

Genesis 1:3-5

A Revealed Creator

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And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness.⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

(Pastor prays)

Studying the Book of Genesis is a daunting task.

The amount of scholarship and books, opinions and debates is almost overwhelming, so much so that, if we are not careful, we choke on too much information.

I think our best approach is to be riveted to the words on the page of the Bible so that we aren't carried away by one person's thoughts or opinions. As people of the Book, we are most concerned with what this book says.

From the beginning, there is only one subject in all of this – God.

God is the subject, everything else is an object. Objects are *acted upon*, subjects *do* the acting. We learn this pretty early in school. Sentence structure. Subject – verb – object. *Dad drove the car. The preacher ate ice cream.* Subject – verb – object.

From the very beginning, God is the actor and everything else is acted upon. Even in our text for this morning, God spoke (v. 3), God saw, God separated and God called (v. 4). God spoke – Omnipotence (all-powerful). God saw – Omniscience (all-knowing). God separated (all-wise). God called – Sovereign (all-sustaining God). Creation shows us these things. In Genesis 1, you have 8 specific commands that call all things into being, and as we look at the first day of creation, these 3 verses ground us in an uncertain world.

The first day of creation shows us so much about our Creator and His unrelenting love for His creation.

Creation Shows Us God

Creation Shows Us the Power of His Word

We get to the third verse of this book about God and, for the first time, our God speaks. “And God said” – the glorious reminder that He will not be silent. God spoke and it was. V. 3 – “God said let there be light and there was light.” (This shows) The unleashed, unstoppable force of God’s word. He spoke and it was! God’s word, the simple act of Him speaking, makes things happen.

The Psalmist knew this. Psalm 33:9 *For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.* He knew this as creation by fiat. (Latin meaning - "Let it be done"). God’s spoken word. This truth about God in Genesis is revealed about Jesus in the Gospels.

Remember the story in Matthew 8. A centurion came up to Jesus and said he had a servant at home suffering terribly. Jesus agreed to come to the centurion’s house and the centurion said to Jesus, “Just say the word.” By the word of Jesus blind men saw, deaf men heard, lame men walked. By the word of Jesus demons fled, women stopped their crying and Lazarus came forth. In his own words Jesus said, “Your sins are forgiven, who condemns you? Go and sin no more.” Dying on the cross in the place of sinners, he spoke the words “It is finished.”

Creation shows us the power of God’s word. John the apostle uses this passage (Genesis 1:3-5) as a template when he introduces us to the Living Word, Jesus. John 1:1-5 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.* Or as the writer of Hebrews tells us about Jesus in Hebrews 1:3, *He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.*

God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit created the universe and He holds it together by His word. Now if God upholds all things by the word of His power, He will handle what your life brings Him. What did you walk in here with? Abuse? Secret sin? Bitterness? Do you have someone you hate? Maybe with good reason. Creation is

chock-full of the Gospel. Follow the trail of light. Creation shows us the power of God's word. John the apostle uses Genesis to point us to Jesus. The Lord Jesus has the same power to forgive you, to heal your heart, to change you, to restore your hope. Our dark world needs to know His holy light.

Creation shows us the power of God's word.

Creation Shows Us the Power of His Presence

V. 3 is very straightforward. *And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.* If we are not careful, we go running right past v. 3 without noticing something. There seems to be something missing in v. 3. God said "let there be light," (and) there was light but what was producing the light? There's no *sun*. The sun doesn't show up until the 4th day, all the way down in v. 16. I think Moses is making a point here that God is light and in Him there is no darkness.

Genesis 1:3 tells us that light precedes the sun and Revelation 22:5 tells us the light outlasts the sun because God's presence is the illuminating factor. Even the word itself-- "light" -- is used 5 times in these three verses.

The presence of God brings light. When God brought his people out of slavery in Exodus, He led them as a cloud by day and fire by night. Jesus reaches back to Genesis as He describes His mission and who He is. In John 3:19, *And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.*

Light does primarily 2 things: it exposes and clarifies. Spiritually, when the light of God's word is directed at our lives, we see dirt. God's word exposes pride, jealousies, lusts, meanness, unforgiveness... And once you are seeing the wrong in yourself, the first thing to do is to confess it. Confess means to say the same thing that God says especially as we read this in light of the cross and Christ dying in the place of sinners.

We can't help but see the gravity of sin. Light exposes it so we can confess, believe and repent. The light of God exposes but light also clarifies.

On my desk in my office I have a desk lamp that shines directly on whatever I am reading so I can see the word accurately; and that's what the light of God does. It shows

us what is true. That's what Paul said to the church at Corinth. 2 Corinthians 4:6, *For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*

This book puts the spotlight on Jesus Christ, and a sermon that comes from the Bible but doesn't point to Christ is not a Christian sermon. God said "let there be light" because there was darkness and God makes the announcement, "Let there be light" into the negative state of things and He changes the darkness.

This is what Christ does. He changes the darkness. His perfect life, His death on the cross in the place of sinners and His resurrection. Will you this morning step into the light of Christ.

Turn away from your sin and turn to Christ.

(Pastor prays)