



PART 1: INTRODUCTION

Sermon Notes

Text: Genesis 1:1-2

Intro:

Genesis 1-11 is “the first half” of the Bible, introducing all the scriptures major themes.

It’s a reflection on the human story: Origins, identity and destiny.

“The Story of all Stories” - the story that makes sense of every other story.

Genesis 1:1-2

1. “In the beginning God...”

Genesis is presented as a story with a beginning

Genesis was written after the Hebrews left slavery in Egypt. It helped give them an identity, and orient them to their relationship with God.

It was not meant to be an apologetic in scientific debate.

2. “...created the heavens and the earth...”

Literally - “The sky and the land” (everything!)

The land referred generally to the earth, but specifically to the Promised Land.

3. “...The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters.”

Darkness refers to sin, chaos and ignorance

Later God gives form and fullness to the formless and empty land.

4. “...And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.”

“Spirit” is the same Hebrew word as “wind” or “breath”

When the breath of God begins to blow on the world in v. 3, disorder becomes order and dark becomes light.

When the presence of God is near, anything is possible!

Jeremiah 10:11

Psalms 96:5

The Spirit of God is over our land today, regardless of how dark and chaotic it may seem. In that setting, anything is possible!

Conclusion:

God is doing a new creation in Jesus!

2 Corinthians 5:17

John 1:1

Connect Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. How familiar are you with the book of Genesis? Have you read the whole book? What do you remember? Is there something specific you're looking forward to in this new series?
2. What stood out to you from Sunday's sermon?

Study & Discussion:

1. Some people use Genesis 1 exclusively to argue for a certain scientific view of the origins of the universe. Pastor Dave suggested that this isn't what the text was meant to be used for, and it causes us to miss out on the main purpose of the text. Do you agree or disagree with that? How do you approach conversations about the origins of the universe and/or the origins of life on earth? ***Pastor's note: Don't let this conversation turn into an unhealthy argument. Instead, use it as an opportunity to practice listening to a variety of different perspectives.*
2. Read Exodus 14:21-22. Notice that a "wind" split the sea apart. The word "wind" is the same word for "Spirit." This text links directly back to Genesis 1:2 (read that again).
 - What does this tell us about the work of the Holy Spirit in the world?
 - What does this tell us about how God provides salvation?
 - What does this tell us about God's presence in our own lives?
3. Read John 1:1-5. How does this passage reflect back on Genesis 1:1-2? What does it add? What clues does it give about the ministry of Jesus (i.e. in what way is Jesus' ministry an act of creation?) See also 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Practice:

Spend time in prayer this week asking God to reveal the work of his Spirit in your life. Ask him to "hover over" the dark and chaotic places, and to begin to do a new creative act to bring order and light. Pray specifically, and trust that God will be what he does best.