

THE CREATION

Genesis 1:1-25

Key verse 1:1

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

Since the beginning of time, people have asked the question about the first reason, about the origin of the world and their life. This question is so important because it is the key to finding the meaning and the significance of existence of our lives. Through the book of Genesis, we want to find the answer to this question from this week on.

The first lecture is about the Almighty Creator God who created the heavens and the earth and the sea and everything in them. We may learn here who God is and what God does. Influenced by godless philosophies, many young people have eliminated God from their imagination or consider Him as an object to fulfill their desires. But God is the Sovereign, the Creator who has been forever. He is above everything. Through creation we can see the wisdom, power, glory and eternal beauty of God. This God still reigns sovereignly over this world. Through this lesson, let us come to know who God is and how we can live with the faith of creation.

1. God Almighty

The book of Genesis is called "Bereshid" in Hebrew, which means the book of beginnings. We find here many beginnings: the beginning of the world, the beginning of mankind, the beginning of sin, but also the beginning of God's redemptive history. The Book of Genesis covers the period from the creation of the world to the Exodus of the sons of Israel to Egypt. This book gives us the firm foundation for our faith, without which we cannot really understand the other books of the Bible.

It is very important for every person to know where he comes from and where he is going. Only when a person can answer these fundamental questions of life he can live a blissful and happy life. That is why people have been thinking about this question for thousands of years. But by himself, man cannot find an answer to this important question. That is why

modern philosophers have even claimed that this question should not be asked at all. It is a philosophy of despair and futility. The good news is that there is a way to answer the fundamental questions of life. We get the answer from the One who created our lives. By encountering the Almighty Creator God, we realize who God is and who we are. We realize His omnipotence, His love, His good plan, purpose and will for our lives. Let us find the answer to our life questions through Genesis and live a new and blessed life in right relationship with our Creator God.

Let's look at verse 1: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." The first chapter begins with a proclamation of the Creator God. In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The subject of this sentence is God. The author declares that God is the Creator and Owner of all things. Everything has come and gone forth from Him. In God, everything finds its meaning, its significance of existence and its ultimate goal. God is above everything. He is sovereign and not bound to men. To Moses he testified of himself: "I am who I am." (Ex. 3:14) In Revelation 1:8, He says, "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty." Knowing God changes our view of the world and of ourselves. Faith means accepting God and putting our trust in Him. Hebrews 11:1 says, "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see."

Let's read verse 2 together, "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." This verse teaches us that God's creation represents the transition from chaos to cosmos. Before the first day, everything was formless, empty and dark, or as the original text says, "tohubohu." God, however, ordered everything and formed a wonderful order of creation out of this chaos. Before a per-

son meets God, his life is also formless, empty and dark. But God Himself creates a new order in our lives, puts them in order, makes them glorious and meaningful.

Germany and Europe, spiritually speaking, are like a tohu-bohu of false teachings and godless humanism, so that it seems almost impossible to serve the work of making disciples. The hearts and lives of many students are formless, empty and dark. But our God is the Almighty God who brings forth something new.

Let us now look at verse 3: "And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light." Wow! God created light through His word. In a dark and formless world, God created light. This light means knowledge, warmth and power. Light is the foundation of all life. As John 1:4 says, "In him was life, and that life was the light of men." Then God separated the light from the darkness and He found that the light was good. The same thing happens when the light of God comes into a person's dark and formless life. Then his life becomes bright and hopeful. God's light clears away the chaos of sin and creates a new creation, as 2 Cor. 5:17 says: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

If we look at the rest of the verses, we repeatedly find the expression, "And God said ... And it was so." On every day God said something new and so it came into existence. God is a living, creative God who called all things into existence out of nothing. Our God is a living God who communicates and thereby causes a new creation to come into existence. This shows that God is a personal God and that God's word has the power of creation. Once a word of God works in a person's heart, it brings about a new creation, that person can receive God as his Father and begin a new life in relationship with Him. Hebrews 4:12 says, "For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." One word of God, 1 Peter 4:13 has worked mightily in the lives of our baptized and a new work of creation has begun in them. They were allowed to receive God and are now working together with great joy as the main agents for God's work. God works through his word. God will continue to work mightily through our Genesis Bible study, through M. Peter's Bible research, and through the Bible study of our next generation,

so that they will be mobilized, raised up and used as excellent Bible teachers, even as global spiritual leaders.

2. The order of creation

When we look at the 7 days of creation, we can learn about the internal order and progression in creation. First, God created order. On the first day, God created light and separated light from darkness. On the second day, God created the firmament separating the upper waters from the lower waters. On the third day, God created the land and the sea. God is a God of order, not arbitrariness. Through this order, He created the environment in which all things were settled. In the same way, it is also man's task and happiness to create order. We automatically perceive order as beautiful, while disorder tends to make us feel uncomfortable and unsafe. Putting our home or center in order is not a selfish action, but serves to create a beautiful environment where we ourselves can learn well and serve the work of God.

Second, God has created an overwhelming variety. The number of plant species on earth is estimated at 330,000, and the number of animal species at 1.3 million. These numbers alone show that God did not create monotony or uniformity, but a glorious diversity that reveals the wisdom, beauty and omnipotence of our Creator God. On the third day, God created plants. He created sturdy oaks, birch trees that bend in the wind, beautifully fragrant roses, dandelions and daisies. This plant life is the food base for all life. God created apple trees, banana bushes and blackberry bushes for our varied and balanced cereal diet. In the fruits we find the vitamins that we cannot produce ourselves. Even the smallest plants are so complex that the process of photosynthesis, as it takes place in every plant day after day, has not yet been completely understood nor can be reproduced.

On the fourth day God created sun, moon and stars and gave thereby to the world an order and times. He ordered everything so that life on earth is possible, that tides are created, that summer and winter, day and night are regulated. When we look at the mighty firmament and its perfect order, we cannot help but praise God's glory and greatness, as Psalm 19:1 says: "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands."

On the fifth day, God created the fish and birds. Thus the sea was populated with teeming fish and also the air with the many birds. God created mighty birds of prey circling elegantly on high, as well as little sparrows darting all around with breathtaking speed. God created the songbirds that delight us every morning with their glorious song. He created mighty whales that can dive miles deep. He created the salmon, which even overcomes waterfalls on its migrations, and small myeolchi, which spice up our soup. Each of these creatures in itself is a glorious miracle of God.

Then on the sixth day, God created the land animals and livestock. He created the giant elephants, as well as the little mice. He created the majestic lion and the gentle sheep. He created everything for His glory and for His honor, and finally put man in it so that he should rule over all things. God created each living creature individually and differently, yet each is perfect and good. We can see God's eternal power and deity in creation, so there is no longer any excuse for unbelief (Rom 1:20).

Repeatedly here we find the expression, "And God saw that it was good." The light was good. The separation of land and sea was good. The plants and animals were good. This shows that God looks at and judges all of creation. All things are for the joy and glory of God. In God, both the earthworm and man find the meaning and existence significance of their lives. In the Creator God we find the true anchor and foundation of our existence.

In modern times, belief in the evolutionary hypothesis is very popular. Although most people do not see through this theory, many are firmly convinced of its truth. The evolutionary hypothesis is an atheistic theory of development, according to which all life evolved by chance from a single cell. From kindergarten on, we are constantly taught this doctrine as an absolute and scientifically proven truth, just as the earth and moon revolve around a common center of gravity. However, it is not scientific and more and more problems arise that cannot be explained with it at all. Prof. Werner Gitt shows in his book "Information" that information cannot originate from itself, but always starts from an intelligent transmitter, so there must be an almighty creator God. The problem is above all that the theory of evolution cannot give us answers to the question of meaning and significance. Rather, it views all things only as random intermediates in

an aimless process. As a result, many young people suffer from anxiety, fatalism and depression. The reason is that they have rejected God. Those who reject God and turn to lies need not be surprised if unkindness, greed, identity conflicts and suicides increase more and more.

Nowadays, the faith in creation is often presented as outdated or backward. Thus, quite a few believers have also compromised with the spirit of the times and tried to somehow connect evolution and God. In fact, the faith in creation is the wholesome teaching that makes us healthy and helps us find the right place in life. The Bible says that by faith we realize that the world was created by God's word, so that everything that is seen was made from nothing. (Heb 11:3)

Faith in creation is the rock-solid foundation of our lives. At one point, our father in faith, Abraham, fell into a deep crisis when he looked only at himself and the fact that he still had no son. He was so distressed that he even complained to God and thought about a human way out by adopting his servant Eliezer. In this situation, God helped Abraham to fix his eyes on the glorious and majestic creation. He instructed him to go out of his cramped tent and look at the stars in the sky. Through this sight and the failed attempt to count them, Abraham must have acknowledged that God was so much greater, more powerful and wiser than he was. God gave him the promise, "So shall your offspring be." Abraham accepted it and trusted that this Almighty God would guide him to the end and surely fulfill his promise. Thus he became the progenitor of the faith. The Bible says, "Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness." (Gen 15:6)

In our life of faith, we too are often confronted with crises where we are at a loss. But here we learn about the creation faith that our God is an almighty, eternal and omniscient God who takes care of all our affairs in the best way and guides us in the best way. God, who created the light, has given a bright ray into our hearts so that we may bring the knowledge of God to the young people in darkness and hopelessness. God, who created the countless stars, will also set up 10,000 Bible teachers like brightly shining stars for the 1,700 campuses in Europe. God, who created the animals according to their different species, will also establish three bases for human beings in the M-world through us.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. God is the subject. He is above everything. He is the sovereign creator and ruler of all things. Just as God created everything in the beginning, the light, the land, and all living things, the glorious, orderly, and diverse world, God also works today in the life of every person who accepts Him as the Creator God. Through faith in creation, we may experience the glorious work of creation, both in ourselves and in our sheep. Let us accept who God is and live by faith in Him.