



LOCKINGCASTLECHURCH

Life Group Notes – 1st May 2022

Origins: Genesis 1:1-10 In the beginning, God

Please visit the LCC website to listen to the talk or read the transcript if available.

Genesis 1: The Beginning

¹ In the beginning God created the heavens and the 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 there 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.

⁶ And God said, “Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water.” ⁷ So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. ⁸ God called the vault “sky.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.

⁹ And God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry ground “land,” and the gathered waters he called “seas.” And God saw that it was good.

Note: This is the NIV2011 version of the text – it would be helpful to compare it with other translations.

Comment

Genesis is the first book in the Torah, which is the first five books of the bible (called the Pentateuch in Greek), and tradition has it that it was composed by Moses. Scholars suggest it was written down in Babylonian times by Jewish priests and scribes who were concerned to unite the Jews around a common understanding of their history and origins. The text we have today in Genesis is one of the most influential documents ever penned. It has shaped our thinking about the universe for millenia and it continues to tell us about ourselves, our place in the world and most crucially, how God intended us to relate to him. People are hungry for truth, meaning and purpose, and Genesis gives us a framework for realising our identity as beloved children of God, made in his image with a destiny to fulfil.

First, Genesis 1:1 tells us there was a beginning, when God was the sole creative agent. Whilst other religious texts describe a Pantheon of gods, Christianity and Judaism are monotheistic. We worship one God who was clearly intentional and purposeful about creation. All this is not a cosmic accident or random occurrence. It also tells us God is infinite, before the beginning of time and space. Romans 1v20 ‘since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.’ We cannot dismiss creation as a cosmic fluke. Genesis doesn’t tell us how DNA multiplies so vigorously, but it does tell us that God’s creation was intentional, purposeful, and amazingly good.

Note 4 things from the passage about God’s creative process: God speaks, God sees, God names, God celebrates. God’s words bring life, and his creative words are not just about form, they impart purpose and destiny, which is why He goes on to name things too. His Spirit was present at creation hovering over the waters, the same word used for a bird brooding over its chicks. Creation was set in the context of love and tenderness, and we are called to respond to that love by fulfilling our purpose as beloved children of God, and walking in the good works he has engineered for us to do.

Questions

1. What about God’s creation causes you to say ‘Wow!’
2. Do you think Genesis describes the 7 days of creation as literal days, ‘God days’ or epochs?
3. Why is it so important to know that you were lovingly created with purpose and destiny?
4. What does it mean to ‘live as children of the light’ (Eph 5v8)?
5. God celebrated creation by resting on the 7th day. How can we celebrate creation restfully?