

**Genesis 1: 6-19; “The Acts of Creation”, Sermon # 2 in the series – “Beginnings”,
Delivered by Pastor Paul Rendall on September 19th, 2004, in the
Morning Worship Service, and again on April 21st, 2013.**

God, in these verses, is now displaying His handiwork in forming and fashioning the physical heavens and the earth. God's intention was to provide everything related to life for his creature man, and then to create Him. Martin Luther says, “Before He created man, He first built a beautiful home for him, commanding him to enjoy all the luxuries of His great and splendid mansion.” “On the 3rd day He filled our kitchens and cellars.” “On the 4th day He gave to man, for his use and service, the sun and the moon.” “It is right and profitable to consider in connection with the text, God's care for us before we were created.” “Everything else is useless and unprofitable.”

God built into His creation – His own goodness. And so too, Christ does the same thing in the 2nd or spiritual creation, in the rebirth of the soul of everyone who becomes a Christian. This morning we will look again from the creation of the world to the New Creation of the heart of a sinner. I will attempt to open up for you this display of God's wisdom, and His acts of power in nature and grace. The way in which God provided for man's physical life leads us to the consideration of what God has provided for all believers in their living the Christian life.

The question we are asking this morning is this – “How does God's creation and definition of things in the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th days of creation relate to your becoming a new creature in Christ?” And we find here that there are 3 acts in Creation, in these 3 days, which show us God's purpose, and His handiwork also, in our salvation.

1st – His act of using water as a tool to shape and define the heavens and the earth.
(verses 6-10)

In 2nd Peter 3: 5 it says that it was “by the word of God that the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water.” God defined and formed both the firmament and the dry land with the tool of waters in His hands, even as a potter uses water with clay. The waters completely surrounded the whole surface of the globe of the earth, and God spoke. He used His voice as hands to make a separation called “a firmament” in the midst of the waters. In doing so He created the whole atmosphere in which we live with finer amounts of moisture in it, and the clouds with heavier amounts of moisture in them.

It says that there were waters above the firmament and waters under the firmament. It seems entirely possible that in the days of the 1st Creation there was more water suspended in the upper atmosphere than there is today. And I believe that it is a legitimate deduction to conclude that these waters were placed there by God to promote the ideal and perfect living conditions of the Garden of Eden, which would come later. These waters were also reserved for the judgment of the great flood and they were released on the day that Noah entered into the ark. They are called the fountains of the great deep and the windows of heaven in Genesis 7: 11 and 12.

If you will turn with me over to Psalm 104 and you will see a description of this. “Bless the Lord, O my soul!” “O Lord my God, You are very great: You are clothed with honor and majesty, Who cover Yourself with light as with a garment, who stretch out the heavens like a curtain.” “He lays the beams of His upper chambers in the waters, who makes the clouds His chariot, who walks on the wings of the wind, who makes His angels spirits, His ministers a flame of fire.” “You who laid the foundations of the earth, so that it should not be moved forever.” “You covered it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains; they went down into the valleys, to the place which You founded for them.” “You have set a boundary that they may not pass over, that they may not return to cover the earth.” “He sends springs into the

valleys; they flow among the hills, they give drink to every beast of the field; the wild donkeys quench their thirst.” “By them the birds of the heavens have their home; they sing among the branches.” “He waters the hills from His upper chambers; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of Your works.”

We need to see a few things from these verses. God covered the earth with waters as a garment. Then when the waters standing above the mountains were rebuked by God – they flee and hasten away. In Genesis 1: 9 it says that they were gathered together in one place so that dry land would appear and the gathering together of the waters would be called seas. These waters went to the places God founded for them. They went into channeled valleys, and God set boundaries for them so that they would not return to cover the earth. Some of these waters were made springs which flow among the hills. They satisfy the thirst of all living creatures – every beast of the field and every bird of the air. The earth is thus satisfied with the fruit of God's works. Do you see that it only God who could have done such great wonders? Stand in awe of Him this morning.

If you turn over to Psalm 33: 6-9 you see the same kind of language. “By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth. He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap.” “He lays up the deep in storehouses.” “Let all the earth fear the Lord.” “Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.” “For He spoke and it was done, He commanded and it stood fast.” So much for the day-age theory of creation. God only has need to speak and it is done, He commands and it stands fast. This does not take an age or millions of years to do. How dishonoring it is to the attributes of our glorious God to think that God is not as powerful and infinitely wise as His word clearly describes Him to be!

Oh repent, you Christians who want to give ground to the Evolutionists and pretend that it took God such a long time to bring His creation to pass when it talks of evening and morning being a literal day and you cannot believe it. These verses that we have been looking at have many implications for our salvation as well. If we are to be saved from our sins and live the Christian life we must come to believe that the God who uses waters to thus define the earth, and Who set bounds to the earth and provides for the needs of all His creatures, has also through the grace of Jesus Christ provided for repentant believing sinners. He can divide the waters of the Red Sea so that His people can march through on dry ground while Pharaoh's chariots and all his army are drowned when He lets them come back.

When the waters of affliction or judgment cover our lives, He is able to divide them. He is able to bring grace and channel it into our hearts. The great deeps of our sinful souls can be broken up and we are caused to know that it is God who has divided the waters of judgment from the waters of blessing. He preserves His people, He satisfies them. He gives them to drink of the water of life freely. (Revelation 22: 17) The wicked people who would hold on to their sin, His word says, “are like the troubled sea when it cannot rest whose waters cast up mire and dirt.” “There is no peace, says my God, for the wicked.” (Isaiah 57: 20 and 21) But for those who trust in Christ He stills the agitations of their hearts.

And when the disturbing thoughts of sin and fears toss our hearts about, He speaks to us by His powerful word and forgives all our trespasses as we confess them and calms all our fears as He did the sea of Galilee with a word. “He stills the noise of their waves and the tumults of the peoples.” (Psalm 65: 7) Now ask yourself this morning, “Has Christ done this for me?” He has loved the church and given Himself for it, that He might cleanse her “with the washing of water by the word.” He redefines our direction in life, He cleanses us, washes us by His word, speaking to us to define our obedience and bounds our sinful tendencies; saying to our sins, “You shall come no further.” May each of us see Him like this today; so powerful, yet so tender and compassionate to those who will trust in Him.

2nd – Let’s consider that His act of bringing forth vegetation and fruit according to its kind shows us also God’s purpose and handiwork in salvation. (verses 11-13)

“Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind whose seed is in itself.” God made provision for vegetables and fruits and ground to cover and beautified the earth with vegetation. God has given the process of life to these plants and grasses, to have its seed in itself and thus when the seed falls into the earth and dies then it germinates life, it bears its fruits, according to its kind. So too, Jesus Christ has the principle and power of eternal life within Himself. He is the seed which falls into the ground and died after He went to the cross. And His death produced much fruit.

Now if we believe in Jesus, that He died and rose again, we become seeds after His kind. We lose our life of worldliness and pride and sinful selfishness by trusting in Him for grace. The seed of righteousness is planted within our hearts. 1 John 3: 9 says, “Whoever has been born of God does not sin; (he does not hold on to, or practice sin) for His seed remains in him and he cannot sin because he is born of God.” We have His seed within us as believers - We are of His kind. We sow to the Spirit and not to the flesh. And some day we shall be raised with Him after we die. As it says in 1 Corinthians 15: 35 and following; “But someone will say, ‘How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?’” “Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies.” “And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be, but mere grain- perhaps wheat or some other grain.” “But God gives it a body as He pleases, and to each seed its own body.”

God is going to raise us up who believe in Jesus. He will raise us up and we don't quite yet understand well enough yet, that it is necessary that we be sown as seed in this way that we might come to have the celestial body, and so that we can be raised incorruptible and sinless. But Christ shall speak the word at the last day and it shall be so. God spoke on the third day and it was so. He shall speak on the last day and it shall be so. We are planted together with Christ in the likeness of His death and we shall be raised like Him in the likeness of His resurrection.

Now 3rd – God’s purpose and handiwork are shown forth in His act of making 2 great lights to rule the day and the night. (verses 14-19)

Then God said, “Let there be lights in the firmament of heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons and for days and years.” Even though there was no sun before this, time was being measured by God, for man’s sake, as evening and morning – a day. The earth was rotating and there was the play of light and darkness upon it as it pleased God, but now the light is given its placement into a body; a ball of fiery gasses at a perfect distance from the earth and nearness to it. Time would now be marked by the rotation of the earth on its axis in relation to the sun. This would be days and the time for the earth to orbit around the sun would be a year.

The seasons would be marked off by the distance of the earth from the sun and its position in relation to it. And signs of good or bad weather, or signs for the times of plenty and harvesting would be understood by the temperature changes which accompanied the seasons. Understanding would come to men of what was needed to be done for life and livelihood because of these 2 great lights being placed in the sky. He made the stars also. The sun in the heavens which we see each day is a picture of Christ ruling in the heavens. He is the light of the world. Without Him we have no spiritual truth or light.

Spiritual light existed before Christ came into this world, but ever since He came, the spiritual light is essentially contained in Christ. He is the radiance of the Father’s glory, the Sunshine of His Father’s face, as the hymn writer put it. “Life and immortality have been brought to light” in the gospel of Jesus Christ. We, as his church, are like the moon. What light we have spiritually is borrowed from Him and we reflect His glory, and we exist to shine light in the darkness of this fallen dark world. Individual believers that make up Christ’s body are like

the stars of the heavens. We are meant to shine like lights in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation. (Philippians 2: 5)

The sun rules the day and the Son of God is ruling presently at the right hand of God. “The darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining.” (1st John 2: 8) The moon is the lesser light, but it rules the night. And Christ would have us live and work and walk in the light which He alone gives. Daniel 12: 3 shows us how important it is that we live out the truth of God's word and follow Jesus. “Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever.” To let our light shine is to turn many to righteousness. It is Christ Himself who illumines our darkness.

The Sun was created to rule the day, and the moon created to rule the night. The Lord Jesus Christ “shall reign where'er the sun shall his successive journey's run”. “His kingdom stretch from shore to shore, 'til moons shall wax and wane no more.” The moon goes through its phases and sometimes it is waxing and sometimes it is waning. But it is because of the sun that the moon is ruling the night. So it is that Christ's church does rule over the darkness and we pray that she will rule over the darkness in a greater sense before the end of the age. Let us thank our God that He has given us these great lights, the sun to rule the day and the moon to rule the night and let us pray to reflect His glory in this dark world until we see Him face to face in that place where there will be no physical sun or moon any longer. “They shall need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light.” “And they shall reign forever and ever.”