

Exploring the Nature of God (God, Our Creator)

Introduction:

- I. The importance of knowing God can never be overstated. We should all aim to know God and thankfully the Bible helps us to accomplish this. Through a study of God's Word, we can know about God's will and God's wants. We can know about God's power and God's personality. We can know about God's commands and God's character. Through the precepts and promises found in God's holy text, we can know a little something about the nature of our God and thus be in position to please Him by giving Him the honor, praise and glory that He deserves. In this series of lessons, then, we are going to be exploring the nature of God and we want to begin at the beginning and talk about God our Creator.

- II. In Genesis 1 the Bible simply says, "*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.*" It is not insignificant that the first thing we read about God when we open His Word is that He is the Creator. Nor is it insignificant that the first time we read about God in the Bible, the word God is translated from the Hebrew word Elohim. Elohim is derived from the shorter word *EI* which means mighty and strong. The word Elohim, then, points to the greatness and glory of God.

Deut 10:17

For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe.

So, the point of it is this, as we begin to observe the nature of God, we see first that God is the Creator, emphasizing His omnipotence and sovereignty. And in this very first chapter of the Bible where we first meet God, at least three important facts are discovered. We want to talk about those facts in the body of this lesson.

Lesson:

I. **Elohim Is Eternal (Genesis 1:1a).**

As we have seen, the opening words of the Bible are, "*In the beginning, God.*" In the beginning points to the origin of the universe. And where was God in the beginning? I'll tell you where He was! He was already there. Why? Because God is the one who has always been and will always be. God is the one who began the beginning.

Ps 90:1-2

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. 2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

God is the One who is without beginning and without end. God is the One who didn't have a start and will never have a finish. With God there will always be a tomorrow. With God there will always be a next. You see, God will never close, conclude or cease to be because He is the first and the last, the alpha and the omega. God, ladies and gentlemen, is eternal.

Now we are learning something about the nature of God. You see, if God is eternal, that means He is completely self-existent and self-sufficient. God wasn't created, He is the Creator. And since all created things have a beginning, that means that before God's creation, He was alone in existence. There was God and nothing else. There was no physical or material stuff. There was no matter or energy. There were no atoms or electrons. There were no protons or neutrons. There was nothing but God. And guess what? At that time when God was all alone, He was just fine. He didn't lack anything. He didn't need anything. He didn't have to have anything. God doesn't need the heavens and the earth, but the heavens and the earth need God because He is their Creator. God doesn't need the sun, moon and stars, but they need God because He is their Creator. God, ladies and gentlemen, doesn't need me and He doesn't need you, but we need God because He is our Creator. The point of it is this, God doesn't need anything but Himself because He is self-existent and self-sufficient. A.W. Tozer put it like this:

"God has a voluntary relation to everything He has made, but He has no necessary relation to anything outside of Himself" (The Bible Exposition Commentary: Old Testament).

Now, let me say a little something about this statement, *"In the beginning, God..."* We know that God was in the beginning and if we are smart, we will begin everything with God. If you want to have a good day, make sure that God is in the beginning of it. If you want your decisions to be wise and fruitful, make sure that God is in the beginning of it. If you want your marriage to be magnificent, make sure that God is in the beginning of it. If you want to raise your children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, make sure that God is in the beginning of it. If you want to find answers to the problems of life, make sure that God is in the beginning of it. If you want your worship to be real and your religion to be right, make sure that God is in the beginning of it. Everything we do should begin with God. We should be able to say with every step we take and every move we make, "in the beginning, God..."

II. Creationism Is Correct (Genesis 1:1b).

There are two things that are never argued in the Bible—that God exists and that God created the heavens and the earth. These facts are set forth in God's Word

as foregone conclusions and as Bible believing Christians we must accept these truths without hesitation or vacillation. *"In the beginning, God created..."* That's the biblical stand and it must be our stand too.

What did God create? He created the heavens and the earth. And it should be emphasized here that God created something out of nothing. Bible scholar H.C. Leupold put it like this:

"...this passage teaches creatio ex nihilo," creation out of nothing," a doctrine otherwise also clearly taught by the Scriptures...The verb is never used other than of Divine activity" (H.C. Leupold, Exposition of Genesis I, pg. 41).

Illustration:

One day a group of scientists got together and decided that man had come a long way and no longer needed God. So they picked one scientist to go and tell Him that they were done with Him.

The scientist walked up to God and said, "God, we've decided that we no longer need you. We're to the point that we can clone people and do many miraculous things, so why don't you just go on and get lost."

God listened very patiently and kindly to the man and after the scientist was done talking, God said, "Very well, how about this, let's say we have a man making contest." To which the scientist replied, "OK, great!"

But God added, "Now, we're going to do this just like I did back in the old days with Adam."

The scientist said, "Sure, no problem" and bent down and grabbed himself a handful of dirt.

God looked at him and said, "No, no, no. You get your own dirt!"

Listen to me: man can do some wonderful things. Man can create things that delight the eyes and mesmerize the mind. But only God can create something out of nothing. Man can erect skyscrapers that reach the heavens and build bridges that cross over seas, but only God can create something out of nothing. Man, ladies and gentlemen, can take raw material and make houses and homes to live in, planes and trains to help him get to places and highways and byways to travel upon, but only God can create something out of nothing. Truly there is no god like our God. In Rom. 4:17 Paul says that God *"calls into existence the things that do not exist."* There isn't any other creature anywhere who can do that. God simply spoke the word and then out of nowhere and out of nothing the heavens and the earth and everything therein came to be.

Now in Gen. 1:2 the Bible says that at first *"the earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep,"* but it didn't last long for God acted quickly and brought design out of disorder; He created the cosmos out of chaos and produced beauty out of barrenness. While vers. 2-3 sets forth the proclamation of God's creation, the rest of chapter one sets forth the perfecting of God's creation. And while we don't have time to study this perfecting in detail tonight, let me just say that as you read and study Genesis one and the first

portion of chapter two, concerning the account of God's creation, you should, in fact, you must believe every verse and every word of every verse, for creation took place, not as the majority of scientist teach, but exactly the way it is revealed and outlined in the Word of God.

Why is it important to emphasize this? Because too many people deny the account of God's creation and instead attribute the existence of the heavens and earth and everything in them to mere chance. Our young people are being taught that the origin of all things came about by some unexplained evolutionary development of eternal matter. They call this the Big Bang Theory. What exactly is the Big Bang Theory? Well, let's allow advocates of it tell us.

"About 15 billion years ago a tremendous explosion started the expansion of the universe. This explosion is known as the Big Bang. At the point of this event all of the matter and energy of space was contained at one point. What existed prior to this event is completely unknown and is a matter of pure speculation. This occurrence was not a conventional explosion but rather an event filling all of space with all of the particles of the embryonic universe" (Chris LaRocco and Blair Rothstein).

In a nutshell, those who oppose creationism and instead believe in the big bang theory and other evolutionary doctrines say that the universe is here ultimately by chance and that it all started by some unexplained explosion or at least an expansion of dead matter. Listen to me: I'm no scientist and I don't have a PHD in astrology, cosmology or anthropology, but I do know this, the big bang theory makes no sense. Any belief that forces one to conclude that either something came from nothing or that the something that everything came from was dead matter, is nonsensical. Think about it, the idea that some atheistic scientists are now setting forth is that before the big bang explosion occurred, nothing existed. In an article entitled, "Big Bang Theory-The Premise," found on the "All about Science" website, the following was said:

*"The Big Bang theory is an effort to explain what happened at the very beginning of our universe. Discoveries in astronomy and physics have shown beyond a reasonable doubt that our universe did in fact have a beginning. **Prior to that moment there was nothing**; during and after that moment there was something: our universe. The big bang theory is an effort to explain what happened during and after that moment."*

Does that not teach that something came from nothing? That is not even scientifically sound. Even science teaches that there is a cause for every effect. Nothing cannot produce an effect. The only thing that nothing can produce is nothing. If there was ever a time when there was nothing, there would still be nothing. So, this being the case we must conclude that something has always existed. Even most atheistic thinkers who believe in the big bang theory acknowledge this. So, the question is, what existed?

According to the big bang theory it was matter. Now, that is not much better than saying that something came from nothing, but the truth is the options are slim. In fact, we only have two choices from which to choose. Either mind or matter is eternal and everything in the universe came from one of them. Now, atheist and evolutionist certainly don't want to say that mind is eternal because that would be acknowledging that there was intelligent design behind the creating of this universe and thus there must be a designer. No, they don't like that conclusion so instead they have opted for the eternal matter position. But that in turn leads to the inescapable conclusion that the greater was created by the lesser, in other words, you have matter responsible for producing mind rather than mind producing matter. That's like saying that the watch created the watchmaker or the art created the artist. Who can believe that with a straight face. Furthermore, since there was, according to the big bang theory, no mind around when the universe was created, in fact, there was no intelligent being of any kind for billions of years, everything that happened simply happened by chance. Now I want you to consider for a moment the chances of that. A. Cressy Morrison, a scientist who believes in God, wrote a book entitled, "Man Does Not Stand Alone." In it he showed why, as a scientist, he believes in God. Notice the facts he reveals in his book:

1. *The earth rotates on its axis one thousand miles an hour; if it turned at one hundred miles an hour, our days and night would be ten times as long as now, and the hot sun would burn up our vegetation each long day, while in the long night any surviving sprout would freeze.*
2. *The sun has a surface temperature of 12,000 degrees Fahrenheit, and our earth is just far enough away so that this eternal fire warms us just enough and not too much! If the sun gave off only half of its present radiation, we would freeze and if it gave half as much more, we would roast.*
3. *The slant of the earth, tilted at an angle of 23 degrees, gives us our seasons; if it had not been so tilted, vapors from the ocean would move north and south, piling up for us continents of ice.*
4. *If our moon was only 50 thousands mile away instead of its actual distance, our tides would be so enormous that twice a day all continents would be submerged; even the mountains would soon be eroded away.*
5. *If the crust of the earth had been only ten feet thicker, there would be no oxygen, without which animal life must die.*
6. *Had the ocean been a few feet deeper, carbon dioxide and oxygen would have been absorbed and no vegetable life could exist.*
7. *If our atmosphere had been much thinner, some of the meteors, now burned in space by the millions every day, would be striking all parts of the earth, setting fires everywhere.*

Now, which is the more intelligent conclusion? All these things just happened by chance or that there is order to this universe because of the divine planning of God (*Ronald Regan's illustration of cooking a meal*). This universe obviously has design to it and therefore you must have a designer. It is not matter that is eternal it is mind and that mind belongs to God. He, ladies and gentlemen, is the Creator. Evolution is wrong and creationism is correct and it all came about just as we read it in Genesis the first chapter. God created the heavens and the earth and He did it in six literal, 24 hours days. Listen to the Word of God:

Ex 31:17

It is a sign forever between me and the people of Israel that in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed.

Ps 33:6, 9

By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host...9 For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.

Heb 1:10

And, You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands.

Heb 11:3

By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

Yes, God is the Creator and His power is declared loudly and forcefully by His creation. God's creation, including the creation of us, tells us that God is great. God is almighty. God is all-powerful. God is unrivaled. God is unequalled. God is unsurpassed. And let me tell you, ladies and gentlemen, He deserves our respect and reverence. We looked at Psa. 33:6 and 9 a moment ago. Notice, though, what is said between those verses:

Ps 33:7-8

He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap; he puts the deeps in storehouses. 8 Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him!

III. Every Person Has a Purpose (Gen. 1:26-27).

Listen: the title of this lesson is not "God, the Creator," though that would have been okay. The title is God, Our Creator. We have already seen in this lesson, the greatness and grandeur of our God. How comforting should it be to know that He is our Creator. That He shaped us and formed us and gave us the body and soul that we presently have. And while God did a lot of great things in the six days of creation, He saved the best for last, didn't He? You see, we are the crowning point of God's creation for the record says that He created us in His own image and after His likeness. That wasn't said of the heavens and the earth. That wasn't said of the sun, moon and stars. That wasn't said of the birds

of the air, the fish of the sea or the animals of the earth. Man and man alone has been created in the image of God. Now, let's close this lesson by looking at some practical points concerning God being our Creator.

A. There is a purpose for every person.

How do I know this? Because being created in the image of God has nothing to do with our physical bodies, it has to do with our spirits. You see, God not only created us with intelligence and rationality, but most importantly, He created us with an eternal spirit that will never die. That tells me something. That tells me that God wants man to be with Him forever. God, ladies and gentlemen, wants to save every single person who ever lives. God's purpose for every human being is to fear Him and keep His commandments. Why? Not just because it is our duty, but because God wants to save us.

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

Why does God want man to come to repentance? Because He created us in His image in order that we might spend all of eternity with Him in heaven (**Eph. 1:15-18**). This is our purpose. Let me ask you, are you fulfilling the purpose for which you were created?

B. There is a place for all people.

While God's ultimate purpose for man is a home in heaven, in the Genesis text, He sets forth a more immediate plan.

Gen 1:28

And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

The earth that God created would be sufficient to hold all His creation. God wasn't worried about a population explosion, was He. God wanted man to multiply. Now, let me take this opportunity to say this—abortion is not a part of God's creation plan, but children are. Not only is abortion wrong and sinful, but it runs contrary to man's instruction from God to multiply and fill the earth. Sadly, man has decided that murder and massacre is more important than multiplying. Listen: life is sacred and should be protected not exterminated for personal convenience. I like this statement made by George W. Bush:

“We share a great goal, to work toward a day when every child is welcomed in life and protected in law...to build a culture of life, affirming that every person at every stage and season of life, is created equal in God’s image” (Sandra Sobieraj, Associated Press).

We should all share that goal and pray for the day when the butchery that this country calls abortion is abolished, and all life becomes sacred once again. Why? Because there is a place for all people.

C. There is hope for every human.

Since God is our Creator, He knows a little something about helping us when we are in need. And man is never in more need than when he has succumbed to the affliction of sin. But God knows how to fix it!

In the early days of the automobile a man's Model-T Ford stalled in the middle of the road. He couldn't get it started no matter how hard he tried. Just then a chauffeured limousine pulled up behind him, and a wiry, energetic man stepped out from the back seat and offered his assistance. After tinkering for a few moments the stranger said, "Now try it!" Immediately the engine leaped to life. The well-dressed individual then identified himself as Henry Ford. "I designed and built these cars," he said, "so I know what to do when something goes wrong."

God, as our Creator knows how to "fix" us when our lives are broken by sin. Maybe sin has ruined your life, but every human has hope. That hope is Jesus Christ.

Titus 1:1-2

Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness. 2 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

If you haven't accepted Jesus by your faithful obedience to the gospel of Christ, why not now. In just a moment we will offer the invitation, and you will have a chance to get ready to meet your Creator in the day of judgment, whether that comes sooner later or sooner.

Conclusion:

So, God is our Creator. This brings us great joy and offers us great encouragement because our Creator is Elohim and He is eternal. He has the power and the might to create something out of nothing and with the fullness of His nature, He watches over us because we have been created in his image and after His likeness. In Ecclesiastes 12:1 Solomon said, “Remember now thy Creator...” and we should certainly take that to heart in everything that we do.