

THE BULLETIN

THIS WEEK:

Sunday:
Bible Study & Worship
Teen Dinner
Wednesday:
Bible Study
Saturday:
Pre teen Devo @ The
Frazier's

UPCOMING EVENTS:

February 25th – 27th
Yes Weekend

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE:

Month of November

Announcements:
Ray Cauthen

Singing:
a.m. – John L
p.m. – Luther Honey
Wed. – Mark Nortz

Prayer:
Tommy Mikell

Bible Reading:

Preaching:
Doug Frazier

Lord's Supper:
Luther Honey
Randy Howe
Larry Pahman
Greg Greene

Prepare communion
Patty Honey

4th Sunday Fellowship:
January

CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

By Wayne Jackson

The first chapter of Genesis is a literary phenomenon. Though written 3,500 years ago, it still is unblemished in its accuracy and sublimeness [so awe-inspiringly beautiful as to seem almost heavenly]* of presentation. Some years back, one of the world's foremost archaeologists declared that "modern cosmogonies show such a disconcerting tendency to be short-lived that it may be doubted whether science has yet caught up with the Biblical story" (Albright, 1948, 135).

The narrative begins with a fiat declaration of the origin of the entire universe.

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

The material universe was created *ex nihilo* (out of nothing) by the spoken word of God. The term *bara'* is used only of God in the biblical record, and it lends itself to the sense of a "creation out of nothing" (Unger & White, 1980, 84).

"For he spoke, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast" (Psalm 33:9). "By faith we understand that the worlds have been framed by the word of God, so that what is seen has not been made out of things which appear" (Hebrews 11:3).

The sense is, "God summoned into existence what had no existence before" (Bruce, 1990, 279).

Earth is given special attention. Initially, it was without its current spherical form and was uninhabited. The Spirit of God moved upon the face of the deep (i.e., an organizing process was begun), and God (*elohim* – a term hinting of power) spoke light into existence out of darkness (though this "light" was not the sun; cf. v. 14ff). The expression "God said" is found 10 times in this chapter.

- On the second day an "expanse" was created to separate the waters above from those below (vv. 6-8).
- The next day earth's waters were gathered together in one place, and dry land appeared. Too, God spoke and vegetation sprang up to bless the earth, the various forms being designed "after their kind" (vv. 9-13).
- On day four heavenly luminaries were created to accommodate both daytime and nighttime (vv. 14-19).

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- Day five saw the birth of various forms of marine life, then birds as well (vv. 20-23).
- Finally on day six, animals of various “kinds,” both wild and domestic, came forth to populate the planet (vv. 24-25).

And “it was good” (v. 25b). At this point no death or destruction had marred the pristine environment.

The pinnacle of the initial week was the unique commencement of humankind. Moses wrote:

“And God said, Let us make man in our image, and after our likeness ... And God created man in his own image ... male and female created he them” (vv. 26-27).

There are three points we would like to develop from this text:

- (1) the significance of the plural pronouns; *us, our*
- (2) the verbs used of the action; *make, created*
- (3) the implication [indirect suggestion]* of the “**image and likeness**” phrase.

Us, Our

Plural pronouns are employed by God on several occasions in the OT (cf. 3:22; 11:7; Isa. 6:9). Various views are suggested to explain this phenomenon.

First, some allege that God was speaking to angels. This theory has no biblical support. Nowhere is it indicated that God and angels share the same nature, or that humans are in the image of angels (cf. “his” image v. 27).

Second, more commonly a number of modern scholars have advanced the theory that these plurals are the so-called “plurals of majesty,” a form allegedly used by ancient pagan kings. In response one may ask: Why would the Lord pattern his declaration after pagan rulers—especially since there weren’t any at the time! Further, there is no example of this alleged figure elsewhere in Hebrew scripture (Leupold, 1942, 1.86-87; Aalders, 1981, 1.70).

The only view that fits all the facts is that the plural reflects an “adumbration” [*to foreshadow something, to give a vague indication or warning of something to come*]* of the more comprehensive truth revealed in the NT, namely the plurality of the divine Persons possessing the nature of God. Basil Atkinson of Cambridge stated: “The verse is one of the most outstanding foreshadowing’s in the Old Testament of the doctrine of the Trinity in Unity. One Person of the Godhead is addressing another” (1957, 21). This was the view among the patristic writers of the post-apostolic age, and virtually all of the conservative scholars of past generations. Like many other important issues, the “seed” form of the OT comes into “full bloom” in the NT (cf. 2 Timothy 1:10; Hamilton, 1990, 134).

Create, Make, Form

There are three verbs used to depict the origin of man. The terms are “create” ‘*bara* – v. 27], “make” ‘*asa* – v. 26], and “form” ‘*yasar* – 2:7]. There is a shade of difference between the terms, though occasionally they appear to be used interchangeably. Some suggest that ‘*bara* signifies to “create,” ‘*yasar* “to form,” and ‘*asa* to “make” or “finish” (cf. Isaiah 45:18; Delitzsch, 1978, 7.227; Young, 1972, 3.146).

One thing is certain. Scripture does not endorse the notion that man is an **accident** upon the planet, as atheistic evolutionism alleges. No fewer than **14 times** in the OT God is designated as our “Maker” (Job 4:17, Psalm 95:6).

- Just as a potter forms a work of art from clay, so Jehovah “formed” the human body from the dust of the ground (Genesis 2:7).
- David declared we have been “made,” and “fearfully and wonderfully” so (Psalm 100:3; 139:14).
- Isaiah marveled at the arrogance of anyone who would say of God, “he made me not” (29:16).

The human body is a marvelous “machine” of complementary systems, each one of which depends upon the others. It could never have developed according to the Darwinian incremental scheme (Jackson, 2000).

Of three events in this chapter Moses uses the term “created” *bara*.

- Once when “matter” is spoken into existence (v. 1),
- another time when animal life is generated (v. 21),
- and finally of man and woman (v. 27).

The use of “create” is most appropriate regarding the commencement of mankind, for this involves a unique specimen — unlike anything else. For example, humans possess a “spirit” (James 2:26), or a “soul” (Matthew 10:28) — the terms being used interchangeably on occasion. Christ himself recognized the **qualitative difference** between an animal and a human when he reasoned (with *a fortiori* logic) that if it were lawful to retrieve a donkey or an ox from a well on the Sabbath, surely it was permissible to heal a human being on that holy day (Luke 14:1-6).

Image, Likeness

“Man” (the term is generic, inclusive of woman – v. 27b; Leupold, 1942, 94) is created in the “image” and “likeness” of God (see *Note). Most likely these two terms are examples of Hebrew parallelism, with no vivid distinction being made. Observe that humanity is not broken down into “kinds” (the term used 10 times in this chapter), as plants and animals are. The human family is “one” (Acts 17:26) — literally, “out of one male.” The Bible separates humans from animals by a vast impassible gulf. Pity the deluded soul who attempts to make a “marriage” between Genesis and Darwinism. Moses does not define what he means by the “image” of God, but certain logical conclusions may be deduced from companion portions of divine revelation.

Next week we will conclude this article with a discussion of these logical conclusions about the “image” of God.

TO OUR VISITORS

It is our sincere desire to help all men and women understand what God’s will is for their life. Here at the Alachua Church of Christ, we stand ready and willing to help you with any needs you may have. Here are just a few of the services we offer: Marriage Counseling, Family Counseling and Addiction Counseling, free audiotapes of any lesson and In-home Bible Study. Feel free to make your request know. Ask any member of the congregation.
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Alachua
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E-mail:
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Elders:
Ray Cauthen
Luther Honey

Deacons:
Doug Frazier
Mark Nortz
Dwight Stokes

Minister:
Doug Frazier

Meeting Times:
Sunday Morning
Bible Study: 9:30
Worship: 10:30

Sunday Evening
Worship: 5:30

Mid-Week Bible Study
Wednesday 6:30

UPDATE:

Mike Elledge is home now. Keep him in your prayers

TOMORROW IS THE DAY:

THE TRUCK FOR THE CHILDREN'S HOME IS COMING. PLEASE EVERYONE LOOK AT THE LIST AND SEE IF YOU COULD BRING AT LEAST ONE OF EACH ITEM.

Connie Cauthen has been checking the sale ads looking for sales on sheets, towels and/or twin comforters.

CHILDREN'S HOME:

The truck for the Raintree children's home in Valdosta will be in our area January 3, 2011. If you have items that you would like to donate to the children's home, please see Patty or Jessica about where to place the items.

Badly needed items are:

full/queen size sheets
new towels
canned fruit juices (apple/grape/punch)
sinus medication
twin size comforters. .

DO NOT NEED: Canned vegetables, at this time.

SICK AND/OR INJURED:

- Shirley Kirby, fell and broke her hip. She has had surgery and is in North Florida Regional Hospital.
- Continue to remember Sherrelle Kendrick, Carolyn Canady (Rhonda's Mom), Jean Gause, Morgan Earnhart, James Harrison, Rhonda Howe, Ann Ewing, Betty Purvis (friend of Betty Hitchcock), Cristy Butts (cousin of Randy Howe), Edward Brown (cancer building at Shands).

BUDGET PLANNING:

A budget for next year is being developed. A possible budget has been put on the bulletin board at the back of the auditorium. Please look at it. If you have any questions and/or suggestions for the budget, please see Luther or Ray.

COFFEE WITH CHRISTIANS

We are having our first "Coffee with Christians" of 2011. We are going to be talking prayer. Same time and place Starbucks at **7am on Wed, Jan 5th**. Hope to see you there.

NEXT SATURDAY - PRE-TEEN DEVOTIONAL:

We will be having a pre-teen devotional on January 8th at 4PM at the Frazier's House. We will be continuing our topic on the Fruits of the Spirit.

YES WEEKEND:

It is time to start planning our annual YES weekend trip to Valdosta. YES is scheduled for February 25th-27th. Please put these dates on your calendar. More information will be following soon.

TRAVELERS:

Please continue to pray for the safe return of all those who will be traveling now that school holidays begin soon. Many students will be traveling home and families will be traveling to visit friends and loved ones.

CAMPING:

See Donna about the annual camping trip that our young people take every year. We need to make reservations early in the year because camp sites will book quickly after the first of the year.

We're on the Web!

alachuachurchofchrist.org