The Origin of the Universe

Lesson for Sunday, March 20, 2022

INTRODUCTION: TEXT: Genesis 1:1-2

* What is a worldview? *Allow for some discussion…*
  + Definition: The lenses through which an individual observes and interprets the world. Everyone has a worldview, even if you don’t know what your worldview might be.
  + Worldviews seek to answer the big questions of life: Meaning, purpose, evil, suffering, etc.
  + The way we determine if a worldview is valid is how is squares with reality.
* Every worldview must explain how the world came into existence.
  + The Naturalist Worldview (Atheism, agnostics, secularism, materialists, etc.): The world came into existence through natural means (evolution).
  + The Transcendentalists (Hindu, Buddhist, Scientologist, New Age, etc.): Everything has derived from the “One.” All is god and god is all. Think of the “Force” in Star Wars.
  + The Theists (Christianity, Judaism, Islam): The world, and everything in it, was created by God.
* As Christians we believe two foundational truths that shape all that is:
  + (1) God exists and (2) God has spoken.
  + The Bible is the very Word of God. It is God’s account of human history.
  + God reminds us of a powerful thought in Job 38:4, “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the world?”
* Genesis 1 is God’s account of how it all began.

BIBLE STUDY:

1. The universe had a beginning (Genesis 1:1).
   1. The very first verse of the Bible tells us that the universe was brought into existence – it was created by God.
   2. This is impossible for our minds to completely comprehend. This means that before the universe was made, there was no universe. All the things that we relate to (time, earth, matter) did not exist.
   3. A fun way to describe this is: Before Genesis 1:1 there was not even nothing! It couldn’t be black because that would be something!
      1. APPLICATION #1: God is much more powerful than we can comprehend.
   4. Why would we spend so much time on 1 verse? Because foundations are important. ILL: Describe the importance of a strong foundation to a new house. The first block is foundational to all the other blocks!
   5. As you study your Bible, you will learn that the first verse in Genesis is foundational to the first chapter, and the first chapter is foundational to the first eleven chapters, and the first eleven chapters are foundational to the rest of Genesis, and Genesis is foundational to the rest of the Bible.
      1. APPLICATION #2: In the first verse of the first chapter we learn that God is the foundation of everything. Is God the foundation of your life?
2. God was the Great Cause of creation (Genesis 1:1)
   1. In this verse, we are introduced to the basic elements of science. The Triune God created a triune universe!
      1. TIME: “In the beginning…”
      2. SPACE: “God created the heavens…”
      3. MATTER: “and the earth.”
   2. TIME: Time had a beginning. We read in Revelation 10:6 that time will also have an end.
      1. We cannot imagine life without time. Everything we experience in this life is corralled by time. Events occur in a flow or sequence one after another.
      2. We view time backwards by remembering the past, we live in the present, and we anticipate times in the future.
      3. What does time teach us about God? To create time, the Creator must be outside of time.
      4. APPLICATION #3: God is eternal. How should this characteristic of God impact our daily lives?
   3. SPACE: This is where all things exist: sun, moon, stars, and birds and airplanes fly. Space is where we are right now. The only things that exist outside of space is God.
      1. APPLICATION #4: Space is everywhere. You can’t escape from space! What does this imply about God? He is omnipresent! You can’t escape God! What difference does this truth make in our lives?
   4. MATTER: God created matter. This is a direct contradiction to evolution that states that matter is eternal. Matter makes the invisible space visible to us.
      1. APPLICATION #5: If God created all matter, all matter belongs to Him. What implications should this have in our lives?
3. The original creation (Genesis 1:2)
   1. Verse 2 begins by describing the initial condition of the earth that was introduced in verse 1. There are three main qualities:
      1. SHAPELESS: “Without form” – It was an unformed, shapeless mass of matter and water (deep).
      2. EMPTY: “Void” – It was uninhabited – no seas, rivers, mountains, animals, vegetation, etc.
      3. DARK: “Darkness” – complete and total absence of light.
   2. “And the Spirit…” The Holy Spirit of God began to work!
      1. “Moved” has the idea of to shake or vibrate. God began the processes that would make the world function (gravity, electromagnetism, etc.).
      2. God was powering up the world and getting everything prepared for the creation week!
   3. As we progress through chapter 1, we will see God shaping the shapeless world and filling the empty space. So many wonderful attributes of God will be on display!
   4. APPLICATION #6: We are blessed to know the rest of the chapter. In six literal days, God creates all that is in all its beauty and majesty. God declares it all “very good” in His evaluation. It is a powerful reminder that God knows what He is doing. If He can create the universe from nothing, we can trust Him with our lives, our dreams, and our plans.

CONCLUSION: When it comes to creation, there simply aren’t many options.

* Everything came from nothing.
* Everything came for an impersonal force (evolution).
* Everything came from a Personal Being.
* Life’s ultimate question is, “Is there a God?” The Bible answers that important question emphatically in the very first verse.
* The answer to that question leads us to life’s most important truth: God exists and we are accountable to Him. Are you ready to meet Him?