

01-01-04-The Two Creations, Part Four
 God, Word, light, conversion
 Gen1:3

God's work begins with His Word, which in turn brings light.

INTRODUCTION: (Read Gen 1:1-3)

–The theme of this series (title) has been: *the creation-account reminds us of the path from the old life to the new life*. Each sermon had its own theme: **1st-The God of creation is the Lord of re-creation. 2nd-God sticks with what He starts, no matter what it looks like. 3rd-The God of order is waiting to work with our disorder. This 4th one is HOM.idea.**

–Genesis contains the beginnings of all theology, and this is true of v.3. *And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.* (It offers two principles: #1) **God works through His Word** (He speaks with authority into a disordered world, whether it's that of the original creation or that of a fallen humanity needing His re-creative touch) and #2) **His work starts with light.** [Shakespeare said, “*All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players.*” The Bible is like a gigantic theatrical production or the filming of a spectacular movie. God is the **Producer, Director, and Writer** of much of the script. This life is the stage, and we're the actors, the seconds, the walk-ons, the stagehands. Some of us may even feel we're just props. In this verse we see the cameras are ready to roll, but the drama only begins when the lights come up, and it's the Divine Director who calls out, “*Lights! Action! Roll ‘em!*”] Notice that....

I. The First Thing God Brought into the World Was His Word

A. “*And God said*” (This is a fundamental revelation about God.)

1. God is a Communicator (But His words convey more than just knowledge ... they generate worlds and bring forth life.)
2. God's communication is through Christ–
 - a. Christ was God's Word in the creation– Heb1:1-2. In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and **through whom he made the universe.**
 - b. Christ was God's Word in the Incarnation– John 1:1-3,14. In the beginning was **the Word [the Logos—“the meaning, the intention, the reasoning, the logic, the mind”—of God]** and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. **Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.... The Word became flesh** and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

B. “*Let there be*”– (Throughout Scripture, we find this as the primary intention of God: to bring about His will in the world He created.)

1. We tend to focus on creeds to believe or the “*thou-shalt-nots*” to avoid, but God's emphasis is on the “do's” of obedience.
 2. This is why “the Word [the Logos] became flesh”– Heb10:5,7. Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said... ‘Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—I have come to do your will, O God.’” (Jesus said this was His mission, and this was His food-supply– John 4:34. “My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.”)
- C. “*and there was*” (This phrase reveals that God's words have absolute power to perform the perfect will they express.)
1. It's not mechanical or magical, but living power– Heb 4:12. For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. (God's Word does open heart surgery! It lays bare our inmost being, not to hurt but to heal.)
 2. Faith unlocks the power of salvation found in the written Word (Bible) about the Living Word (Christ)– Rom10:8-10. “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the **word of faith** we are proclaiming: That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. (To be saved we must use our own words, to express our own will to make Jesus our Lord.)

TRANS: God's Incarnate Word, Jesus, not only expressed God's mind but did God's will by paving the way for our salvation. He alone brings us out of death into life. He alone re-create us. Our part is to believe in this living Word and to confess Him as Lord of our lives, our thoughts, our wills, our actions. (repeat title of 1st section....)

II. The First Thing God's Word Brought into the World Was Light

A. “*Let there be light*” (Light was God's 1st priority in creation.)

1. Light is creation's cornerstone—it portrays His nature– 1John 1:5. This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: **God is light**; in him there is no darkness at all.” (There were no sun, moon, or stars yet; the light in creation's beginning was like that of the new creation– Rev 21:23. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.)

2. Light is re-creation's spiritual cornerstone in Christ– Jesus said of Himself in John 8:12, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.
- B. “*and there was light*” (Light is a reality that reveals all other realities.)
 1. God shines spiritual light to enlighten us to salvation in Christ.
 - a. People can chose to pull down their mental blinds or shut the eyes of their heart, to try to avoid the light.
 - b. But God keeps on shining, until we pray, “Open the eyes of my heart, Lord!” (Converted people say, “Now I see the light!”)
 2. Creation itself fills life with light, giving no excuse for those who close their eyes to God's light– Rom 1:20. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities–his eternal power and divine nature–have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. [My poem, “Inviting Visitations,” describes a lost soul's reflections on the grace of life:– “Recalling again the simple smile on someone's face, / The touch of a friend, a mother's hug, a sister's kiss . . . / Remembering songs and stories, gifts and mealtime grace, / The pleasures of music, marriage bed, and lover's bliss . . . / Bright visions return of Nature's multicolored speech, / Reminding of nights he camped beneath her starry sky. / Her vivacious voice and rhythmic rhymes all seemed to teach / The Song of the King that men should sing before they die.]
 3. The Gospel contains the greatest enlightenment for the soul:
 - a. 600 years before Christ, the OT described the light He would bring– Isa 9:2, The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.
 - b. The NT uses the terms of the creation account to tell about our re-creation in Christ– 2 Co 4:6, For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

CONCLUSION:

–God's work begins with His Word, which in turn brings light. His work in us follows the same pattern. In a changing world, His Word is unchanging. In the darkness of sin and unbelief, His light is undimmed.
–But it takes a personal choice to let the light of Christ become the light of your life. I made that choice in my youth. Some make it as seniors, after years of exposure to God's Word and light. The important thing is to make sure the Creator becomes your Re-Creator by inviting Christ, the Incarnate Word, to be the light of your life; by making the Lord of creation, the Lord of your personal re-creation.