

The Old Hickory Bulletin

Old Hickory Church of Christ

841 Old Hickory Blvd.

Jackson, TN 38305

oldhickorycofc.com

March 05, 2017

Volume 37, # 10

Land Before Time

There is a movie entitled "Land Before Time" and all sorts of gadgets to sell folks, especially our young people, on the theory, that there was a creation of life, even billions of years before the days of Adam and Eve in the Genesis account of Genesis 1. Such reasoning comes from thinking that the Bible teaches a re-making from a previous existence.

Create and Make

Because God uses the word "create" and "make," men have concluded that there is a difference in the terms as used in the book of Genesis. Actually the words are used interchangeably. "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Gen. 1:1). "And God made two great lights" (Gen. 1:16). "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. . . So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them" (Gen. 1:26-27). "God created great whales" (Gen. 1:21). "And God made the beast of the earth after his kind" (Gen. 1:25). Later it is said, "For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea and all that in them is" (Exod. 20:11). But remember that Genesis 1: 1 said that "God created" them! When Jesus referred to the creation, he said, "Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female" (Matt. 19:4). The Psalmist said, "By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth" (Psa. 33:6). When God created, he made and when he made he created!

Consistency

If some things were created from nothing and some made from pre-existing matter, there is no consistency in God's creation. The Bible says, "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" (Gen. 1:21). Then it was said concerning land animals, "And God made the beast of the earth" (Gen. 1:25). Is

the origin of the sea creatures and birds of the fifth day different from the land animals on the following day? Who can believe there is?

No Gap

We are told that there is a gap of maybe billions of years between Genesis 1:1 ("In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth") and Genesis 1:2 ("And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep"). God simply created the earth without form and void, at the beginning. Isaiah said, "For thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the Lord" (Isa. 45:18). God created the earth to be inhabited and he made it into such a place, A careful reading of Genesis 1:1 and 2 will show that the two verses are connected together by the word "and."

No Man Before Adam

If there was pre-existence before Adam who was he? What was his name? The Bible teaches that Adam was the first man. "And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul" (1 Cor. 15:45). Furthermore Adam introduced sin into the world. "Wherefore as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin" (Rom. 5:12). If there was a pre-existence there was no sin there.

No Woman Before Eve

There were no women before Eve for she is called "the mother of all living" (Gen. 3:20). For a while Adam was alone and God said, "I will make him an help meet for him" (Gen. 2:18). Eve was created a full-grown woman as God starts things with a miracle and from then on things continue by a different process (Gen. 2:21-24). You might also observe in this story the use of the words "formed," "make" and "created" as used in Genesis 1:27.

Six Days

"For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea and all that in them is" (Exod. 20:11). This passage excludes a prior creation. If these things had previously been created why did God have to do it all over?

24 Hour Day

The evolutionary theory gave birth to the day-age theory. We are told that one day may have been billions of years. So one false doctrine creates another one. The days of

Genesis 1 are divided into light and darkness just like a day that you and I know (Gen. 1:4-5). "And the evening and the morning were the first day" (Gen. 1:5). There are some real problems if these days of creation were long periods of time. Plant life was created before the sunlight and it would have been impossible for plant life to survive without light all of those years (Gen. 1: 11; 14-19)! Another problem with this concept is the age of Adam. Adam was created on the sixth day, lived through the seventh day and into at least a part of the eighth day. If these days were billions of years, how old do you think Adam was when he died? The Bible says of Adam's age, "And all of the days that Adam lived were nine hundred, and thirty years: and he died" (Gen. 5:5).

Conclusion

There was no land before time! It is said concerning Christ: "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: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist" (Col. 1:16-17).

The Hebrew writer declared, "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" (Heb. 11:3).

- Johnie Edwards, via Guardian of Truth, March 1, 1990

Where God Is Stranger

It is not surprising that the true God would be as a stranger to pagan nations in times past. Recall that to certain Athenians the apostle Paul was one who seemed to be a "setter forth of strange Gods". To them, his proclamation of God's word was as a strange thing to their ears (Acts 17: 18, 20).

What we would not expect, however, is that some 2,000 years later, God and His word could be as comparative strangers to many in our "Christian" nation and Bible-saturated society! Not that most do not hold certain illusions and concepts of God, for such are as numerous as the idols of ancient Athens — and just as false. But, God is as He is, and not as men may conceive Him to be. Many claim to believe on God; to believe that He "is" (Heb. 11:6), yet know little of His true nature. And, in the absence of such knowledge, it is conveniently easy to "whittle" out a concept with the imagination.

Thus, we find ourselves in the land of many "strange" gods. In our modern Athens we hear of a fiendish and cruel kind of god who robs us of our loved ones. We hear of a dead

god; or an indulgent, grandfatherly-type who condones most any kind of conduct. Some speak of a god who honors good intentions and sincerity even above obedience to His own will and others speak of a god who would never allow even the wicked to be punished eternally. Some claim to serve a god who enables them to speak in tongues and heal the sick. Many claim allegiance to a god whose revelations are not confined to the Bible. It is not surprising that such groups would find the message of their god at variance with those given by other gods. Yes, strange gods are a way of life in our religious world. The fact that the imagined gods do not take the form of graven images doesn't really change anything. The man who conceives of a god who differs from the true God is himself little different from the pagan idolater of old. Paul saw the need for setting forth the nature of the true God. That remedy is no less needful in our times of sophisticated idolatry.

Soul saving faith begins with a knowledge of the true nature of God — a thing we often take for granted, especially in our teaching and preaching. If you think about it, practically everything relates to our view of God. That view, of course, must be determined by the Scriptures for all we can hope to know of the true God is revealed therein. Obviously, perverted concepts of God will persist among the uninformed and the misinformed. To them, incredible as it seems, the God of the Bible will remain a stranger and His word will seem a strange thing to their ears. Where God is stranger so is His love and man's imitation of it (1 Jn. 4:7-11); so is His goodness and the repentance it produces (Rom. 2:4). Where God is stranger so is His power and sovereignty. His right to rule, His authority, and His will avail little with those who serve illusions. Where God is stranger, so will His people be. The world will think it strange that His people run not with the — so will many in the religious world. Let's help them to know the Father.

- Dan S. Shipley, via Plain Talk, January, 1979

BIRD-LIKE TRUST

Said the robin to the sparrow,
"I would surely like to know
Why these anxious human beings
Fret about and worry so!"

Said the sparrow to the robin,
"I imagine it must be
That they have no heavenly Father
Such as cares for you and me!"

Elizabeth Cheney, poem

- > "Your obedience to *God* today determines what you will be for *God* tomorrow!"
 - > "Thanksgiving was never meant to be limited to a one day observance!"
 - > "When you meet temptation, turn to the Right!"
 - > "Feed your faith and your doubts will starve to death!"
 - > "Give your best to *God* and His best will be given back to you again and again and again...!"
-

THIS WEEK'S LESSONS: Sunday morning: "*The Law of Moses*" (Text: Gal. 3:10-11);
Sunday evening: "*The Word Made Flesh!*" (Text: John 1:14-18).