

Who Is God?

Wednesday, August 28, 2019
Part Four In The Series

IN THE BEGINNING

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Last Saturday was a joyous day for Alelia Murphy. It was her birthday. Her 114th birthday. She was born in North Carolina when Theodore Roosevelt was President. People worked for 22 cents an hour. Only 8% of the residents had telephones.

Asked what the secret was to her longevity, she replied: GOD.

John 1:1-4

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. [4] In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

The 114 year-old lady is right when she credits God for her long life. He is the source of all life (“...*all things were made by him...*” verse 3).

Last week we discussed briefly some of the “decrees” of God. The decrees were the plans of God spoken and carried out. Certainly one of those decrees was to create the universe and mankind: Psalm 33:6-11 **By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. [7] He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap: he layeth up the depth in storehouses. [8] Let all the earth fear the Lord: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. [9] For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast. [10] The Lord bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought: he maketh the devices of the people of none effect. [11] The counsel of the Lord standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations.**

In the book of Proverbs, we find Jesus speaking of His Lord and Father God and Jesus said His existence was before the worlds began: Proverbs 8:22-31 **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**

1 **compass upon the face of the depth: [28] When he established the clouds above:**
2 **when he strengthened the fountains of the deep: [29] When he gave to the sea his**
3 **decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the**
4 **foundations of the earth: [30] Then I was by him, as one brought up with him: and I**
5 **was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him; [31] Rejoicing in the habitable**
6 **part of his earth; and my delights were with the sons of men.**

7
8 I cannot fathom eternity - a time when there was no time. It had no beginning and will
9 have no ending. In eternity there is no such thing as a year or month or day. There is
10 no such thing as “before” or “after” – only “is.” Yet John confidently states Jesus
11 “was.” Joined in creation by the Holy Spirit, the Trinity created all that is. Genesis 1:1
12 **In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.**

13
14 The “creation” was not a re-shaping” of pre-existing materials; it was an immediate act of
15 God in which by His will all that **would be** was born from His great mind.

16
17 Why doesn't the Bible clear up all this speculation? Could God not have just explained it
18 all in words we could understand? Perhaps He could have but chose not to. Then what
19 is the reason for Scripture? 2 Tim. 3:16-17 **All scripture is given by inspiration of**
20 **God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in**
21 **righteousness: [17] That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto**
22 **all good works.** *The purpose of the Scripture is for instruction in righteousness. It*
23 *was written to show man's relationship to God and God's requirements for man and what*
24 *man must do to be saved.*

25 THRU THE BIBLE / MCGEE / VOLUME iv / PAGE 8 / NELSON PUBL

26
27 So many explanations have been proffered as to the creation and mankind's development
28 through the ages. One of the most popular explanations now is the “big bang” theory.
29 One biologist, however, argued that life originating by accident is “comparable to the
30 probability of the unabridged dictionary originating from an explosion in a print shop.”
31

32 So - how God created everything we don't know. Nor do we know when. For years,
33 evangelicals somehow believed the earth was created 4004 years B.C. Not only is that
34 figure speculative, it is nonsense, in this pastor's opinion. For one thing, in my travels
35 around the world I have explored ancient buildings that we know historically go back at
36 least 10,000 years B.C.

37
38 So we don't know how and we don't know when. All we know for sure is WHO! In
39 the beginning....GOD.

40
41 A poet from years ago put it like this:

1 steps of creation, as suggested by Dr Peter Stoner, a mathematician (based on Genesis 1):

- 2
- 3 1. Light Verse 3
- 4 2. Darkness dispelled from the earth Verse 4
- 5 3. The Atmosphere established Verse 6
- 6 4. The seas appointed their boundaries Verse 9
- 7 5. The continents raised Verse 10
- 8 6. Plant life formed Verse 11
- 9 7. The sun, moon and stars appointed to function Verse 14
- 10 8. Marine life created Verse 20
- 11 9. Fowls created Verse 21
- 12 10. The great creatures (whales, etc.,) formed Verse 21
- 13 11. Creeping things made Verse 24
- 14 12. Man made Verse 26
- 15

16 Then Stoner made this observation: Those things are correctly listed in biological order,
17 according to Phillips, but Moses' chances of writing Genesis 1 in that way *by accident*,
18 would amount to one chance in 31 sextillion (31 followed by 21 zeroes). To put that in
19 some conceptual way: Stoner postulated a raffle with that number of tickets. That
20 would require 8 million printing presses each capable of producing 2,000 tickets a
21 minute, running day and night for 5 million years. ONE OF THOSE TICKETS IS
22 MARKED. Our chance of drawing that one ticket on the first try would be the same as
23 Moses' chance of writing Genesis 1 by accident.

24 SCIENCE SPEAKS / STONER / MOODY PRESS / PAGE 11

25
26 It is my feeling that it is clear Moses did NOT write that by chance but by divine
27 revelation.
28

For those who propose the "big bang" theory, they must first respond to this: where did the matter come from that "blew up?" Who made that? Just a thought.

29 TURNING CHAOS INTO ORDER

30
31 It is fascinating to observe how God dealt first of all with darkness. Genesis 1:2-3

32 **And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the**
33 **deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. [3] And God said,**
34 **Let there be light: and there was light.**

35
36 God dispelled the darkness. That's His "modus operandi," so to speak. Even though
37 people are lovers of spiritual darkness (John 3:17-21 **For God sent not his Son into**

1 **the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.**

2 **[18] He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is**
3 **condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten**
4 **Son of God. [19] And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and**
5 **men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. [20] For every**
6 **one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should**
7 **be reproved. [21] But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be**
8 **made manifest, that they are wrought in God.)**such lover of darkness that they
9 crucified the One Who came to take the darkness away.

10 11 GOD'S CREATIVE GENIUS WAS AT WORK EVEN IN SPACE

12
13 **Genesis 1:16 And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and**
14 **the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also.**

15
16 In this verse we learn of God's creating the moon and the sun, Moses noting that the
17 moon was smaller. How did he know that?

18
19 Without the aid of telescopes or other instruments, the logical conclusion from our earthly
20 perspective would be the opposite, the moon is smaller. Moses knew by divine
21 revelation the truth of the matter. It would not have been very helpful to us believers
22 had Moses written at the outset of Scripture that the moon was bigger than the sun, even
23 though it must have looked that way from his perspective on Earth. We know from
24 writings of the ancients that many of them believed the moon was far greater than the sun.
25 But we know today by scientific observation THAT THE SUN COULD CONTAIN 6
26 MILLION MOONS!

27
28 And that's just the beginning. The star Antares could contain 64 million of our suns!
29 What a revelation! Genesis begins with "revelation" and the Bible concludes with
30 "revelation."

31 32 HE MADE THE STARS ALSO

33
34 John Phillips noted in his book *Exploring Genesis* that God had Moses use only five
35 words, "He made the stars also," to describe the creation of space. *"What a perspective*
36 *of truth. The Bible takes some fifty chapters to discuss the construction and significance*
37 *of the Tabernacle in the Wilderness, yet it was only a temporary sanctuary. Fifty*
38 *chapters about the Tabernacle - five words about the stars. The Bible is a handbook of*
39 *redemption, that is why. It was nothing for God to create; to create He had only to*
40 *speak. But to redeem? He had to suffer. That is the perspective of the Bible!*

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Genesis 1:14-19

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.

THE VARIETY OF GOD'S CREATION

Genesis 1:20-25

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.

Remember Gramma's cookie cutter? God didn't one. The variety He gave His creation

1 is truly astounding! From the tiniest microscopic creatures (infusoria) that a tea spoon
2 could literally hold millions of them to the immensity of the great blue whales.

3 Scientists have listed:

- 4 ✓ More than 800,000 kinds of insects
- 5 ✓ 30,000 kinds of fish
- 6 ✓ 9,000 kinds of birds
- 7 ✓ 6,000 kinds of reptiles
- 8 ✓ 3,000 kinds of amphibians
- 9 ✓ 5,000 kinds of mammals

10
11 All constructed by God Himself. What variety. Yet, we are told by sociologists, there
12 many humans who want all humans to be just like they are. It's called *the herd instinct*.
13 But we were not created to be like that. We have one rather small planet and almost a
14 million types of God's creation on it. God obviously wants us to appreciate His
15 handiwork and get along with it.

16 17 GOD'S MASTERPIECE: **THE HUMAN BEING**

18
19 In my sociology classes at Southwest Missouri University, I had it hammered into me that
20 I am the descendant of some furry tree dweller. Well....I am not. While some of the
21 alleged similarity between the human race and monkeys (of whatever type) may resemble
22 human structure, that's where it ends! Consider these DISSIMILARITIES as listed by
23 John Phillips:

24
25 *Man is in no way related to the beasts.*

- 26 ▶ *What animal can transmit accumulated achievements from one generation to*
27 *another?*
- 28 ▶ *What animal experiences a true sense of guilt when it does wrong or has a*
29 *developed consciousness of judgment to come?*
- 30 ▶ *What animal shows any desire to worship?*
- 31 ▶ *What animal has hope of immortality beyond the grave?*
- 32 ▶ *What beast can exercise abstract moral judgment or show appreciation of the*
33 *beauties of nature?*
- 34 ▶ *When did you ever see a dog admiring a sunset or a horse standing breathless*
35 *before the rugged grandeur of a mountain range?*
- 36 ▶ *What animal ever learned to read and write, to act with deliberate purpose, and*
37 *set goals and achieve long-range objectives?*
- 38 ▶ *What animal ever learned to cook its food, to cut cloth and make clothes, or invent*
39 *elaborate tools?*
- 40 ▶ *What animal ever enjoyed a hearty laugh?*

- 1 ▶ *What animal has the gift of speech?*
2 ▶ *Even the most primitive human tribe possesses linguistics of a subtle, complex and*
3 *eloquent nature. Man stands alone.*
4 ▶ *Physically, he alone has the ability to communicate in a sophisticated manner.*
5 ▶ *Mentally, he alone has the ability to communicate in a sophisticated manner.*
6 ▶ *Spiritually, he alone has the capacity to know the mind and will of God.*

7 [ibid] page 45
8

9 The creation of the human being was God's masterpiece! To somehow equate man with
10 a monkey is insulting to God and demeaning to humans.
11

12 DID GOD NEED A REST?

13
14 Genesis 2:1-3

15 **Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. [2] And on**
16 **the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the**
17 **seventh day from all his work which he had made. [3] And God blessed the seventh**
18 **day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God**
19 **created and made.**

20
21 "He rested..." (Verse 2) Was God exhausted? Worn out? Needing a break? No.
22 That verse simply means He ceased creating.
23

24 And God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it. The 7th day of the week is Saturday,
25 yet most Christians celebrate Sunday as God's day. Are we wrong?
26

27 As you read the book of Acts, you will note that FOLLOWING THE RESURRECTION
28 OF JESUS (which took place on a Sunday morning - John 20:1-2 **The first day of the**
29 **week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and**
30 **seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre. [2] Then she runneth, and cometh to**
31 **Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They**
32 **have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have**
33 **laid him.)** whenever the believers met together it was always Sunday. Now Christians
34 celebrate the PERSON of Christ, not the Mosaic Law.
35

36 ENJOYING GOD'S HANDIWORK

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38 We zip through life in our hurry-hurry world and perhaps do not take proper time to enjoy
39 in awe the world our Heavenly Father has built. We *might* live longer and more happy
40 years if we took that time.
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Breath-taking Bryce Canyon, 33,000 acres of pure perfection, in southwest Utah. The rock formations, left to us by the hand of God, are a never-forgotten site once you have seen it. Just another example, among thousands, of God's great creation.

I encourage you to see the beauty all around us. And to thank HIM Who designed it all.

Next week: The Sovereignty of God