

Created

Genesis 1-2

Did You Know?

Creation begins a long list of references and motifs throughout the Bible, such as creation and re-creation, the powerful voice of the Lord, the boundaries and order of things, authority structures, God's intimate interaction with His creation, and God's sovereignty. Creation is the foundational basis for all we will understand and learn about God! Through the creation, we should focus on Who created and why He created these things. While science helps us to understand the how, for the most part, Genesis 1-2 is not about the how as much as the Who. While we can learn scientific things from the Bible, we must always understand that the Bible will be correct in its scientific assertions according to the available knowledge at the time of writing and agreeing with the culture within which it was written. We cannot impose our further knowledge on people in the past. God could have revealed Himself so specifically, but He revealed things through time, not all at once.

Corresponding Activity in the Days of Creation

Formlessness (<i>tōhû</i>)		Emptiness (<i>bōhû</i>)	
Day	Item Created	Day	Item Created
1	Light with darkness	4	Lights for the day and night
2	Sea and sky	5	Creatures for the water and air
3	Fertile earth	6	Creatures for the fertile earth ¹

¹ Allen P. Ross, *Creation and Blessing: A Guide to the Study and Exposition of Genesis* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1998), 104.

Monday, May 27, 2013

Read: Genesis 1:1-31

Discuss: What kinds of discussions are ignited from reading these chapters? There is so much in these formative sections. Sometimes the Bible creates more questions when it explains something. I believe it is God's intention for us to use our minds and think on these tantalizing treats, as a way of worshipping God with our minds. Always keep to what's in the Bible when you think creatively on these things. Your end product cannot disagree with the Bible and its worldview!

Act: We live in a culture that has so much information at its fingertips today. We have been so blessed with that information that we can approach parts of the Bible with expectations that the text does not address. In these times, we struggle to fit what we know to what it says, but we should allow the Bible to speak from what it says, and consider ways of seeing how what it says applies to our lives.

Tuesday, May 28, 2013

Read: John 1:1-18

Discuss: When John wants to tell the story of Jesus, you know where He starts? At creation itself! John places Jesus, the second member of the Trinity, squarely in the center of God creating the universe. Jesus was there like God was "In the beginning." The Holy Spirit was there too (Gen 1:2)! What are some parallels you can draw between Genesis 1 and John 1?

Act: Ever notice how God gets personally involved in redeeming His creation? In Genesis 1:2, the Holy Spirit is hovering over the chaotic waters. In John 1:14, Jesus shows up in our time and space as a human being! God gets involved in our lives when we need His rescuing power! He does not just stand far off. He comes to our rescue! What do you need God to step in and do in your life today?

Wednesday, May 29, 2013

Read: Genesis 7:17-8:12

Discuss: The account of the flood in Noah's time is an account that is reminiscent of the original creation. God wishes to start over because humanity has become corrupt and wicked. And so He chooses the redeeming seed, Noah and his family, to start afresh and righteously. The flood destroys the earth created, and re-creates the earth as a divine reboot!

Act: God has promised that He would not use flood again to punish or recreate. So when it came to making a new creature out of believers in Jesus, God does the work from the inside out. Interestingly, some New Testament writers have used the flood as an occasion to talk about water baptism and the newness of life! What do you find most interesting about the flood? How is God redeeming your worst situations today?

Thursday, May 30, 2013

Read: Psalm 29:1-11

Discuss: We saw how much God's powerful voice was used to create. This Psalm reminds us that God's voice is powerful. He can use it to discipline and even to judge, and He can use it to create life. This psalm reflects God's ability to use that power that is in His voice, let alone the other powers that He could use, to do great things in the creation!

Act: In creation, God's voice is powerfully formative. When God spoke, not one time did creation not obey. When God speaks in our lives today, we can choose to not obey, but the creation account teaches us that as creatures, we should submit to God's Word. He has left us a Word to study and know and obey. How are you obeying God's Word for you today?

Friday, May 31, 2013

Read: John 10:1-18

Discuss: We can see echoes of the creation account in this section as well. Jesus talks about the sheep knowing and obeying His voice, the same as the creation in Genesis 1. His voice is powerful enough to command attention and obedience, just as it was then. There is a thief who wants to destroy the sheep, like there was chaos that God set in order in Genesis 1:2 and following.

Act: In a sense, as we serve Christ and have been made new creatures in Him, we are like creation again, listening for God's voice, and obeying His voice, and the order and peace that is in our lives because we hear and obey is like none other. We learn through trials when we don't obey that it is better to hear and obey than to listen to other voices.

Saturday, June 1, 2013

Read: Isaiah 65:17-25

Discuss: One of the most powerful images of what God is going to do in our broken and fallen world is found in the mouth of one of the most prolific prophets of all time. And guess

what image Isaiah uses to show how God is going to redeem this fallen world? He uses the image of creation again, a new heavens and new earth! He shows us God's intentions, how this new creation is different from the old one that we currently have.

Act: In 2 Corinthians 5:17-21, Paul uses the idea of creation also to show the newness of what Jesus has done in the hearts of those who come to Him in faith. Isaiah shows us the big cosmic picture of restoration for all things, and Paul shows us how God is restoring you to His original divine order! What are some ways you are already different from this broken world? How can you demonstrate that new creation now?

Sunday, June 2, 2013

Read:

Discuss: This week Pastor Greg Reynold is preaching the Word. Come prepared to hear what God has to say to His church!

Act: Consider the message from God for this week and how it applies to you! What do you need to remember? What do you need to change?