

Sermon Outline

This is Our God, the King of the Universe!

Text: Genesis 1:1-2:3

Introduction

- Conflict between Genesis 1 and science?
- *Speaker's Commentary:* If the wisest geologist of our days could show that there was an exact agreement between geology and the Bible, it would rather disprove than prove its truth. For, as geology is a growing science, it would prove the agreement of the Bible with that which is receiving daily additions, and is constantly undergoing modification; and ten years hence the two would be at hopeless variance.
- Hebrews 11:3, "*By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.*"
- *Vern Poytress:* the purpose of God in communicating Genesis 1 to the ancient people of Israel (and also to us in modern days) is not to teach them and us about science and the exact methodology of how the universe came into being. But it is about the oneness of God, His sovereignty and orderliness of the creation, ...

1. God is the Creator of the world and all that it contains.

- The Hebrew phrase "*in the beginning*" refers to the **absolute** beginning of created things (H.C. Leupold). It clearly set the beginning time of all created things.
- The Hebrew phrase "*the heavens and the earth,*" refers to the totality of the physical universe: all of the matter and energy and whatever else it contains, as there is no word, in Hebrew, for "universe."
- Col 1:16, "*For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible,*" includes the creation of all the spiritual beings.
- Romans 1:18-21, "*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 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. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.*" And Paul continues in verse 25 to say, "*because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.*"

2. God is the Sovereign Triune God who created the world as His good kingdom.

a) God is *sovereign*:

- He created the sun (Egyptian most powerful god) and the moon. Sun and moon are only lights.
- He created the “great sea creatures” (or sea dragons, or whales). The great dragon is the enemy of the fertility god Baal of the Canaanite (ESV Study Bible). God is sovereign and is not in any kind of battle to create the universe.
- God created the universe with His powerful Word. Psalm 33:6-9, “*By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host. He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap; he puts the deeps in storehouses. Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him! For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.*”

b) God is the Christian *Triune* God:

- God, in Hebrew, “*Elohim*,” is in the plural form. The verb “*create*” is singular.
- Verse 2: “*the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.*”
- John 1:1-3 identify Jesus Christ as the Word of God through whom all things were made.
- Col 1:15-17, “*He [i.e., Jesus Christ] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.*”

c) God created everything “*good*” (it is repeated seven times).

- He created the earth as his good kingdom and made man to manage his kingdom on His behalf.

3. The Creation is destined for a glorious consummation.

- Donald Ritsman: “The original creation was destined for a Sabbath consummation, as the picture of the creation week as a workweek ending in the divine rest on the seventh day indicates. This Sabbath consummation would be the state in which heaven and earth become perfectly one, with God’s people entering into His eternal, heavenly rest, and enjoying His immediate presence as they worship the Lord their God and fellowship with Him.”

- The big battle: Adam and Eve rebelled against God and fell for Satan’s subtle temptation.
- The whole creation is under God’s curse. Rom 8:20, *“For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it.”*
- Adam’s disobedience did not cancel that original hope, but it did bring about the need for the remedial work of redemption for its ultimate accomplishment. Rom 8:21, *“that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.”*
- Hebrews 4:4,6,9,11 *“For he has somewhere spoken of the seventh day in this way: ‘And God rested on the seventh day from all his works.’ ... So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, ... Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, ...”*
- The weekly Sabbath ordinance instituted by God is only a model or a type and foretaste of the heavenly rest God’s people shall share with Him in the glorious eternal kingdom of heaven.
- We have not yet come to our rest – but we are coming to it!