

The Pursuit Of God

Session Six / July 27, 2016

The Attributes Of God

An attribute of God is anything that is true of Him. In this session, several of His attributes including His goodness and His justice.

THE CREATIVITY OF GOD

1
2
3 Genesis 1:1-28

4 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. [2] And the earth was
5 without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit
6 of God moved upon the face of the waters.

7 [3] And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. [4] And God saw the
8 light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. [5] And God
9 called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the
10 morning were the first day.

11 [6] And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it
12 divide the waters from the waters. [7] And God made the firmament, and divided
13 the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the
14 firmament: and it was so. [8] And God called the firmament Heaven. And the
15 evening and the morning were the second day.

16 [9] And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one
17 place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so. [10] And God called the dry land
18 Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it
19 was good. [11] And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed,
20 and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth:
21 and it was so. [12] And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after
22 his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God
23 saw that it was good. [13] And the evening and the morning were the third day.

24 [14] And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the
25 day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and
26 years: [15] And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light
27 upon the earth: and it was so. [16] And God made two great lights; the greater light
28 to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also. [17] And
29 God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, [18] And
30 to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness:
31 and God saw that it was good. [19] And the evening and the morning were the
32 fourth day. [20] And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving

1 creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament
2 of heaven. [21] And God created great whales, and every living creature that
3 moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every
4 winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good. [22] And God blessed
5 them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl
6 multiply in the earth. [23] And the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

7 [24] And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind,
8 cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so. [25]
9 And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and
10 every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was
11 good.

12 [26] And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them
13 have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the
14 cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the
15 earth. [27] So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he
16 him; male and female created he them. [28] And God blessed them, and God said
17 unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and
18 have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every
19 living thing that moveth upon the earth.

20
21 The question of “how did everything begin” has been debated since time immemorial.
22 We who are followers of Jesus Christ believe the biblical account of creation, although
23 even among us there are legitimate differences of opinion. But it should be clear that the
24 world had a BEGINNING and that the originator of it all was GOD.

25
26 *Let's get a definition on the books immediately. When we talk about CREATION, what are we talking about? God, the triune God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) in the very beginning of time, and for His own glory, without the use of any prior existing materials or secondary causes, brought into being immediately and instantaneously the whole visible universe. It was not a re-shaping of pre-existing materials or the work of secondary causes (such as the “big bang”); creation was an immediate act of God that had immediate results.*

27
28 Creation was the very work of God. Nothing preceded it in our time and space
29 dimension. Proverbs 8:22 **The Lord possessed me in the beginning of his way,**
30 **before his works of old.** What would cause rational people to believe in creation, as
31 opposed to evolution or the big bang theory?

32
33 1. Moses believed it. We know this because he was the author of Genesis, which

1 means “the beginning.” The Prime Mover of all things was and is God Himself.

2
3 2. There appears to be a contradiction in the Genesis account: God said, “Let there be
4 light” and there was light and yet God did not appear to create the sun until the fourth
5 creation day. The fact is that God Himself is the source of all things and was the power
6 behind the light, as we see in Revelation 4. There God appears as a jasper and sardine
7 stone, stones that seem to have an inner light rather than be reflecting some other source
8 of light.

9
10 3. Were the six days of creation literal 24-hour days? Genesis 1:31 **And God saw**
11 **every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and**
12 **the morning were the sixth day.**

13
14 So, six days were involved, but what length days? We remember that Peter wrote, 2
15 Peter 3:8 **But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the**
16 **Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.**

17
18 The debate over the length of the six creation days will go on until Jesus comes. There
19 are probably several ideas about this even among us gathered for this study. A similar
20 question is, “How old is the earth?” Some will staunchly declare, “6,000 years.”
21 Others will say, “No, it’s very old.”

22
23 Here is a question for you to ponder: Consider Genesis 1:2 **And the earth was**
without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. It is claimed
by some who study the Hebrew language that the actual phrasing from the Hebrew is:
“And the earth became without form.” Would God have created something “without
form and void?” And/or: What would have caused the earth to become formless and
void? It is here that the belief by some is that there was a GAP between Genesis 1:1
and 2 and no one knows how long that gap existed. Could it have been the throwing
Satan out of Heaven to earth that caused such a void? I personally have some ideas
about this, but I cannot prove them by scripture. Suffice it to say that no matter how
long the creation days were....and how old the earth is....GOD BUILT IT!

24
25 There are scriptures that suggest a cataclysmic change on the earth in its earliest form.
26 Jeremiah 4:23-26 **I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the**
27 **heavens, and they had no light. [24] I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled,**
28 **and all the hills moved lightly. [25] I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the**
29 **birds of the heavens were fled. [26] I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a**
30 **wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of the Lord,**

1 **and by his fierce anger. Isaiah 24:1 Behold, the Lord maketh the earth empty,**
2 **and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the**
3 **inhabitants thereof. Isaiah 45:18 For thus saith the Lord that created the**
4 **heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he**
5 **created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the Lord; and there is none**
6 **else.**

7
8 The earth itself bears enough scars to testify to such a catastrophe. One Bible
9 commentator has suggested: *Was there a long or a short period of time between the*
10 *original creation in Genesis 1:1 and the six days of creation in the rest of the chapter?*
11 *The doctrine of an immense time, prior to the six creative days was a common view*
12 *among the fathers (church). The first creative act occurred in the dateless past, and*
13 *between it and the work of the six days there is ample room for all the geologic ages.*
14 *The interval may have run into thousands or even millions of years.*

15 SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY / THIESSEN / EERMAN PUBL / PAGE 164
16

17 4. On the fourth day of creation, God made the sun, moon and stars. This also brings
18 into question the 24-hour day belief. Since the sun causes by the earth's rotation the
19 time periods known as day (and night), and the sun did not exist for the first three creation
20 days, how could there have been 24-hour days? However, God can do anything with
21 His sovereign will, so such a day would have been possible. But it does bring up the
22 legitimate question.

23 24 THE ATHEISTIC THEORY

25
26 The atheistic non-believer in creationism holds that the earth has existed from all eternity.
27 According to those who hold some vast change in the stars say that the solar system
28 started as a hot, rotating, gaseous spheroid. The nebula (a hazy cloud of interstellar gas)
29 cooled and consequently shrank. This shrinkage accelerated the rate of rotation and a
30 substance gathered into this planet Earth. That theory has not been around for a long,
31 long time.

32
33 Now some believe that the earth started its independent career as a bolt of gas shot from
34 the sun by the pull of a passing star in conjunction with the explosive forces of the sun.
35 This cause the earth to go into an elliptical orbit around the sun, which, in cooling,
36 condensed to a small central core. And here we are!

37
38 It is much more believable that there is a personal God who has taught us clearly in both
39 His word and the earth's "mother" nature that the universe is the work of His almighty
40 creative hand.

1 5. But....doesn't the Bible teach that the earth is 6,000 years old?

2
3 No, it doesn't. The date 4004 B.C. was found in the margins of some editions of an early
4 Bible attributed to Archbishop Usher (a church prelate in Ireland in the 1600's, who even
5 set the date for the creation to start in October, 4004 B.C.). Usher's date is no part of the
6 inspired text or canon of Scripture.

7
8 I am confident in my own mind that the earth is much older than 6000 years. We know
9 that Jericho and Damascus have existed for 10,000 years or more from historical records
10 and that alone would negate the 6,000-year theory. In ancient Jericho, a friend of mine
11 and I explored a tower that we can date back 10,000 years. Whenever creation began,
12 the one fact we KNOW is that God, the Master Designer, triggered it.

13
14 *Though men may strive to go beyond the reach of space*
15 *To crawl beyond the distant shining stars*
16 *This world's a room so small within my Master's house*
17 *The open sky but a portion of his yard.*
18 *How big is God, how big and wide His vast domain*
19 *To try to tell these lips can only start*
20 *He's big enough to rule His mighty universe*
21 *Yet small enough to live within my heart.*

22 Stuart Hamblen

23 24 WHAT MOTIVATED GOD IN CREATION?

25
26 1. He created all things for His glory.

27
28 Psalm 8:1 To the chief Musician upon Gittith, A Psalm of David. **O Lord our Lord,**
29 **how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens.**

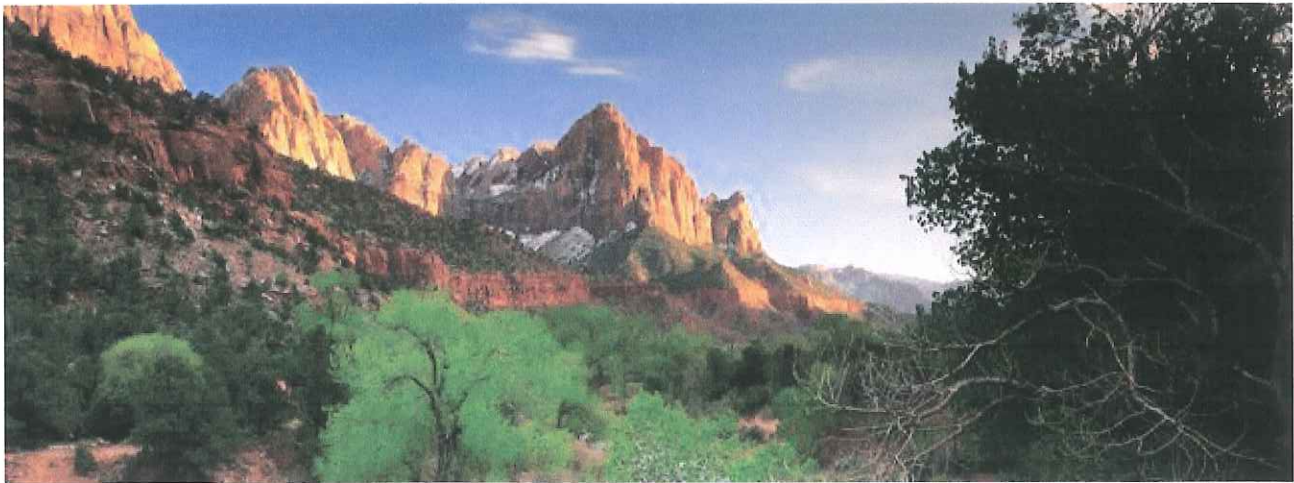
30
31 Psalm 19:1 To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. **The heavens declare the glory**
32 **of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.**

33
34 2 Cor. 4:6 **For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath**
35 **shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face**
36 **of Jesus Christ.**

37
38 2. He was successful for all of His handiwork shouts His praises.

39
40 Jeremiah 13:16 **Give glory to the Lord your God, before he cause darkness, and**

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35



before your feet stumble upon the dark mountains, and, while ye look for light, he turn it into the shadow of death, and make it gross darkness.

1 Chron. 16:29 Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

Isaiah 43:7 Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.

Many years ago, my father in law, C. T. Beem (long since with the Lord) and I were hiking through magnificent Zion National Park in Utah. (Picture above) We had a guide with us who was being often interrupted by C.T.'s exclamations, "Glory to God!".

The sheer magnificence of Zion Park called forth praises to the Lord.

The child of God will be extraordinarily blessed by studying His handiwork on this Earth. In fact, it goes beyond Earth for the entire universe displays His glory. The observable universe is some 93 billion light years in diameter. (Light travels at 186,000 miles per second. Someone going around the earth at the speed of light could complete 7.5 orbits in about one second). It includes planets, stars, moons, comets, constellations, meteors, etc.

But...why so big? If God created the earth for mankind's existence, why did He make it so huge? Isn't the existence of trillions of galaxies a complete waste? Astronomers believe there are 100 billion stars in the universe. The universe itself appears to be in a constant state of expansion. The Hubble telescope what we would think are stars, but in reality they are entire galaxies, tightly packed together. And remember, it took the light

1 from those galaxies millions of light years to even reach the gaze of the telescope mirrors.

2
3 Now here is a shocking truth: God's main purpose for the universe is to ultimately
4 destroy it. 2 Peter 3:10-13 **But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night;**
5 **in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall**
6 **melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned**
7 **up. [11] Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons**
8 **ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, [12] Looking for and hasting**
9 **unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be**
10 **dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? [13] Nevertheless we,**
11 **according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth**
12 **righteousness.**

13
14 When one considers, in awe, the current universe, one can only attempt in vain to imagine
15 that which God will ultimately create for all eternity.

16 THE RAW MATERIAL USED BY GOD IN CREATION

17
18
19 Hebrews 11:1-6

20 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. [2]
21 For by it the elders obtained a good report. [3] Through faith we understand that
22 **the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not**
23 **made of things which do appear.** [4] By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent
24 sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God
25 testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh. [5] By faith Enoch was
26 translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had
27 translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.
28 [6] But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must
29 believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

30
31 The power of God through a human vessel is astounding. Zech. 4:6 **This is the word**
32 **of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit,**
33 **saith the Lord of hosts.**

34
35 It all begins with THE WORD OF GOD. Your Bible is that Word! Believe it! "The
36 worlds were framed by the word of God..." (Heb. 11:3) In the beginning, God SAID!
37 Then what? Nothing else is needed. "...the things we see were made of things which
38 do not appear - or that we cannot see." So:

39
40 NOTHING.....IS THE RAW MATERIAL USED BY GOD IN HIS CREATION. Now

1 if God created the universe with its 100 billion observable stars, planets and moons - out
2 of nothing - what makes any of us think He cannot fulfill His word - spoken or written -
3 in us?
4

5 I hear this so often: "Yes, I know the scriptures say..." or "I know what God said..."
6 BUT! But! It is at that point that true belief comes to a screeching halt as we interject
7 all the things we think God cannot do.

8
9 Often we do not witness the fulfillment of God's Word immediately or whenever we
10 think it ought to be done we quit or give up. Instead of believing what God said, we
11 begin to doubt. What was the first thing Satan said to Eve in the Garden? "Yea, hath
12 God....said....??"
13

14 In the beginning, whenever that was, God created the universe. But according to
15 scientists, it is still in a state of growth all these centuries, aeons, later. He is still
16 creating. Your timetable, or mine, is not God's. His timing is all His own.

17
18 Fifty five years ago, when I truly despaired of my calling into ministry and was prepared
19 to chuck it, a wise elderly preacher gave me the best advice I was ever given: "Give God
20 the luxury of time! His time, not yours."

21
22 We have only scratched the surface in a study of God's creativity. But may this time
23 stimulate your faith in God who gives "...every perfect gift from above, with whom is no
24 variableness, neither shadow of turning." James 1:17
25
26
27

28 Next week we continue with THE PURSUIT OF GOD.
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40