

Creation is More than a Debate

1st in the “Creation Matters” Series

Genesis 1:1-2:3 p. 1

April 8, 2018

Introduction

In this sermon we get an overview of The Creation Project and an overview of the doctrine of creation.

The Text: Genesis 1:1-2:3

1) A brief explanation of The Creation Project – What is it and why are we doing it?

a) *Some context*

b) *The Creation Project is not... an attack, an agenda, easy, or unimportant.*

c) *The Creation Project is... an intellectual, pastoral, missional, and personal project.*

2) The Doctrine of Creation involves not one question but four questions!

Science only asks the “how” question, but Christianity also asks “who,” “what,” and “why.”

Science asks physical questions (cause and effect), the church adds metaphysical (nature and purpose).

3) The full doctrine of creation understands that Genesis 1-2 is looking both backward and forward!

Genesis 1-2 is the Bibles’ prologue (take-off), and Rev 21-22 is the Bible’s epilogue (landing).

Division of light and darkness (Gen 1:4)

Division of land and sea (Gen 1:10)

First heaven and earth created (Gen 2:1-3)

Humanity in a prepared garden (Gen 2:8-9)

River flowing out of Eden (Gen 2:10)

Tree of life in the midst of garden (Gen 2:9)

Gold/costly stone in the land (Gen 2:12)

God walking in the garden (Gen 3:8)

The Spirit at work in creation (Gen 1:2)

Bride formed for her husband (Gen 3:1-5)

Command to multiply (Gen 1:28)

Garden accessible to the Liar (Gen 3:1-5)

Humanity in God’s image (Gen 1:27)

Humanity under probation (Gen 2:17)

No longer night (Rev 21:25)

No more sea (Rev 21:1)

New heaven and earth re-created (Rev 21:2)

Humanity in a prepared city (Rev 21:12)

River flowing from God’s throne (Rev 22:1)

Tree of life throughout the city (Rev 22:2)

Gold/costly stone decorating the city (Rev 21:19-21)

God dwelling with his people (Rev 21:3)

The Spirit at work completing re-creation (Rev 22:17)

Bride adorned for her husband (Rev 21:2)

Nations of the multiplied/reborn (Rev 21:24)

City closed to all liars (Rev 21:27)

Humanity in God’s presence (Rev 21:3)

Humanity God’s heir and possession (Rev 21:7)

4) To read Genesis 1-2 through science's lens (how) is to miss the majority of its message (who, what, and why).

a) God is the sovereign Creator of all things – 1:1

b) The world is designed with purpose and for progress – 1:2

c) The Creator has made a covenantal claim on his creation – 1:2

d) Creation is the dwelling place of God – 1:3-25

e) Humanity is assigned to be the priests of creation – 1:26-31

f) God has given the world a Sabbath framework that directs humanity's work, rest, and identity – 2:1-3

Response

- Creation is not a debate; it is the God-designed and purpose-filled world in which we live.
 - Romans 11:36: “For from him, and through him, and to him are all things – to him be glory forever. Amen.”

Sunday Text Questions for Genesis 1:1-2:3 (Creation Matters series)

April 8, 2018

Pastor Mickey Klink

- 1) Starter Question: What comes to mind when you hear the phrase: “the doctrine of creation?”
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) How might the phrase “the earth was without form and void” in 1:2 not merely serve as a description of what happened at the beginning of creation, but be a forward-looking statement that sets up the ongoing and developing work of God in the cultivation of creation? Compare the command to be “gardeners” and to cultivate creation in 1:28.
- 4) Read Genesis 9:8-17 and Deuteronomy 32:10-11, where God places a covenant-making symbol over that which he claims and promises. How is the “hovering” Spirit of God in 1:2 also a covenant-making symbolic act by God, and what might it signify in regard to claims and promises regarding creation?
- 5) Read Revelation 21:1-3. How might the formation of creation in 1:3-25 not simply be for humanity but for God himself? How did this process get further developed at the coming of Jesus, the Immanuel?
- 6) Read Exodus 28:1-5. How do the priestly garments described in Exodus 28 help explain the significance of the robing of humanity in the “image of God?” How is humanity to serve God as “priests of creation,” and what does that look like?
- 7) Read Hebrews 4:8-11. In connection with Hebrews 4:8-11, how is “Sabbath” in 2:1-3 not simply about a past “day,” but about God, our covenantal identity in God, and the nature of life itself?
- 8) How is the doctrine of creation not simply about origins/beginnings (how), but also about nature and purpose (who, what, and why)?
- 9) Why do Christians focus so strongly on the “how” of the doctrine of creation and not as much (if at all) on the “who,” the “what,” and “the why?”
- 10) How is creation not a debate but the God-designed and purpose-filled physical world in which we live?

Further study this week: Revelation 21-22 on the completion of creation/New Creation (Mon); Proverbs 8 on the doctrine of creation (Tue); Psalm 104 on the doctrine of creation (Wed); Ezekiel 16 and the eternal covenant faithfulness of God (Thurs); Deuteronomy 32 on God’s covenant with the world/his people (Fri).