The Gospel in the Old Testament

The Creator of Heaven and Earth
Lesson 1
Genesis 1

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
June 2, 2019
What is the Gospel?

- Good tidings or good news (Greek: evangelion)
  - Gospel of the kingdom (Matthew 4:23)
  - Gospel of God (1 Peter 4:17)
  - Gospel of Jesus Christ (Mark 1:1)
  - Gospel of Christ (Romans 15:19)
- The message of the Great Commission: Preach the Gospel (Mark 16:15)
What was the earliest Gospel message?

- Genesis 3:15 – *protevangelium*
- **All nations** – Jews and Gentiles – a universal message
- **Will be blessed**
  - Psalm 133:3 – life eternal
  - Psalm 32:1 – sins forgiven
- **In you** (Abraham)
  - Sons of Abraham by faith (Genesis 15:6; Galatians 3:7)
  - The great nation (Genesis 12:3; 28:4; Romans 11:11-12, 15)
  - In Christ Jesus (Matthew 1:1; Galatians 3:14)
- **The Bible is the story of the Gospel** (John 5:39)
  - The creation record and the Gospel
In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

**Genesis 1:1**

- Foundation of the Bible message – implies an ending
- Pre-creation or Gap Theory
- Title Theory
- A complete creation account beginning with verse 1
  - God, defined by His work as the Creator
  - Genesis 1:1 is the first event of creation (Romans 4:17)
  - The heavens, the earth and everything in them (Exodus 20:11; Psalm 102:25; Isaiah 42:5; 45:12; 48:13)
- The word of the Triune God
  - God the Father – Sovereign Creator – plural noun; singular verb
  - God the Spirit (Genesis 1:2)
  - God the Son (John 1:1-3; Hebrews 1:10)
Creation (Genesis 1:1-25)

- Day 1 (1:1-5)
  - Created the heavens and the earth
  - Formless and empty; dark; alone in the universe
  - “Let there be light!” Separated into day and night
  - Light was good
  - Atomic elements and energy (light)

- Day 2 (1:6-8)
  - The expanse – atmosphere
  - The space between the waters on the surface of the earth and the clouds
Creation (Genesis 1:1-25)

- Day 3 (1:9-13)
  - Dry land separated from the seas
  - It was good
  - Plants yielding seed and trees with fruit containing seeds
  - After its kind
  - It was good

- Day 4 (1:14-19)
  - Lights in the heavens to designate day, night, seasons, days and years
  - Greater and lesser lights govern day and night on the earth
  - “He made the stars also.”
  - It was good
Creation (Genesis 1:1-25)

- Day 5 (1:20-23)
  - Water creatures and birds – after their kind
  - It was good
  - God blessed them and commanded them to fill the seas and earth

- Day 6 (1:24-25)
  - Land animals – after their kind
  - It was good
  - Creation of man – special attention (1:26-31)
Creation Controversy

- No conflict with true science
- Conflict arises from denial of God
- Attempts to reconcile scientific theories with Biblical truth
  - Gap theory
  - Theistic evolution
  - Successive creation
  - Framework hypothesis
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Creation Controversy

- Death came by Adam (Romans 5:12)
- Plant life before the sun, moon and stars – days 3 and 4
- What is a day? (Gen 1:5; Exodus 20:11; 31:17; Ps 90:4)
- “After its kind” (Gen 1:11, 12, 21, 24, 25)
- Uniformitarianism denied by Scripture (2 Peter 3:4-7)
- Human v. Divine wisdom (Prov 8:22-31; 1 Cor 1:20)
- A question of faith
The Creation of Man (1:26-31)

- “Let Us make man . . .” – the Divine consensus and an everlasting covenant
- The image and likeness of God – a display of God
- A ruler over creation – the work of God
- Male and female – multiply and fill the earth – the hope of mankind
- The work of subduing creation – display the glory of God
- An impossible dream in a very good creation
The Gospel in the Creation Record

- The beginning and the ending
- The preeminence of God the Creator and the Sovereign Almighty God
  - The great gulf between the creature, man and woman, and God
  - The solemn obligation to obey and worship the Possessor of heaven and earth
- God blessed them, male and female
  - A people, “chosen before the foundation of the world” to rule (Eph 4:11)
  - The plan: represent the Creator and rule over His creation
- “God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good.” (Gen 1:31)
  - Good – possessing all the intended qualities for its intended purpose
  - God’s purpose is righteous and holy
  - Isaiah 40:28-31 – worthy of our trust in Him
  - Isaiah 45:18 – created the earth to be inhabited and did not do so in vain
- The Gospel guarantees the success of the Divine purpose for creation