

God Did It!
Genesis 1:1-5
John 1:1-5, 9-14
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Many have claimed there is no God, that all of this –this universe—just happened. It didn't. Scripture teaches there is a God, one God, who acted to cause all of this universe to happen. Science now almost universally argues there was a beginning, a big-bang, but science never answers, what banged? And who made it bang---the First Cause? And how did it get from just a bang to what we have all around us –this Intelligent Design? Never do they turn to Scripture for an answer. Instead, they study and postulate, and argue for proof, without ever offering a suggestion of where this stuff that banged came from or how it all came to fit together without design. Folks, we live in an ordered and planned world, where everything works together and fits together. It didn't just happen. It had a beginning and it will have an ending, and with creation—the big bang of let there be light- came the concepts of time and space. Whatever caused the bang, thre beginning, existed outside of time and space. The beginning has been explained in easy to understand lananguage in Scripture – “On the first day, God said” –how long is a day in the life of an eternal God--and the end has been prophesied---it is coming.

Today, we begin a new series –this one is called, “Great Themes of the Bible.” In it I want us to explore through these great themes, how the Bible is a seamless whole, how Old and New Testament fit together, how you can't understand God completely, unless you study both Old and New testament, and how the themes of the Bible are in both

Testaments, Today, the theme is the beginning – the Creation—and who did it—the Creator. Let us hear God’s word to us from Scripture about the beginning.

The first reading is Genesis 1:1-5

Genesis 1

1. In the beginning God created the heavens and he earth.
2. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.
3. And God said, let there be light and thee was light.
4. God saw that the light was good, and he 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.

The second reading comes from the New Testament, from the Gospel of John

John 1: 1-5

1. In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.
2. He was with God in the beginning.
3. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.
4. In him was life and that life was the light of all mankind.
5. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

The Word of the Lord!

In the beginning, Scripture says simply--God created and In the beginning was the Word. God created. All of God—all the ways we know God were there--Father God, Spirit God, Son God. One God, known to us in three ways, there at the beginning.

The Hebrew words that start the Bible—Barasit Bara come from the word “Bara.” The Hebrew verb is in the Qal stem, meaning that in that particular stem, it can only be used to describe something God did and that man cannot do. We translate the words as “to create,” or “to initiate,” What Scripture teaches is that in the beginning, God created.

Created. Began it all! With just the words —“Let there be ... But, there’s a lot more going on in the word created than just a beginning point. If we listen to the words of each of the days of creation, we can hear so much more than the word “create” wants us to take from what appears as a simple statement. God created the universe, all of it, and God ended the sixth day by creating humans, as it says --created in His image, put here to exercise dominion over God’s creation --not own it or destroy it, but to be stewards over it and in it.

But, that’s another sermon. Let’s go back to “Created.” It means Something came from nothing, Created, not reworked, not manipulated, not some new form. Created! Everything from nothing! And it was ordered and organized. It wasn’t haphazard. A blind monkey with a miniature piano just didn’t stumble across the right formula to create anything. God created. God organized it all. God ordered it all, so that everything fit, each part of creation interlocked and is and was subject to and dependent upon another. The earth is just at the right distance from the sun, so that life can be sustained. Any closer and we

burn, any farther away and we freeze. Life couldn't make it, life as we know it, if our distances from the sun were different. And who put the earth on a gyroscope so that the northern hemisphere got the sun and summer half a year and the southern hemisphere got it the other six months. By gyrating back and forth, all of the earth could be inhabited and productive. It took thinking and planning and organization for every little detail, and if you look closely, it all fits, it all works together. It is organized, it is ordered, and God did it.

Add to this that God put in place at the beginning a moral code requiring us

- (1) to walk humbly with God,
- (2) to be in relationship with God,
- (3) to do justice as God does it, and,
- (4) to extend mercy to all –mercy using its base of forgiveness for everything.

The first story of the humans created in God's image is one of walking with God in relationship, sharing life. In a Garden! All God asked was for us to be obedient about one tree while at the same time endowing us with the ability to say yes or no. A simple moral code: Let God walk with us in our lives and obey the one thing God asked of us. Behind that is the moral code or natural law that permeates all of existence, that some things are just right or wrong, no matter what.

Rape is wrong universally.

We aren't supposed to abuse our children.

Genocide of a people is wrong.

The first glimpses of God in Genesis show that in our beginnings, if we don't follow God's moral code, there will be judgment and consequences. Think of Adam and Eve and the forbidden fruit, think of Cain slaying Abel. Part of creation was this moral code, this natural law. This theme goes from beginning to end. Listen to God and follow God and thrive or don't and face the consequences. This moral code grows until God chose a clan and met them at Mt. Sinai, where He gave them the job of taking God to the world. Sometimes we call this gift the Ten Commandments.

Another part of creation is wisdom. God created us in His image, so that we might think and reason, that we might take the information we have been given and the unwritten laws that govern the universe and from them gain wisdom. We humans are the only part of creation that can exercise wisdom. We are not robots. We are not limited in what we can know and understand. In God's image, we have been given wisdom. We can see great ideas, great concepts, great meanings. We can know God created us to think and to use that part of God's image to understand what God is and what God is all about.

Have you ever been using your telephone, looking something up, and been blocked until you answered the question: are you a Robot? The answer is NO, we are not robots, we have been given brains with more capacity than the greatest computers designed to date,, and we can reason, and we can understand and apply it with wisdom.

Another concept imbedded in the word creation is the word justice. God asks us to be fair to each other and to this creation. God asks us to give every person their due. Justice is imbedded in creation. God's justice! Which means, we must forgive, if this justice is to work like God intended! God's justice is steeped in mercy. Adam were not

destroyed for their disobedience; they were punished –there was justice, judgment and a new beginning. God never abandoned them. God's justice forgives, and keeps on with the relationship.

God's creation also includes love. Why create in the first place? God didn't have to. But, God couldn't help it; God loves so much, God wanted to share it; so God created and showered us with His love. God was with us in the beginning; God has come to creation when we have needed it..do you think a strengthened America just happened to come along to respond to the threat of Hitler and Japan? God intervenes –the Book of Daniel we just studied is full of this. And the most spectacular time God intervened was when God came to us and lived with us as Christ and then died for us that we might live. God loves us and has said so and asked us to love Him and our neighbor in return.

Why? God couldn't help it.

So, back to where we started---when we say God created, we have to be sure the definition explains the width and breadth of the word and what all is included in the act.

Bottom line?

God created. The omnipotent, omniscient God did it all, and this loving God has put in us the ability to re-create in part. For example, , we can have children, we can order their lives, we can teach them a moral code, we can love them, we can let them make decisions for themselves that sometimes hurt them, we can pass judgment upon those decisions, but we will never give up our love for them, and we will always welcome them, even in the darkest of time, if God dwells within us. God created us in his image, intending that we pass this creation gift along. But only if we say yes to God! Think about it. God's wisdom was to give you a choice and not to make you a robot. So, how

have you chosen? If you think your choice needs help, pray now, God forgive me, let me hear your voice and let me live with your creation in my heart.