

Landmark 1: Genesis 1:1 to 2:3

In reading Proverbs 22:28: “Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set,” I thought about how that verse could be applied to particular Scripture verses that represent momentous events in the history of the world. So many verses seem to sit as monuments or ebezers for us. Today we would probably think of them more like landmarks. Of course, these cannot be removed because the Word of the Lord stands forever. From this pondering came an idea for a series of sermons on what could be considered landmark texts (many of which are in the Pentateuch). These landmarks are places in Scripture where great beginnings, transitions, renewals, and visitations occur. They record Biblical events that have greatly affected the course of human history.

Clearly, the first landmark text is Genesis 1:1. Let us begin by seeking the Lord’s blessing on the reading of the Word and for the Spirit to open the text.

Genesis Chapter 1:1 through Chapter 2:3

Gen 1:1-2:3

- 1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.**
- 2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.**
- 3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.**
- 4 And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.**
- 5 And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.**
- 6 And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.**
- 7 And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so.**
- 8 And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.**
- 9 And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so.**

10 And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good.

11 And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.

12 And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

13 And the evening and the morning were the third day.

14 And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:

15 And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so.

16 And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also.

17 And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth,

18 And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good.

19 And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

20 And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.

21 And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

22 And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth.

23 And the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

24 And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so.

25 And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

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.

29 And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.

30 And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so.

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.

CHAPTER 2

1 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.

2 And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.

3 And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.

(KJV)

Verse 1. In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth.

This is the most ancient of landmarks. It was set in the beginning. The word genesis means beginning. It is the book of beginnings. It is the only true and accurate book in existence describing the beginning of the universe. It is the only true and accurate book that describes how we came to exist. All other books, both ancient and modern, fail and they always will fail. They fail because they either deny the existence of God or they give credit to a god of their own imagination. We know that this book is not about God's beginning because we know that he is from everlasting. All false religion, which includes modern science, would have this marker pulled up. If it can just be pushed over, the way will be lost. If it can just be turned, it can point down the broad path, instead of the narrow way. Like the main buttress of the giant suspension bridge, all of the rest of the structure depends on it. Break it down, and rest will fall. Weaken it, and rest will be unstable. And, make

creation a myth, then miracles are a myth, and Christ is a myth, and the gospel is a myth, eternal life is a myth, and God is a myth.

Different from all other scientific and religions conceptions of creation, the Bible teaches that God created the universe by the force of His will, His Word, and His power. He did not construct from pre-existing materials, but truly created it from nothing.

Heb 11:3

3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

Time, space and matter are his creation, willed by Him into existence, and yet, not formed from his own essence. For God is not material, but is Spirit. He transcends His creation, that is to say he is separate and distinct from it. But, He is imminent and omnipresent in creation, that is to say, he is everywhere at all times and very close to us. Nothing is hidden from him, either good or evil. Only God Himself can understand how He set this landmark, but we know it was set in wisdom:

Prov 8:22-30

22 The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old.

23 I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was.

24 When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water.

25 Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth:

26 While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world.

27 When he prepared the heavens, I was there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth:

28 When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep:

29 When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth:

30 Then I was by him, as one brought up with him: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him;

(KJV)

Ps 104:24

24 O LORD, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches.

(KJV)

Verse 2. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

What is our understanding of the God our creator?

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are all credited in Scripture for creation. The Father decreeing, the Son and the Spirit executing the decree. We see that the Spirit of God moved (hovered) upon the face of the waters. The picture is of a mother bird brooding on her nest. But, the person of the Trinity who is most preeminent in creation is the Son, Jesus Christ.

Col 1:16-17

16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

(KJV)

Paul tells us here that all things created were created, visible or invisible. As human beings we have an immortal soul. It is not material. It is invisible. It is personal. Scripture is silent in regard to when our souls were created and it makes no difference if they were created during the sixth day or at conception, at least from our perspective. Scripture also does not specifically indicate when the soul is united with the body. Now, this is a significant question. At what point in our birth process do we become a person? When does the soul unite with the body? The later that the union is considered to occur can provide justification for abortion even late term. The Scripture gives us the answer. David says “in sin did my mother conceive me.” From this we understand that David counted himself to be a sinner from conception. Clearly, a soul would seem necessary to be counted a sinner.

Further, we know that John the Baptist leapt in Martha's womb, when Mary pregnant with the Lord visited her. So, it seems that the soul is united with the "body" at conception when the egg is fertilized.

Besides the spiritual aspect of man, there are other spiritual beings that God created. He created Angels. Paul's reference to powers, principalities and dominions is similar language to his discussion in Ephesians regarding spiritual battles with Satanic forces. The creation of angels is not specifically mentioned in Genesis, but it seems likely that they were created during the six days of creation because Gen 2:1 says "Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them." This would seem to encompass all created things. Other passages such as Ezk 28:13-15 suggest that Satan was a fallen angel, "an anointed cherub" and that he was in Eden.

Ezek 28:13-15

13 Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.

14 Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.

15 Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.

(KJV)

Satan was said to be perfect in his ways, but he fell and many angels followed him and are now considered demons. Of course, Satan "that old serpent, the devil," showed up to tempt Eve in the garden. And, in Genesis 3:24, God placed cherubim to guard the tree of life. Thus, we have good reason to believe that God created angels, including the cherubim, and seraphim, during the six days. But, the lack of the information concerning the angels underscores that the Bible is a revelation to man.

Heb 1:1-2

1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

2 *Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;*
3 *Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;*
(KJV)

John 1:1-3

1 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*
2 *The same was in the beginning with God.*
3 *All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*
(KJV)

Jesus Christ, was a carpenter, a man of construction and fabrication. Some say that he was stone cutter and fitter. The Son, who was from everlasting, speaking creation into existence and upholding it by the Word of his power. Creator, Sustainer, Redeemer and Friend. Manifested in the flesh upon the stage of the earth that he created to get himself glory in the redemption of His people whom he has made for Himself. In three days rebuilding the temple and raising it up, stumbling block to the Jews, foolishness to the wise, who sits at the right hand of the Father, pouring out his Spirit on all peoples and nations. It is He who has made us and not we ourselves. The Wise Master Builder who is building His church with living stones rightly fitted together.

Why did God create?

Proverbs 16:4 says “He hath made all things for himself, yea even the wicked for the day of evil.”

Verse 3-5

3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.
4 And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.
5 And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

This light was not the same light as that from the sun and moon and stars. They were yet to be created. This darkness was not like that that comes from the setting of the sun. This was illumination by the glory of God. God is light and men are in darkness. Consistently in Scripture, we find that light is associated with good and darkness with evil. To be in Him is to be in the light and to have illumination. We find that to be outside of Christ is to be in darkness. Satan is called the prince of darkness. Jesus is the light of the world.

John 3:19

19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.
(KJV)

I Jn 1:5

5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.
(KJV)

Skipping down a few verses to the creation of man:

Verse 26 , 27, 28

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.

On the sixth day God created Man and Woman in the image of God. They were not part of Him, equal to Him, but like Him. They had many of his characteristics. Adam and Eve had personhood, they were self-aware, they could think and reason, they had much of God's character, and they had true free will. They had the ability to sin. In their state of innocence, they were

neither slaves to God nor slaves to sin. They were naked and not ashamed. That would change. And we will get to that but not in this sermon.

God created males and females. Males are different from females both physically and emotionally. One of the reasons for their being made differently is procreation. God intended that a man be with a woman, and that woman be his wife and helper. Paul makes it clear that men with men and women with women is wrong.

Rom 1:18-28

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

19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

30 Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

31 Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

(KJV)

There has never been penned a better expression of the condition of lost humanity. It is even more relevant now than when it was written nearly 2000 years ago. Homosexuality is not natural. It is not an illness. It is simply sinful behavior that God hates. Unfortunately, homosexuality is glamorized, made to appear popular, hyped, and lobbied for so well that it is winning the same civil rights once reserved for Biblical marriage. And, like all other sin, it can be mortified through repentance and faith in Christ.

Paul also makes it clear that creation, in itself, is sufficient to prove the existence and power of God. He says that it leaves mankind without excuse.

Ps 19:1-4

1 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

2 Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.

3 There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.

4 Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

VERSE 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.

He had accomplished it in six days. Whether these days were literal 24 days or long ages has been debated, often vigorously, within the church. Until geologists and astronomers began to claim that the universe and the earth were billions of years old, the literal 24 hour day interpretation was essentially the only view. The Hebrew word YOM translated day literally means a 24 hour day or any portion of a day. But, because many theologians

have been desperate to harmonize or reconcile science and Scripture, theologians have offered interpretations of Genesis Chapter 1 that allow either long periods for days or claim literal days but great gap of millions of years between verses 1 and 2. A. W. Pink, a great Bible expositor and lover of the types, figures and symbols, says that a great catastrophe occurred between verse 1 and 2. He believes that it almost certainly involved the fall of the angels. Others are called progressive creationists, old earth creationists, and young earth creationist. Given my scientific background, you might expect that I would be an old earth creationist so that I can reconcile my science with Scripture. But, I happen to believe that science has made serious errors in supposing that physical laws are unchangeable. The laws may be very useful and accurately explain many things about the universe as it is now. But, it is vanity and arrogance.

Job 38:2-4

2 *Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge?*

3 *Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me.*

4 *Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.*

(KJV)

God can do anything at his pleasure with time, space and matter. In fact one of the hallmarks of a miracle is that physical laws are suspended. At the moment of the miracle, what, by all laws known to us should not happen actually happens. For example, Niagra Falls running backward. A sea parting, the sun “standing still.” A dead man walking out of a tomb after four days.

At the end of the 6th day, God pronounced everything that he had made very good. But we know that it did not remain in that blessed condition long. What was very good became corrupted. But, this was no surprise to God and it had been prepared for from before foundation of the world.

One of God’s great attributes that he has communicated to us as humans is the ability to create. Of course, not in the sense that we can will a universe into existence or even will a Vanilla malt into existence. We tend to think of people as being creative or task oriented. Or say that that person is an “ideas” person. But, the truth is we are all very creative people. We are thinking, talking, writing. Some of us can draw, paint and sculpt, others can

design, construct and build. Some can compose music. And, most of us have already or will make babies. My question is this: What are we creating? What can be said of it? What would God consider it gold and silver or wood hay and stubble? What are we creating in our thought-life? What are we creating with our words? What are we creating at our computer terminals or on our note pads. What plans are we making? But, most importantly, are they created in darkness or light?

The most ancient marker of human history is that In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth and that it was all very good. May we follow where this marker points us that in everything that we create, it may be said when we rest from all our labors that it was very good because it was all done for His glory!