the earth’s age—it appears very old, but the Bible does not allow for eons of time.

- Depending on the methods man has employed to determine the age of the earth, age’s range from a few thousand years to billions of years. Whose clock is right?
- If anyone is interested, and begins with an open mind, they will find lots of evidence to support the chronology of Creation, as revealed in the Bible.

Going strictly by the Bible, we know that God created a mature earth.

- On the day of his creation, Adam could have walked among towering trees, marveled at immense animals, and gazed at stars in the night sky.
- Perhaps he thought, “Wow! This place has been around a long time.”
- However, God would have told Adam that it was, at most, six days old—that he had created the whole universe in a fully functioning state.

Mankind—scientists, in looking back, try to determine the past by what they observe—just like Adam.

- The Bible, however, records the origins of the earth from the perspective of an eyewitness—God himself.
  - So, did God mean it when he said he created the universe?
  - Who are we to believe? Whose words are to be trusted?

LET’S PRAY TOGETHER We especially want to express our gratitude for giving us the Bible. We know, without doubt, that it is not just another book. We are confident that as we read from it, pray and meditate on it; we will know Truth, and that we will come to know you—intimately as our Creator, as our Heavenly Father, as our Savior—who is just to save us from our sins. The heavens declare your glory, the glory of the Most High; the skies proclaim the work of your hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. We place our trust in you O Lord. In Jesus’ name we pray—Amen.