



# Spiritual Creation

## LESSONS FROM GENESIS 1

### CLASS 1

#### *A New Creation*

- Hold Genesis 1 between two fingers in your Left hand
- Hold the rest of the Bible between two fingers in your Right hand
  - Clearly, God is trying to tell us something...
- This is THE Story
  - This is what Mankind has been trying to figure out for thousands of years
  - Where we come from has racked people's brains and tortured their souls
    - Yet God deals with it in one chapter
- I think we are missing the point...
- Every year we read the Creation Story in Genesis 1
  - Our natural inclination is to look at the physical lessons from Genesis
  - But, what about spiritual lessons?
- Our goal in this class will be to receive the **spiritual lessons** from Genesis 1
  - It is these deeper, spiritual lessons that God really intends us to see
- This is a scripturally sound way to look at Genesis...
- The Lesson of the Second Creation
- Scripturally, God has never been much concerned about the First Creation
  - God has always been focused on the Second Creation

- Genesis 1:26-28 (KJV)

- 26) And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.
- 27) So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.
- 28) And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth...

- God and the Angels actually created physical, material things

- The first creation concentrated on the earth, and earthly things

- But, what **REALLY** is the purpose of God?

- Numbers 14:21 (KJV)

- 21) But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD.

- We know that filling the earth with earthly things is not really what God's desire

- God desires to fill the earth with His **GLORY**

- What gives glory to God?

- Harps, white robes, angelic hosts singing operas... **NO!**

- **YOU DO!**

- **People** who have chosen to serve God instead of their own fleshly desires is what gives glory to God

- God wants **US** to give Him glory

- God wants **US** to become a New Creation that will give him glory...

- That is the **REAL** lesson behind the Creation

- Not birds and animals and flowers...

- But, Glory filling the Earth as the waters fill the sea!

- God's real purpose with Creation was The Second Creation

- That is the lesson that Paul is trying to tell us in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15

• 1 Corinthians 15:45-49 (NIV)

- 45) So it is written: “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit.
- 46) **The spiritual did not come first, but the natural**, and after that the spiritual.
- 47) The first man was of the dust of the earth, the second man from heaven.
- 48) As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the man from heaven, so also are those who are of heaven.
- 49) And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven.

- After resting on the Seventh Day, God and the Angels did not stop creating
  - God and the Angels are still creating...
- I think they took care of the really easy job first in a matter of six days...
  - Hammered out a few flowers, lakes and sunsets...
- They are now working on the **REALLY** hard part of Creation
  - The part that taxes all of their supernatural abilities...
  - The part that causes them endless headaches, delays and frustrations...
  - The part that will take them almost 6,000 years to complete
    - They are trying to make me into a decent person!
- They are still very much at work
- They are still creating...
- They are now creating spiritual, mental things instead of physical, material things, so it's not as noticeable, and we don't think about it
- Exactly the same...
  - Same importance...
    - Same purpose...
- God wants **US** to become a New Creation that will fill the Earth with His Glory, as the waters fill the sea!
- Genesis is intended to create in us a new creation...
  - We should see the spiritual lessons hidden in Genesis, and be converted...

\* We are supposed to read Genesis 1 with a spiritual eye and allow the lessons to sink into our hearts and change us

- God isn't really concerned about simply educating us on the timeline and order of Creation
  - God wants us to become better people because of our association with His Word
- Let's look at an example of what I mean...
  - There's an interesting set of verses in Malachi 2
- Malachi 2:11-15 (KJV)
  - 11) Judah hath dealt treacherously, and an abomination is committed in Israel and in Jerusalem; for Judah hath profaned the holiness of the LORD which he loved, and hath married the daughter of a strange god.
  - 12) The LORD will cut off the man that doeth this, the master and the scholar, out of the tabernacles of Jacob, and him that offereth an offering unto the LORD of hosts.
  - 13) And this have ye done again, covering the altar of the LORD with tears, with weeping, and with crying out, insomuch that he regardeth not the offering any more, or receiveth *it* with good will at your hand.
  - 14) Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet *is* she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant.
  - 15) And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? **That he might seek a godly seed.** Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth.
- Primarily this a great exhortation against Divorce...
  - It is an abomination to simply get tired of your spouse and to choose another
  - Malachi calls this "profaning the holiness of the LORD"
- Why? The people ask in verse 14...
  - Verse 14 says, "Because the **LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth**, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet *is* she thy companion, and **the wife of thy covenant.**"
    - So, she is no longer young and pretty, and you dump her (treacherously) and move on to a younger model...
    - God witnessed your marriage
    - God remembered your vows!

- **SHE** is the wife of your covenant, you can't profane that commitment you made in God's sight!
- And then he goes on to Verse 15...
- What is God trying to say in Verse 15?
  - *And did not God make you one?* – Didn't God bind together your marriage
    - *And doesn't God have the spirit?* - Doesn't God know what He's doing?
      - *So, why did He make you one?*
- **Because He wants a Godly seed!**
- There is a great lesson here for the purpose of marriage
  - A marriage can work to improve the spiritual lives of both partners ...
  - God seeks a Godly Seed, and for that reason He wants you to marry
  - Each partner is supposed to work to improve the spiritual life of their partner
    - A great exhortation for HOW you should pick a partner
      - Not necessarily the prettiest one, but the one that you think is going to do the best job of helping you become a better Christian...
- The point is: I don't think God is saying that he wants humans to marry just so that they can populate the Earth
  - He wants a **"GODLY Seed"**
- If all he wanted was to fill the earth with people, he could have stopped at the physical creation
  - But, he wants to fill the earth with Godly people
- That is why he continues with the Second Creation
  - The Spiritual Creation
- God wants to continue to work with us, to create in us holy people
  - People who desire to serve him
- Why?

- Because God desires a Godly Seed...
  - God wants to fill the Earth with **US** as immortalized saints
- To do so, we must be reborn through Jesus
  - Recreated
- Recreated through Baptism
  - A New Person
- Romans 6:6-13 (NIV)
  - 6) For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that **the body of sin might be done away with**, that we should no longer be slaves to sin
  - 7) because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.
  - 8) Now if we died with Christ, **we believe that we will also live with him.**
  - 9) For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him.
  - 10) The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.
  - 11) In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.
  - 12) Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.
  - 13) Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.
- Baptism is the gateway that we walk through that begins this process of Spiritual Creation
  - Baptism is the Spiritual Birth in this process of Spiritual Life
- You begin to put away the things of the Old Man, and fashion yourself in the ways of the New Man
- This Old Man / New Man concept is the same as the principle of the ***“First Man – Second Man”***
- From the very beginning...
  - From Cain and Abel
  - To Isaac and Ishmael
  - To Jacob and Esau

- Right through to the Jews and the Gentiles
- The concept of First Man – Second Man has held true...
- That's what Paul was writing about it in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:
- 1 Corinthians 15:45-49 (NIV)
  - 45) So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit.
  - 46) **The spiritual did not come first, but the natural**, and after that the spiritual.
- The first Adam was given life
  - The second Adam **CAN GIVE LIFE**
- The first Adam is simply a fleshly, physical, living creature
  - The second Adam is a source of spiritual hope and salvation
- In a nutshell, that is the principle for us to understand in this study:
  - **The First is Natural, and the Second is Spiritual**
- Whenever we look at things in this study of Genesis 1, (and in life in general!)
  - We should always remember that the First is Natural, and the Second is Spiritual
- How does that affect us in our everyday life?
- I would say that it affects us greatly
  - What is "First Nature" to you?
    - First Nature is sinful...
    - Second Nature must be Christ-like
- Ephesians 4:22-24
  - 22) You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires;
  - 23) to be made new in the attitude of your minds;
  - 24) and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

- By Definition: Reactions are NATURAL Reactions
  - Things that you do by “Instinct”
  - Without giving it much thought...
    - Fighting Back – Someone hits you, and you instinctively react
    - Swearing – You hit your thumb with a hammer, and you naturally react
    - Sexual Desires – You see something you like, and you react animal-like
    - Lying – You get trapped in a corner and you react on the path of least resistance
- You can change those reactions
- You can control your Natural Reaction
  - Think Twice - Speak Once
- Never do the first thing that comes into your mind
  - Always do the opposite of what you want to do
- What we naturally think is usually wrong...
  - What we make ourselves think about is what is right
- Our goal in life is to train ourselves so that we stop thinking like the First Adam
  - We stop simply reacting to the stimuli in the world around us
- Our goal is to learn how to think like Christ
- Romans 12:2 (NIV)
  - 2) Do not **conform any longer to the pattern of this world**, but be **transformed by the renewing of your mind**. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will.
- This transformation is a life long process that involves being shaped by God
- God uses five different means to transform us, and you have to be involved in all of them
- 1) We are Transformed by The **TRUTH**
  - The single greatest influence that God has on our lives is through His word



- Our time spent reading God's word is unlike anything else we do
  - God's Word is unlike anything else

- Hebrews 4:12 (NIV)

12) For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

- It's the only book that is ALIVE
  - It pierces, cuts, divides and discerns
- God transforms you by The Truth

2) We are Transformed by **TROUBLE**

- Fire burns away all types of junk, but it hardens Steel
- God wants to stretch us beyond our normal limits
- God wants us push us outside of our Comfort Zone
- Not because He is mean and sadistic, but because he has a higher goal for us

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 4:17 (NIV)

17) For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

- God transforms you by Trouble

3) We are Transformed by **TEMPTATION**

- Believe it or not, our Temptations are a major source of our growth and change
- Temptations are not just invitations to do evil
  - Temptations are also opportunities to do good
- God doesn't allow Temptation into our lives just to trip us up...
- He wants us to conquer our temptations and grow and improve because of them

- James 1:12 (NIV)

12) Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

- God transforms you by Temptation

#### 4) We are Transformed by The **ECCLESIA**

- God has purposely designed us to stay together in groups
  - He could have established a different pattern if He chose, but He didn't
- God wants us to be members of an Ecclesia, because it is through the Ecclesia that He is able to change us and grow our characters

- 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12:12 & 18 (NIV)

12) The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ.

18) But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.

- We are encouraged, uplifted and motivated by our relationships with our Brothers and Sisters
- We are also stretched, pushed, pulled, beaten, burned and tested...
- God transforms you by The Ecclesia

#### 5) We are Transformed by **TIME**

- A major ingredient in any recipe, formula or process is time...
- The simple matters of waiting, and patience, and continuance and consistency are integral to the process of Discipleship

- Philippians 1:6 (NIV)

6) being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

- It takes a lifetime, but God is prepared to invest that much time in you
- God transforms you by Time

- But, all of this is **NOT** done **FOR YOU**, without your involvement...

- You do have to cooperate with God in this process
- You work at this over a course of a lifetime
  - You become a New Man
- 2nd Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)
  - 17) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!
- The Hallmark of the New Man is that he is a Man of Faith
  - We are saved by Faith, and not by Works
- Our goal is to develop Faith
  - What does Faith have to do with the Creation?
- Let's take a look at the *Faith Chapter*
- Hebrews 11:1-3 (NIV)
  - 1) Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.
  - 2) This is what the ancients were commended for.
  - 3) By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.
- Let me read it to you from a little more dynamic version...
- Hebrews 11:1-3 (Message)
  - 1) The fundamental fact of existence is that this trust in God, this *faith*, is the firm foundation under everything that makes life worth living. It's our handle on what we can't see.
  - 2) The act of faith is what distinguished our ancestors, set them above the rest.
  - 3) By faith, we see the world called into existence by God's word. ***What we see created by what we don't see.***
- ***What we see created by what we don't see...***
- The Creation is the **ESSENCE** of Faith
  - The Creation is the **beginning** of Faith
- We can't see God

- We can't see the Angels
- All we **CAN** see are the natural, physical things around us
  - We are to understand from them that God **DOES** exist
    - That God **DID** create them
- The Physical Things of the Creation are **INTENDED** to teach us a Spiritual Lesson
  - If we can't see this, and learn this lesson, we perish
- Romans 1:18-20 (NIV)
  - 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,
  - 19) since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.
  - 20) 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.
- We are **WITHOUT EXCUSE**, if we do not come to understand God from **what He has made**
  - We are to learn about God's invisible qualities...
    - By looking at what He has made
  - By studying the Creation of God, we learn about what kind of God He is
    - We learn about the God-like qualities that we need to develop
- Remember, God performed the physical creation first...
  - But, His main concern has always been with the **Spiritual Creation**
- We must become a New Creation...
  - A Spiritual Creation

- This Week we will be learning Spiritual Lessons from Genesis 1

- This Week we'll look at:

Heaven and Earth  
Light and Darkness  
The Firmament  
Waters and Dry Land  
The Seas  
Evening and Morning  
Grass, Herbs and Trees  
Sun, Moon and Stars  
Fish and Fowl  
Beasts and Man

- This Week we'll spend a few minutes looking at the simple, spiritual lessons we receive from each of these physical objects...

- And we'll find the spiritual lessons from Scriptures that God holds for us in this  
**Spiritual Creation**