

Remnant Life Church

November 5, 2017

**Genesis**

**The Book of Beginnings – Pt 1**

Genesis 1:1

- Genesis
  - Is the first of a collection of the first 5 books – Pentateuch
    - The word Genesis is a translation from the Greek meaning “source” or “origin”
    - The Hebrew name (bereshit) comes from the first words (single word in the original language) of the book, “in the beginning”
    - Both names are appropriate because Genesis sets the stage for a full understanding of biblical faith
  - The book is divided into 2 main sections
    - First – chapters 1-11 – primeval history
      - Origin of the universe and the world we live
      - Of man, sin, and judgment
      - From creation, to Noah, to the Tower of Babel
    - Second – chapters 12-50 – patriarchal history
      - Origins of redemptive history
      - God’s election of the patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph)
      - God’s blessing of the promises of land, prosperity, and relationship through obedience to His laws
  - Genesis not only is the beginning of the physical world but the introduction of four major theological themes of the Bible
    - 1. God as Creator
    - 2. The problem of sin
    - 3. God’s judgment on the sin of man
    - 4. God’s sustaining grace

- The Beginning of all things is presented in Genesis – 10 (5 this morning)

**1. The universe**

- a. It is the belief of modern science that the universe contains all of the elements to not only create but sustain life
- b. That it will, over time, of its own volition, change, adapt, and evolve
- c. But the sheer complexity of our universe, on its own, virtually completely disproves the theory presented by Darwin over 150 years ago
- d. The fact is, a foundational scientific principle states that something cannot come from nothing
  - i. The very notion of the Big Bang is not supported by the tenants of scientific laws
  - ii. I actually do believe in a big bang

- iii. God spoke and BANG the universe was created
- e. The first verse of Genesis makes a radical claim that immediately declares a cornerstone of the Bible – *“In the beginning, God...”*
  - i. It had a definite beginning
  - ii. By God’s design and Word
  - iii. Not just any God but the Judeo-Christian one true God whose nature and character are further revealed in the 65 books that follow

## 2. Humanity

- a. The theory of evolution makes man a random accident wandering aimlessly through a cosmic journey
- b. In contrast, the Bible presents man as the crowning example of God’s power and love (**Gen 1:26** - *Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”*)
  - i. Created man in His own divine image
  - ii. To rule or steward over God’s creation
- c. It is little wonder that society has such a clouded and fatalistic view of man’s place, purpose, and ultimate fate
- d. It also helps to explain the desperate measures people are taking today to numb the pain and hopelessness

## 3. Paradise

- a. This was humanity intended dwelling place
  - 1. What made this place paradise?
  - 2. Not the beauty of what God had created
  - 3. But the very physical presence of God Himself
  - ii. Man’s on-going desire for a utopian existence
  - iii. A driving quest for achievement and even perfection find a plausible explanation in Genesis
- b. We read that man was created for just such an existence
  - i. We were placed in paradise from the very first
- c. Of course, paradise was lost when sin was given a doorway to enter in
  - i. But the longing and desire for it has never been quenched
  - ii. **John 14:3** - *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.*

## 4. Sin

- a. The circumstances that we read in that led to the expulsion of man is told clearly in Genesis 3.
- b. Created in perfection man traded in his face-to-face communion with God to embrace a stubborn will against God
- c. When Adam and Eve decided to rebel against the authority of God, declaring their independence from Him, the stain of that act was imprinted on every descendent of their line from then until today

- i. We are born into sin
- ii. **Psalm 51:5** - *Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.*
- iii. While we ARE forgiven the sin or flesh nature still pulls at us
- iv. An on-going struggle between the Spirit and the flesh
  - v. **Gal 5:17** - *For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.*
- d. It will continue until the day we are taken back to paradise as the ultimate demonstration of God's grace, mercy, and love for His creation

## 5. Judgement

- a. Expelled from the garden
    - i. Begins with man expulsion from paradise (the Garden of Eden) to the wasteland of sin's influence
    - ii. The serpent's judgment (**3:14-15**)
    - iii. Eve's judgment (**3:16**)
    - iv. Adam's judgement (**3:17-19**)
  - b. Struggles with the earth
    - i. God cursed the ground that it would force Adam to work very hard (**3:17**)
    - ii. God also pronounces the death sentence on man (**3:19**)
    - iii. But even before He did this He had begun to lay the framework for salvation and redemption (**3:15**)
- To have a fundamental understanding of Genesis, not just the stories, but the intent and overall themes is to lay a solid foundation for understanding the entire Bible all the way to the book of Revelation
    - The Bible is about God and His love for His creation
    - The ultimate gift of His love, the person of His Son, Jesus Christ