

"In the beginning...Creation" (2/11/2010 & 2/14/2010)

Let's start @ the very beginning of God's story!

Genesis 1:1 or p.3 in pew Bible

The 1st four words of the Bible - "In the beginning ~ God" - sets the tone for our faith!

WE BELIEVE...

- That when God began His creative work, nothing existed except God Himself.
 - From the VERY BEGINNING = God has always been there!
 - Absolutely nothing came into being without 1st God taking the creative initiative to speak it into existence!

WE BELIEVE...

- What God created, He also sustains!
 - Nothing is able to survive without God:
 - The very air we breathe that sustains life, God created!
 - It is God who causes the sun to shine & the rain + snow to fall. WE BELIEVE God feeds the birds & clothes the flowers!
 - But our belief system is not held by everyone. Some believe that the "Big Bang" is more likely.
 - In fact in the state of Arizona, teachers including my wife were mandated to teach this theory as fact.

I thought this might be a helpful explanation, "Big Bang" theory asserts ☺

The cosmos goes through a super fast "inflation" expanding from the size of an atom to that of a grapefruit in a tiny fraction of a second. This is the birth of time. Post inflation, the universe is a seething soup of electrons, quarks, and other particles. The temperature is 10 to the 27th power degrees Celsius. A rapidly cooling cosmos permits quarks to clump into protons and neutrons. Electrons combine with protons and neutrons to form atoms, mostly hydrogen and helium. Finally light can shine. The first light does not shine until 300,000 years after the "Big Bang". Gravity makes hydrogen and helium gases combine to form giant clouds that will become galaxies. This takes one billion years. As galaxies cluster together under gravity, the first stars die and spew elements into space. This forms the planets, and according to the "Big Bang", this happened 15 billion years ago.

Since Becky was mandated to teach this THEORY as FACT, she decided to teach it with this Pencil Illustration:

To demonstrate the likelihood of the "Big Bang," I asked all of my students to pick up their pencils. I then instructed them that on the count of three, I wanted them to throw their pencils into the center of the room and that they would automatically stack one on top of the other. My students did as I asked, yet the pencils were a mess all over the floor. I told them they must have done it wrong ☺ I told them to go get their pencils and to try again. Once more at the count of three, they threw their pencils into the center of the room, but again it was a mess. My students repeated this activity five or six times, always the results were the same.

When I asked my students how many times we would have to throw the pencils in order to get the desired results, they told me it would never happen. I told them we would try one more time, but change one variable. This time we would not let go of the pencil. So, at the count of three the pencils once again went to the center of the room – this time the hands stacked them one on top of the other, and the intended result was perfect – the first time. My suggestion to them wasn't to

deny the “Big Bang”, but to simply point out that it takes less faith to believe SOMEONE created the universe, than believe it simply fell together!

The world of science is not the only field that sometime confuses the primary intent of the story of Creation. The evangelical community also loves to debate the story of creation: Questions about dinosaurs + Debates over young earth or old earth theories.

All well intentioned conversations but short-sighted losing its intent!
Ever considered that science & scripture might not be @ bi-polar extremes?
As a matter of fact, I am firmly convinced that when the world of science someday climbs the Mtn of Knowledge & finally makes it to summit, they will be met by a small band of theologians huddled around a fire saying, “Welcome, we’ve been waiting on you guys!”

Don’t miss the original intent of this magnificent & mind boggling account 😊

Genesis 1: 1- 3

The biblical account presents a Sovereign God who is able to TRANSFORM chaos & darkness into an amazing creation by His spoken word:

Let’s read about God’s inspired work that He accomplished in only 7 days:

I. Biblical Account of Creation

A. 1st Day = God created “DAY & NIGHT”

1. Genesis 1: 3 – 5

2. IMAGINE = the darkest place you have ever been exposed to:

- a. LOST SEA tour outside of Madisonville, TN.
Near the bottom of the cavern, the guides will stop the tour group & give brief instructions & then they will turn off the lights.
- b. Question by now, you have pin-pointed the darkest place you’ve ever encountered: Do you remember what it felt like = cold~eerie~damp?

NOTICE God simply spoke & the world lit up filling it with sight & warmth!

B. 2nd Day = God created the “SKY”

With everything that God had to do in creation absolutely everything to create He took 1 full day & simply spoke the “SKY” into existence!

C. 3rd Day = God was quite busy, He spoke & created...

1. “...LAND & SEAS” = Genesis 1: 9 – 10

ALSO on the 3rd day, God spoke & created ...

2. “...seed bearing PLANTS & TREES” = Genesis 1: 11 – 13

- a. The Amazon Rainforest has been described as the "Lungs of our Planet" because it continuously recycles carbon dioxide into oxygen. More than 20 percent world’s oxygen is produced here.
- b. More than half of the world’s estimated 10 million species of plants, animals and insects live in the tropical rainforests.

- c. One hectare 2.47 acres in the rainforest may contain over 750 types of trees and 1500 species of higher plants.
 - d. This is just in the Amazon Rainforest - - God is amazingly creative!
- D. 4th Day = God spoke & created the “SUN, MOON & STARS”
1. The 4th day is somewhat under spoken; the immense universe that God created is mentioned here only in a brief phrase, almost as an after-thought.
 - a. Consider His expansive universe
 - b. A car traveling 100 mph would take more than 29 million years to reach the nearest star in our solar system!
 - c. Our Earth feels like all there is, but we know that it's just a tiny planet in a vast Solar system. And our Solar System is just one member of a vast Milky Way galaxy with 200 to 400 billion stars.
 - d. If you could travel @ the speed of light 186,000 per second it would still take 100,000 years to cross our galaxy.
 2. So how many galaxies are there in the entire Universe?
 - a. Difficult number to know for certain; the most current estimates guess that there are 100 to 200 billion galaxies in the Universe, each of which has 100s of billions of stars.
 - b. 1 last thought that is mind-boggling to consider: Isaiah 40: 25 – 26 or p. 547 in pew
 - c. Not only did God created each star by simply speaking, He also calls each of them by name!
- E. 5th Day = I think God had a lot of fun ☺

Bible says, He simply spoke & created “SEA WORLD”

1. Genesis 1: 20 – 23
2. Fun creative facts about what God created in the water ☺
 - a. The catfish has over 27,000 taste buds - wow God!
 - b. Octopuses have 3 hearts!
 - c. A goldfish can live up to 40 years
 - d. A starfish doesn't have a brain ☺
 - e. After 10 to 12 months in the womb, a Blue Whale gives birth to a 30-foot baby whale; at nearly 50% fat, whale milk has around 10 times the fat content of human milk, which allows the baby whale to achieve some serious growth spurts up to 200 pounds per day ☺

Only God could create such hidden wonders ☺

- F. 6th Day = God created “ANIMAL KINGDOM”
1. Genesis 1: 24 – 25 = only ½ of 6th day
 2. Fun creative facts that God spoke into existence in the Animal Kingdom ☺
 - a. Baby robins eat 14 feet of earthworms every day ☺
 - b. A slug has 4 noses ☺
 - c. The flea can jump 350 times its body length, that is like a human jumping the length of a football field. Good news though is...☺
 - d. Elephants are the only animals that can't jump phew!
 - e. An ostrich's eye is bigger than it's brain ☺
 - f. A cat has 32 muscles in each ear ☺
 - g. When angered, the ears of Tasmanian devil's turn pinkish red.

- h. Mice, whales, elephants, giraffes & humans all have 7 neck vertebra.
- i. A Holstein's spots are like a finger-print or snowflake.
No 2 cows have exactly the same pattern of spots.
- j. Camels have 3 eyelids to protect themselves from blowing sand ☺

Interesting to note how creation came to be = God speaks & it was so.
It's His word that does the work of creation & brings order out of disorder.
His word that brings light from darkness & His word brings beauty out of chaos.

II. POWER of God's Spoken Word

A. Psalm 33: 6 – 9 or p. 427 in pew Bible

- God merely spoke + He breathed the word & the heavens an the earth were made

What has God said about YOU in His written word?

B. Isaiah 55: 10 – 11 or p. 560

- "...it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to!"
- This is what God specifically wants for YOU!

C. Hebrews 1: 1 – 3 or p. 920 in pew Bible

Don't neglect the power of YOUR words,
"If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord & believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10: 9