

In the Beginning God

Read Genesis 1:1 - 2:3

God is the Foundation of All Things

His Existence

"In the Beginning God"

The whole story starts with him.

God pre-existed all things that we see.

This world starts with him.

Human History begins with God.

God started the calendar of human history.

Humanity is a dependent race.

This existence of God is foundational to the Biblical worldview.

He is the what gives us a proper view of the world, of life, of ourselves.

Berkhof - "all things belong to Him and are subject to Him."

Without the existence of God,

we don't rightly understand the world.

Ex. Evolutionary Theory...

The fundamental thought in evolution is to explain the world in the absence of God.

How does the world exist and function without God?

And so, the premise of "There is no God"

becomes the foundational principle of evolution.

So if someone holds true to "There is no God",

Then even evidence which points to intelligent design

must be understood in another manner.

So the science is not foundational.

The premise of "There is no God" is foundational.

And all scientific discovery must serve that premise.

Richard Dawkins (one leading modern evolutionist),
 "I don't think God is an explanation at all."
 That's his faith claim.

Dawkins - "It is absolutely safe to say that if you meet somebody who claims not to believe in evolution, that person is ignorant, stupid, or insane (or wicked, but I'd rather not consider that)."

"In the Beginning God"
 The Bible begins unapologetic-ally.

Trinity

Elohim - plural
 Created (verb) - singular (1:27)

Father, Son, Spirit...
 All active in creation.

And he sets out the pattern of life for his creation

The sun/moon set the patterns of weather and the calendar (seasons).

Order of Work and Rest
 Working for 6 days.
 Resting from work for 1 day.
 Day of worship and rest.

Ordered into creation (2:1-3)

Sabbath loses some of its beauty.
 B/c we work 5 days (and rest 2).

Think of working the fields for 6 days....
 Your work was your home and your home was your work.

How does a day feel like that is devoted to rest and worship?
 Refreshing.
 Burden-free

"Be fruitful and Multiply"
 (v. 22) Told to the sea creatures, birds
 (v. 28) mankind.

His Works

Creation being the first.

Out of Nothing - ex nihilo

He spoke and things came into being.

(v. 2) Structure from Formless

(v. 2) Fullness from Emptiness

(v. 3) Light into Darkness

It is both the basis of our being,

and the beginning of God making himself known.

Creation Proclaims God and His Character

God was active in Creation.

Psalm 19:1-2

Declare, Disclose, Reveal, Tell, Announce

Romans 1:20

For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

Fullness from Emptiness

The invisible character of God can be clearly seen.

Creativity, Varied...

Why make the fish that swims 1000's of feet deep in the ocean and that no human has ever seen?

For his own glory.

B/c he could.

Why not simply make animals that supply food?

Chicken, Cows, Turkey

Only a Designer Brings Order to Chaos

"formless and empty"

(v. 2) Structure from Formless

(v. 2) Fullness from Emptiness

Days of Creation

Yet, our world wants to claim that order came from random chance.

Ex. Irreducible Complexity

Michael Behe (Darwin's Black Box), "interacting parts that contribute to the basic function, where the removal of any one of the parts causes the system to effectively cease functioning."

And add another aspect to it...

All the systems of the body need to evolve to functioning at the same time.

Digestion

Cognitive ability

Endocrine System

Cardiovascular system

Breathing

So if you get a human body without functioning lungs.

No breathing but all the rest are intact.

Will there ever be life? No.

Science is saying that over millions of years lungs can spontaneously develop.

But my issue would be what happens to a body without lungs after a few minutes?

It dies.

There is no chance for 100's of millions of years.

It ceases to be alive.

Actually, it could never have been alive.

In this world, anything left unto itself leads to disorder and decay.

Google...

Abandoned Mall Photos

The ruins of the Sarajevo Olympics (1984 in former Yugoslavia)

Disturbing images of decay and destruction due to lack of upkeep and maintenance.

By itself, this world tracks to disorder and chaos.

God Himself Brings Value to Creation

"It was good."

After separating water from land, (v. 10) "good"

After bringing forth vegetation, (v. 12) "good"

Day/Night, Sun/Moon, (v. 18) "good"

Waters swarm/ Birds fly (v. 21) "good"

Living creatures on earth (v. 25) "good"

Man (v. 31), "very good"

Common problem: We think things in creation will satisfy our soul.

We over value creation.

So we think having a lot of money (leading to a lot of stuff)...

We think that will give us peace.

And we can finally be satisfied and rest.

Problem is...

Money and stuff doesn't provide what we are seeking.

Just look at the dysfunction that is just as rampant in the exceedingly wealthy.

They want something else.

So b/c we tend to "over-value" things of this world...

The church has mistakenly "devalued" creation to an unbiblical place.

We say stuff like,

"Things don't matter."

"It's just stuff. I don't care about stuff."

"Stop watching football and care about something important."

I know the danger. We just talked about the "over-value" of creation.

But the other is just as dangerous.

Creation is what God has called "good"...

So why would we call it bad or think of it as something just to simply deal with.

God called this world "good".

And he put us right in the middle of it.

So you could argue that he made the world good for his glory and for our enjoyment.

For us to NOT enjoy this world,
is NOT GOOD.

God made it good for us.

But remember...

Creation can't satisfy your soul.

Enjoy it...

But know that it reveals God himself.

Creation is God's good gift.

As we enjoy his creation,
we enjoy him.

And he gets glory.