

# God, the Creator

## The Character of God – part 3

July 15, 2018

### **DAY 1: Genesis 1**

1. As you read through Genesis 1, underline key ideas that strike you about God. Circle the word “good” every time you find it.

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

*<sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. <sup>4</sup> God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness.*

*<sup>5</sup> God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning--**the first day.***

*<sup>6</sup> And God said, "Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate water from water."*

*<sup>7</sup> So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above it. And it was so. <sup>8</sup> God called the expanse "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning--**the second day.***

*<sup>9</sup> And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. <sup>10</sup> God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good. <sup>11</sup> Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. <sup>12</sup> The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup> And there was evening, and there was morning--**the third day.***

*<sup>14</sup> And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years, <sup>15</sup> and let them be lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so. <sup>16</sup> God made two great lights--the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars.*

*<sup>17</sup> God set them in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth, <sup>18</sup> to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup> And there was evening, and there was morning--**the fourth day.***

*<sup>20</sup> And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky." <sup>21</sup> So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup> God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth."*

*<sup>23</sup> And there was evening, and there was morning--**the fifth day.***

*<sup>24</sup> And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so. <sup>25</sup> God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.*

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

<sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup> God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

<sup>29</sup> Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food.

<sup>30</sup> And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground--everything that has the breath of life in it--I give every green plant for food." And it was so.

<sup>31</sup> God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning--**the sixth day.**

2. What struck you most from your reading?

## **DAY 2: Is Genesis 1 a science textbook? What am I to learn from Genesis 1?**

1. When you read Genesis 1 there are several important things to remember:

- a. You are not reading a science textbook.
- b. Genesis 1 may not answer some questions you are asking.
- c. Genesis 1 IS answering some questions you should be asking.

2. The bible's central purpose is to reveal the God who is. What strikes you about God in Genesis 1?

3. Genesis 1 also reveals important things about the world God created, the world prior to its "fall" following the sin of Adam. What is the bible saying about the world God created?

### **DAY 3: The creation of man**

1. The account of creation reaches its crescendo with the creation of mankind.
2. Go back and read Genesis 1:26-31.
3. What does the text want us to understand about the *nature* of mankind?
4. What does the text want us to understand about our purposes and activities in the created world?
5. What has been placed at our disposal for our use?
6. What attitudes do you sense in God as He created man?
7. What strikes you most from God's creation of man?

## **DAY 4: Lesson from Genesis 1**

Today, we'll look at some of the biggest lessons we are to learn from Genesis 1. Under each lesson, add your own thoughts.

1. **Lesson 1:** God is the ultimate source and ruler of everything.

a. Only God can create “ex nihilo” (out of nothing).

b. He passes on His rule into our hands, to tame and care for His creation.

2. **Lesson 2:** The *world* He created is good.

3. **Lesson 3:** *Life* is “good.”

(We will struggle in a fallen world, but nothing in a fallen world can undo the essential goodness of this life).

4. **Lesson 4:** The life we've been given is not just good, but purposeful.

5. **Lesson 5:** The attitudes of God toward man is that everything has been given for our benefit.

6. What lesson strikes you the most? Why?

## DAY 5: An assurance and a warning

1. We finish our look at God the Creator with an assurance and a warning.
2. **An assurance:** There is nothing in this world that we NEED to fear.
  - a. Genesis 1 portrays God as the ultimate Ruler and King. He superintends this world, even when the world is fallen, and even in a world where evil sometimes appears to be winning.
  - b. This doesn't mean that His people can escape the effects of the fallen world. God's people are not covered with Teflon. Sometimes, the evil of others affects us. Sometimes, nature affects us. Sometimes our own evil affects us. But the assurance we have is that no matter what affects us, the God of Creation still rules His creation. He is our Redeemer.

3. **A warning:** Nothing in this world is to be worshiped. That is an inevitable tragic blunder.

*Romans 1:18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, <sup>19</sup> since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.*

<sup>20</sup> *For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.*

<sup>21</sup> *For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup> Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools*

<sup>23</sup> *and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. <sup>24</sup> Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.*

<sup>25</sup> *They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator--who is forever praised. Amen.*

<sup>26</sup> *Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. <sup>27</sup> In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.*

<sup>28</sup> *Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.*

<sup>29</sup> *They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips,*

<sup>30</sup> *slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; <sup>31</sup> they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless.*

<sup>32</sup> *Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.*

4. What occurs when a human being attempts to place anything higher than God in his heart?