

### The Importance of Genesis

Gen 1 <sup>1</sup> In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

\* **Whenever** we encounter a great mystery, we always want to go back to ...

\* **What are** some of the questions everyone wants to answer?

\* **To answer** these questions, we must understand 3 things:

1)

2)

3)

all of which are found first where?

\* **The title** “Genesis” in the Hebrew literally means what?

The Hebrew word for “beginning” comes from a root word that literally means what?

The Greek word for “beginning” used in the Septuagint is the word *arche*, from which we get architecture and archetype, and it carries the idea of what?

\* **When Paul** preaches the gospel to the philosophers of Athens in Acts 17, where does he start, how does he proceed, and why?

Acts 17 <sup>24</sup> God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. <sup>25</sup> Nor is He worshiped with men’s hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. <sup>26</sup>

And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, <sup>27</sup> so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; <sup>28</sup> for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, ‘For we are also His offspring.’ <sup>29</sup> Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man’s devising. <sup>30</sup> Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”

\* **Genesis is** also essential for the Christian life.

Mat 19 <sup>3</sup> The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?” <sup>4</sup> And He answered and said to them, “Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’ <sup>5</sup> and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? <sup>6</sup> So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.” <sup>7</sup> They said to Him, “Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?” <sup>8</sup> He said to them, “Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. <sup>9</sup> And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery.”

Eph 5 <sup>22</sup> Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church ... <sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her... <sup>31</sup> “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” <sup>32</sup> This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup> Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Rom 5 <sup>12</sup> [T]hrough one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned ... <sup>15</sup> [B]y the one man’s offense many died ... <sup>17</sup> [B]y the one man’s offense death reigned through the one ... <sup>18</sup> [T]hrough one man’s offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation ... <sup>19</sup> [B]y one man’s disobedience many were made sinners ...

Mat 1 <sup>1</sup> The book of the generations of Jesus Christ (quoting Gen 5 <sup>1</sup> “The book of the generations of Adam”)

1Cor 15<sup>45</sup> And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being" [Gn 2.7]. The last Adam became a life-giving spirit ...<sup>47</sup> The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven ...<sup>49</sup> And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.

\* **And yet** there is a tremendous human impulse to do what?

Rom 1<sup>18</sup> [M]en ... suppress the truth in unrighteousness ...<sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world [God's] invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.<sup>21</sup> For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. [NASB]

John 3<sup>19</sup> "And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."

### Recommended Books

*Total Truth* by Nancy Pearcey (also *Finding Truth*); *Darwin on Trial* by Phillip Johnson

### Sermons

*The End of Naturalism 1 & 2* (Jun 12 & 19, 2016);  
*Gollum Science or Smeagol Science?* (Jun 26, 2016)

\* **On naturalism** as religion:

– **John Searle**, Professor of Philosophy, Univ. of Cal. Berkeley:  
"There is a sense in which materialism is the religion of our time"  
(quoted in *Finding Truth* 71).

– **Richard Lewontin**, Harvard biologist: "We have a prior commitment, a commitment to naturalism ... It's not that the methods and institutions of science somehow compel us to accept a material explanation ... we are forced by our a priori adherence to material causes to create an apparatus of investigation and a set of concepts that produce material explanations." He warns that materialism must be "absolute, for we cannot allow a divine foot in the door" (quoted in *Total Truth* 170-71).

– **Michel Ruse**, Professor of Philosophy at Florida State University, editor of *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Darwin and Evolutionary Thought* and co-editor of *The Oxford Handbook of Atheism*:  
"[E]volution is a religion. This was true of evolution in the beginning, and it is true of evolution today ... Evolution is promulgated as an ideology, a secular religion—a full-fledged alternative to Christianity,

with meaning and morality." (Ruse, "Is Darwinism a Religion?," Jul 21, 2011, updated Sep 20, 2011, accessed 9/16/19, [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/michael-ruse/is-darwinism-a-religion\\_b\\_904828.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/michael-ruse/is-darwinism-a-religion_b_904828.html)).

\* **Two brief** evidences undercutting Darwinism:

– The fossil record.

– Cellular DNA.

\* **Where has** naturalism left us after 400 years?

"[Objective truth is] un-Darwinian" and "is a remnant of the idea that the world is a divine creation, the work of someone who had something in mind, who Himself spoke some language in which He described His own project" (Richard Rorty, "Untruth and Consequences" in *The New Republic*, July 31, 1995, pp. 32-36; *Contingency, Irony, and Solidarity* (Cambridge University Press, 1989), p. 21).

\* **God's inscripturated** word, beginning with the book of Genesis, is hardly something we should be embarrassed about, or that we should believe is antiquated or irrelevant.