

Sunday June 9, 2013

Creation

Day 7

Genesis 2:1-3

"I Really Need Some Rest"

Introduction: In our study of Creation we have come through days 1-6 and today we come to day 7.

✓ Short Review

Day 1 - The earth and all light.

Day 2 - The heavens and the canopy of water.

Day 3 - Dry land and all vegetation.

Day 4 - All the heavenly bodies. Sun, moons, planets and stars.

Day 5 - All aquatic life and all fowls.

Day 6 - All land animals and man.

✓ The Purpose of the Creation Account

There are things which we could never understand on this side of eternity about Creation. So therefore, the focus in Genesis 1 is not so much about what God Created or about how He created it. The focus is upon God and the fact that He and He alone created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them. We must keep this in mind as we go through this account.

Now at first glance there seems to be little to consider here but really these 3 verses are full of spiritual riches.

I. The Completion (2:1)

Notice 2:1

The word "finished" here is so very important.

This verse supports what we had spoken of before and that is there is absolutely no room for evolution in the Creation account. This verse makes it very clear that the heavens,

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earth, and all the hosts of them were all completed by God. There is not one animal that had evolved from another animal. Everything was created by God and it was completely finished by Him.

As I had said before it is dangerous not to accept the 6 literal days of Creation as recorded in Genesis chapter 1. To add something or take something away would make you or me guilty of suppressing the Truth of God's Word.

Romans 1:18

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

Not only was it completely finished but it was also perfect.

Notice Genesis 1:31

³¹ And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

Now let us understand there was no sin in the world as of yet so this is exactly why everything is very good. When we get to Genesis chapter 3 we will see the entrance of sin and at the same time we will consider some of the effects sin has upon the world.

At this time there was no death, no sickness, no sorrow, and no monotony with Adam's work, no stress, or any kind of trouble. It was a perfect environment which God created for man to live in. It was the very best it could be and there was no way it could be improved upon.

It would be starting in Genesis 3 where everything would begin to disintegrate and the curse would be pronounced upon the earth.

Just as a side note this is why evolution is so ridiculous because those who teach evolution teach that everything is evolving toward something better. The Bible teaches because of the entrance of sin into the world everything is moving toward disorder and destruction.

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II. The Calmness (2:2)

Notice Genesis 2:2

This verse does not mean that God was completely exhausted from the work which He had done for God never grows tired or weary.

The idea is that God stopped the work which He had started 6 days before and the reason He stopped was because it was all complete.

God could rest in the fact that it was all complete, it was perfect, and was all under His control.

III. The Confirmation (2:3)

Notice Genesis 2:3

There are several thoughts which we need to consider from this verse:

1. The 7th day was blessed and sanctified.

This tells us the 7th day was different than the previous 6 days.

2. The Bible does not say "the morning and the evening were the seventh day".

This verse alone should make us desire to know more about this day because we can see that this day is set apart by God for that is the meaning of the word "sanctified".

So let me ask a couple of questions, why is this day set apart and blessed, and why are we not told the morning and the evening were the 7th day?

Let me tell you my thoughts on this 7th day. It is set apart by God because He desires all of His children to enjoy the very rest that is spoken of here in this verse. I also believe there is no mention of the morning and the evening are not mentioned because the very same day of rest is open to us today and to place a morning and an evening on this day would give it not only a beginning but also an end.

Here is the thought and then I will back it up with the Bible. We did not need to live on the 7th day to enter into God's rest we can enter in today.

Let me take you back to the book of Hebrews to show you what I am speaking of.

Notice Hebrews 3

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Before I begin let me give to you the background of the book of Hebrews really quickly. The writer is writing to a group of Jewish believers who are tempted to turn back to Judaism. The book of Hebrews is written for the purpose of encouraging them to move on in their faith and not to quit.

In chapter 3 of Hebrews the writer is warning them about the sin of unbelief and the consequences of unbelief and to drive home his point he points back to the Israel in the wilderness.

Notice Hebrews 3:7-11

These verses will set the stage for chapter 4.

In verse 7 we see a parenthesis which extends to the end of verse 11. In this parenthesis the writer reaches back to Psalm 95 and pulls verses from there to make his point.

Psalm 95:8-11

⁷ For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. To day if ye will hear his voice,

⁸ Harden not your heart, as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness:

⁹ When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my work.

¹⁰ Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said, It is a people that do err in their heart, and they have not known my ways:

¹¹ Unto whom I sware in my wrath that they should not enter into my rest.

Notice Hebrews 3:12-19

Now the warning is given directly to these Hebrew believers.

✓ The meaning of the rest.

The land of Canaan was the rest which God had for the nation of Israel and it was only by faith that they could enter into the land or the rest. The first time they arrived at Canaan there were 12 spies sent in and when they returned with the report. Ten of them discouraged the entire nation and kept them from going because they were afraid of the people of the land. Only Joshua and Caleb believed and wanted to go.

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Because of their unbelief they did not go and all of their numbered men died over the next 38 years of wandering.

Now I want you to listen to what I am going to say. They could only enter into the rest by faith. They had to believe the promises of God that He would deliver into their hands the enemy and that the victories were already theirs.

But they did not believe God so they wandered for 40 years and died.

Now as we come to Hebrews 4 the writer applies all of this to his readers.

Notice Hebrews 4:1-2

The word "gospel" means "good news".

Now listen to this. The good news preached to the people of Israel was that God had provided the victory for them to conquer the enemies of the land of Canaan all they needed to do was walk in obedience and believe.

Notice Hebrews 4:3-9

The writer makes it clear that there is a rest that is available for all who know Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Application:

Let me explain what all of this means to us who are believers.

Israel had come from a life of bondage in Egypt and God promised them an abundant life in the land of Canaan. There would be battles to be fought and ground to claim but God had promised to them He would give them victory over every battle they faced.

Deuteronomy 1:29-31

²⁹ Then I said unto you, Dread not, neither be afraid of them.

³⁰ The LORD your God which goeth before you, he shall fight for you, according to all that he did for you in Egypt before your eyes;

³¹ And in the wilderness, where thou hast seen how that the LORD thy God bare thee, as a man doth bear his son, in all the way that ye went, until ye came into this place.

All they needed to do was walk by faith.

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It is the same for our lives also. We have been saved from a life of bondage and God desires for us to enter into His rest.

There is a rest for us but our rest is not in a land but in the Person of Jesus Christ. As we go through this life there are going to be situations we face where we have no control over. Maybe you are facing one of those situations this morning. It is something that you cannot fix and so it is driving you crazy in the sense that you have no rest because of this situation. It is consuming you and it is definitely hindering your spiritual walk because it is the only thing you can think about. In all honestly the situation you face is consuming you and you would love nothing more than to have victory over the worry and the stress which comes from it.

There is a rest provided for you.

Notice Hebrews 4:9

How can you enter?

Notice Hebrews 4:10-11

There are 2 things required:

1. Stop trying in your own strength to fix the situation.
2. Have faith that God is in control of what you are facing.

Psalm 46:1-2, 10-11

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

² *Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;*

¹⁰ ***Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.***

¹¹ *The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.*