

In the Beginning - Part 1

- ❖ In our last lesson, we saw that God had a purpose for His chosen people Israel and in the realization of God's plans and purposes for bringing man into existence, Israel will be very instrumental. All these we will see in this study series.
- ❖ For us to be able to see the role that Israel plays in the fulfillment of God's purpose for man, we will need to begin from Genesis 1:1 as it's also in the beginning chapter of the whole of scripture where the purpose for creating man is clearly revealed. We also need to realize that, just because the creation of the heavens and the earth is at the very beginning of God's revelation to Man this does not make it a random event or an afterthought. The creation happens with purpose and reason within God's plans for the eternal ages.

Gen.1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

- ❖ These few short words at the beginning of God's word say so much;
- ✓ First, the word translated 'God' here is the Hebrew word 'Elohiym' which tells us that God is more than one person – He is God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit – the three in one – the Trinity.
Deut. 6:4 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!"
1John5:7 For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.

- The use of the Hebrew plural noun 'Elohiym' for God shows us that all three parts of the trinity were involved in this, both the creation and the purpose. God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit always work in harmony with each other.
- We might pause for a moment to remember what God says through John about Jesus Christ and His involvement in creation;

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it..... 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Heb 1:1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

- Through Christ, we can see that all things were made and through Him also, the worlds (lit. the ages) were made.
- So, what else can we know about God (Elohyim)?

John 4:24 "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

- God is Spirit – not a spirit, but Spirit and therefore that which God has said must also be Spirit and as such can only be fully understood in the spiritual realm by those who have spiritual life;

1Cor. 2:14 But the natural man (the unsaved) does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

John 6:63 "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.

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- It should therefore not surprise us to know that in 2 Tim.3:16, God's breath and spirit are seen to be the same in the Greek language – **Pneuma**.
- The word of God is inspired of God- Has the breath of God.
2Tim.3:16 *All scripture is given by inspiration of God...* (is God breathed – God's breath/Spirit – the Greek word 'Theopneustos' - Theos is God and Pneuma is spirit)

- ✓ Second, our English translation of Genesis 1:1 always says '**In the beginning**', which suggests a particular starting point in time, but in the original language the word 'the' is simply not there.
'In beginning' would therefore indicate that there is no starting point, because God has no starting point. The Gospel of John (**Gen. 1:1 commentary verses**) begins exactly the same way Genesis begins, "In the beginning... [literally- In beginning...]', (for God has NO beginning)

1Tim.1:17 *Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.*

- And here is a concept that is probably impossible for us to grasp with our finite minds – we are all eternal beings, we will 'live' forever, but we all had a starting point. Life for us began in our mother's womb, but not so with God – God is and always will be.
- Again, as we consider what we might call the history of the earth we must conclude that we are not dealing with a series of random events, but rather a Divine orchestration according to His eternal purpose to be accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. When we look at the creation, do we see the existence of the Godhead? How can such organized and beautifully laid creation be random? No wonder it's only a fool who can confess that God does not exist. (**The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God."** – **Psalms 14:1**).
- Rom 1:20** *For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,*
- Therefore, the Lord's invisible attributes are clearly seen and understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead and this has been so since the creation of the world.

- And this of itself should cause us to consider that always being He has sovereign control over all things and then to consider how we might fit into this, because nothing that God does is random.

Job 38:4 *"Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. 5 Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? 6 To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, 7 When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy? 8 "Or who shut in the sea with doors, When it burst forth and issued from the womb; 9 When I made the clouds its garment, And thick darkness its swaddling band; 10 When I fixed My limit for it, And set bars and doors; 11 When I said, 'This far you may come, but no farther, And here your proud waves must stop!' 12 "Have you commanded the morning since your days began, And caused the dawn to know its place, 13 That it might take hold of the ends of the earth, And the wicked be shaken out of it?*

Eph 3:11 *according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,*

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- God in beginning has purpose and He Himself accomplished this purpose ‘in Christ Jesus, our Lord’, with a view to His purpose continuing – it is an eternal purpose.
- And it is not difficult to see, if we return to Genesis 1:1 for a moment, that to accomplish His eternal purpose in Christ Jesus, God (Elohyim) in beginning, created the heavens and the earth and all things in heaven and on earth. This is stated so clearly in Colossians 1.

Col 1:16 *For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. 18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. 19 For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, 20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.*

- ✓ From these verses.
 - What did God create in the heavens?
 - What did He create on the earth?
 - According to vs. 20, what needed to be reconciled through the blood of Jesus on the cross?
 - So, why would reconciliation be needed and what do you think happened?
- ✓ Answering these questions will take us to Genesis 1:2 and God willing, our next lesson will begin from there.

Questions:

1. Beginning with Genesis 1:1 – What can we learn about God from this verse and which scriptures did we look at connected to it?
2. How should we understand God’s eternal purpose and what do we see God doing in relation to that purpose?
3. Read Romans 1:20 – who is this verse written to and what does it teach?
4. Beginning with John 4:24 – What else did we learn about God?
5. Taking these few things we have learned concerning God, what do they teach us concerning the Word of God?
6. Our English translation of Genesis 1:1 always says ‘In the beginning’, but in the original language the article ‘the’ is not there. How significant is this understanding?
7. What do you personally take away from what we have learned in this one verse?

2Tim 2:15 *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth*

Have a blessed week and let us remain diligent!