

A Galactic Blast

Genesis 1-2:3

July 18, 2010 - FBC, Midland

Tomorrow we begin an adventure called Vacation Bible School. It is in the evening this year, from 5:30 – 8:30 pm, beginning with a simple meal. There will be new songs to learn, and crafts to engage in, and plenty of opportunities to make new friends. There will be a number of Bible stories to learn from together, and a chance to learn more about God. The theme this year is “Galactic Blast”. The tagline is “A cosmic adventure in praising God.” The theme Bible verse is Psalm 150:6 - “Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.”

Each evening, there will be a different Bible story to look at and discover. I’ve built my sermon today around the first story, which is the creation story in Genesis. We will take a brief look at each “day” in the creation narrative, and see what God created that “day”. One thing we will notice over and over is that God saw all that He had created, and it was good. God was pleased with His creation.

Let's begin; (read Gen. 1:1-2). The name "Genesis" means the "origin", or the "beginning". So we could say, "In the Genesis", or "In the origin of time", or "In the beginning". The description we get of how things looked are kind of bleak. The words are "formless and empty", or "void", and there is a darkness over the "surface", or "face" of the deep. Yet we are told that the Spirit of God was "hovering", or "moving", over the waters. The meaning is really that the Spirit of God was "brooding" over the waters. That gives us the idea that God was kind of like a divine bird, watching over a cosmic egg, that was about to be hatched. The Hebrew word for "spirit" here is "ruach", which can be translated as "spirit" or "wind" or "breath". So we could say that the "wind of God", or the "breath of God", or the "spirit of God" was moving over the waters. The picture we get is of a God who is not stationary and stagnant, but is alive, and full of energy and possibility, and is always "moving."

Now let's hear what God created first; (someone reads Gen. 1:3-5). The creation of light was God's first gift to the world. The ability to see, and to feel safe; for light brings guidance and assurance. The scriptures tell us many times over that God wants to bring us out of darkness, and into His light, which can save us. God's light keeps us from stumbling in the dark, and losing our way. It is indeed, "very good."

Now, what did God create on the second day? (someone reads Gen. 1: 6-8). Some translations refer to the “expanse” as the “firmament”. It is what we see when we look up. We see the “sky”. In Hebrew thought, it is important to see the spiritual implication that the earth on which we live, is under the sovereignty and power of God. Thus, in God’s purposes, we can trust.

What happened on the third day? (someone reads Gen. 1:9-13). Here we see the separation of land and waters, called by God as “earth” and “seas”. We also find that the earth begins to sprout forth with grass, and vegetation, and fruit trees. Of important note here is the recurrence of the word “seed”, used several times. The “seed” is the reproductive activity of nature, and is a continuing manifestation of the creative power of God. It is indeed, very good.

Let’s hear what God does on the fourth day (someone reads Gen. 1:14-19). We now have the sun, moon, and stars, each with a purpose of arranging for seasons, and for days, and for years. It is interesting to see that the writer tells us specifically that God “made the stars also.” It reminds us of the scripture in Ps. 8 that says “When I consider the works of your hands, the moon and the stars, which you have created; what is man, that you are mindful of him? Yet you have

made him a little lower than the angels, and have crowned him with glory and honor.” God’s creation is indeed, “very good.”

We are up to the 5th day (someone reads Gen. 1:20-23). On this day, God has created the fish of the sea, and the birds of the air. The literal rendering of this first verse is “let the waters swarm with swarming things, living creatures, and let birds fly.” God is in essence showing off here! Not just a few fish and birds, but so many that they swarm over each other. God apparently delights in showing us His bent toward abundance. His abundance of love and grace are something that flow naturally out of his creation character. This is indeed, “very good”.

And now we come to day six (someone reads Gen. 1:24-31). Here we find God creating the animals of the earth, and then the creation of mankind, made in the very image of God. This “image of God” means much more than us “looking” like God. It means that we have certain powers, the power of thought, of reason, or communication, and of self-transcendence. I would like to point out that the passage seems to imply that God was in conversation with someone, as it says quite specifically, “Let us make man in our image.” Who is God talking to here? It is my understanding that God is perhaps talking with Himself; in other words, this is a representation of what the fellowship of the Trinity is like. God converses with

the Son, and with the Spirit. This is a wonderful insight into the character of God, who wants to be in relationship with mankind, as He is with Himself. This is indeed, “good news.”

So what does God do on the 7th day? (read Gen. 2:1-3). We see that God “rested”. Was that because God was tired, or was it because He was giving us an example that we are to follow? God knows that we are finite, and we are going to get tired. Is. 40 reminds us that “even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall, but those who hope in the Lord shall renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not faint.”

This is the story of a “Galactic Blast” that shows God’s creative powers, and His love for His creation. When he looked at everything He had made, He saw that it was “very good.” Amen, and amen.