

01-01-02-The Two Creations- Part Two

God, creation, depravity

Ge.1:2a

God sticks with what He starts, no matter what it looks like.

INTRODUCTION: (read Gen 1:1-2, *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.*)
 –The creation-account reminds us of the pathway from the old life to the new life: **the God of creation is the Lord of re-creation.**
 –The first part of v.2, shows us that **HOM.idea**. **Why did God tell us that His originally created mass of matter was formless, empty, covered with darkness?** He was revealing more than the process of His original creation. He was showing us His assessment of our spiritual condition before He re-creates us. What God starts with in both cases, in creation and in re-creation, are similar. So, let’s look at the similarity....

I. The Original Creation Needed the Work of an Ongoing Creator

A. Matter, created *ex nihilo*, left something to be desired. But God had great desires planned for it. So, why did He start it this way?

1. Nature started in an elementary form: no complexity, variety, or diversity, a formless, directionless void of rudimentary elements.
2. Nature’s original simplicity bears the mark of a Creator Who is a simple Unity, not a complexity divisible into simpler parts.
 [Langdon Gilkey, “In some ways, nature images her Maker.”]

a. **The nature of light is simple, like its Creator** (“God is light.”):

- (1) But simple white light is a unity that, when dispersed through a prism, becomes a beautiful spectrum of colors.
- (2) The Creator is the simplest Unity, but through the prism of creation, He produces the broad spectrum of diverse beauty in the cosmos and beyond. [Illus: Our Monterey Aquarium visit].

b. **The nature of matter is simple, like its Creator:**

- (1) Variety in elements and diversity in molecular combinations come from basic components: electrons, protons, neutrons. From this amazing simplicity comes awesome complexity.
- (2) As simple atomic particles are basic to the complexities they form, so the simplicity of God is greater than creation’s complexity. Simple matter mirrors its Simple Maker.

c. **The nature of stars** portrays the simplicity of their Creator

- (1) Stars work by fusion of the simplest element, hydrogen into a more complex element, helium, releasing fantastic energy.
- (2) As simple hydrogen is greater than complex helium, so the Simple Author of the stars is greater than the large, complex universe of stars that bear His stamp of ownership.

B. Gen 1:2’s simple, original creation had a fundamental problem: it had no discipline, no rules, no laws. What’s the matter with matter without laws?– v.2a, Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep.... (Basically, God called it *tohu* and *bohu*.)

1. *tohu* = in confusion, in chaos, in disorder, formless
2. *bohu* = void, empty [like the “Nothing” in *The Never Ending Story*: where a total lack of imagination was swallowing up the land of Fantasia, and only a boy’s imagination could save it.] (Elementary creation was something that was a nothing. It totally lacked imagination and needed the further touch of the God Who is the greatest creative Imaginator.)
3. Also, there was “darkness”—another nothing, the absence of light [something missing called a photon, which is the release of energy when an electron drops back to its home orbit after jumping to a higher one when an atom is heated up.] (God hadn’t yet turned on the lights by heating up electrons or by making the laws that cause photons to work.)

C. The laws of God for matter do matter (Science studies, but can’t make, change, or control them!) [from my poem “Science and Spirit”: “Science watches the behavior of the world in which we dwell / Finding laws that order nature, and articulates them well./ But each law that we discover is not really seen or met./ We record a law’s effects, but cannot isolate one yet.”]

1. Creation can’t function without its Creator– Acts 17:28, “For in him we live and move and have our being.” [Paul, quoting Epimenides, a pagan seer, 600 BC] (God sustains creation by His law and by His power.)
2. Matter is in disorder without a Lawgiver [formless like clay before the creative skill of the potter shapes it into beautiful designs.]

TRANS: The Bible’s concept is not Deism [idea that God made creation, gave it laws, then let it run on its own]. Original creation needed a Lawgiver Who would stick by it through thick and thin! The True God did just that, and the best example of it is in how He sticks by the sinner. **He sticks with what He starts, no matter what it looks like**. The original state of creation was formless, empty, dark, just like the sinner’s state before he or she turns to the God of re-creation.

II. Wayward Humanity Needs the Work of the Re-Creator

- A. God didn't abandon fallen humanity, but gave us *original light* and *moral law* to provide for spiritual life and social peace.
1. All start with *original light* [John 1:9, "[Jesus is] the true light that gives light to every man"]
 2. All start with *original law* [Rom 2:14-15, Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.]
- B. Rejecting this *light* and *law* turns a sinner's life into *formless chaos*— [James 3:14-16, "But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice."]
- C. Sin makes the sinner's life *empty*. [Augustine described a *God-shaped vacuum* in each person. We fail to fill it with pleasures, prestige, power, or any other idol. It's a sanctuary meant for God alone. Only He can fill its emptiness.]
- D. Sin brings *darkness* into the sinner's life. (*Darkness* is the *absence of light*, but can come by *being absent from the light*. [Schoolrooms are *places of enlightenment*, but *absence from class* leaves students *in the dark*.])
1. Jesus described *Hell* as a place of "**outer** darkness." It's *outside* the habitation of God, *absent from His enlightening presence*.
 2. Free-will lets us *create a dark world* of our own where *love of self* replaces the *light of loving God* and *loving our neighbor*.
 3. People need to live in the *enlightening power of God's presence*, but *moral storms* can *make life's journey dark*. [When **storms** blow down power lines and the lights go out, we call the utility company (SMUD or PG&E). But when the storms of sin bring spiritual darkness, our only hope is to call for the help of the **P-G-of-E**, the **Personal God of Eternity**.]

CONCLUSION:

–**God sticks with what He starts, no matter what it looks like.** The creation account gives us hope in our *chaos*, in our *emptiness*, in our *darkness*. The laws needed for governing *disorder* came from a *Divine Lawgiver*. It's Him we meet in the *creation account*, and it's Him we must seek to meet in our *personal lives*. He's not the distant deity of *Deism* or the impersonal force of *Star Wars*. He's a personal God Who is near. He's the loving Creator Who wants to be our Re-Creator.