

Sermon Title – The Origin of Beginnings

Sermon Text – Genesis 1:1-2:4

We are starting a new sermon series titled – New Beginnings! I want you to think about times in your life when you have experienced something new!

How far back can you go? What is your earliest “New Beginning” memory? Can you remember taking your first step, saying your first word, being born?

Some of our earliest “new beginnings” are beyond our ability to remember & some are beyond our ability to even know! But most of us know details about these events because someone was there, experienced it, & told us about it!

When something is beyond our capacity to know ourselves, an eye-witness account, a first-hand experience, can substantiate the credibility of it! What I know about my beginning didn’t come from me, but from my parents!

The same can be said for the origin story of the universe/earth/man! Not one of us was there, so how can we know with certainty how it all came to be? What we need is an eyewitness, someone with a firsthand experience!

And we do! There is a being who was present at creation, a being that witnessed & experienced it all! And this being is the One responsible for the origin of all beginnings. He is the One capable of giving a credible testimony.

Genesis 1&2 is that testimony - an eyewitness, firsthand account of creation. Yes, it was written by Moses long after the fact, but this is God’s testimony!

But what about science? Society has tried to convince us that science can offer us a more reasonable & credible explanation for how the universe came into being. But how could that be? Science wasn’t there!

Science is “*the study of the physical and natural world through observation, experimentation, and the testing of theories.*”

Science can only exist, and be helpful, when there are things in the physical and natural world to observe and experiment on! Science can’t answer the question of origin, because this question goes beyond its reach!

The origin of creation precedes the creation itself, therefore Science can’t help us, only God’s testimony can answer the question of the 1st beginning!

That is why Genesis 1 & 2 must be elevated to our standard of truth, even if

it leaves us with many unanswered questions! It is our only reliable source!

But science is not our enemy! We can learn much about the created world & how it works thru scientific study! It can help us confirm the Biblical narrative!

But what do we do when science tries to overstep it’s bounds? When it tries to answer questions only God can answer? We test it by the ultimate authority!

When the results of science confirm the testimony of Scripture, we celebrate it. But when it draws a different conclusion, our 1st allegiance is to the Bible!

But what about where Scripture leaves room for different interpretations? Genesis 1 & 2 doesn’t answer all our questions, so what do we do with that?

We study the Word, & prayerfully discern what possibilities truly exist. All the while asking the question, “What is it that God really wants us to know?”

In so far as science seeks to give greater explanation to God’s created world, we can explore it, & learn much from it! But what is of utmost importance is that we take away, from both Scripture & science, the knowledge of God!

As we read Genesis 1&2, & engage in scientific inquiry around the cause and function of creation, I believe God wants us to know & accept these truths:

- 1) God is the first and primary cause of creation! Where science, or anything else, seeks to undermine this truth it must be rejected!
- 2) God created our world good, and with distinction and order! Where science seeks to deny a designer, or an ordered creation, or the existence of moral distinction (good & evil), it must be rejected!
- 3) God is the true subject of creation! Light, air, water, dry land, vegetation, sun, moon, stars, fish, land animals, even man & woman are the objects of creation! God is the main focus! He wants us to get to know Him more than He wants us to get to know all that He created!

When we read Genesis 1&2 with this purpose & clarity in mind, all the what, where, & when questions become secondary to the who & why of creation!

God is the God of “new beginnings” -we see it in the creation of the world, & we can also see it in the work of recreation in us spiritually! By faith God is creating us anew (a new beginning spiritually)! This leaves us with some of the same questions, but it also points us to what God ultimately wants us to know – Him!

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And we do! There is a being who was present at creation, a being that witnessed & experienced it all! And this being is the One responsible for the _____ He is the One capable of giving a credible testimony.

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