

Hermeneutics: How Should we Interpret Genesis?

Sunday, September 29/19

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. – Genesis 1:1 – 2

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims His handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. – Psalm 19:1 - 2

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the Word of truth. – 2 Timothy 2:15

God gave humanity two primary sources of revelation about Himself: the world that He created and the Scripture that He inspired. These are also known as general and special revelation, or sometimes as the Book of Nature, and the Book of Scripture. God can thus be viewed as the author of two books.... We study science to understand the first, and theology to understand the second.

- William A. Dembski

- I. Taboo: Learning to Talk about the Subjects we Often Avoid
 - *In essentials, unity. In non-essentials, liberty. In all things, charity.*
 - *Reading both books of Revelation God gave us.*

- II. Hermeneutics: Understanding the Science of Interpretation
 - *Astronomy and the study of Stars*
 - *Geocentric vs. Heliocentric Views*

- III. Inductive Bible Study Methods: Studying Genesis 1 – 2 with Integrity
 - *How NOT to Read the Bible*
 - *Things to Remember as we Study Genesis*

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

- i. What subjects are taboo in some of your social connections? (i.e. family, friends, work). Is there anything you have learned today about how to begin dialogue on sensitive subjects?
- ii. When do you think 'questioning the answers' goes too far? Does God allow us to have doubts? What are some of the darkest doubts that you have faced in your faith journey?
- iii. Is it hard for you to accept that God has written two books? How might this concept help you work through apparent contradictions between faith and science?
- iv. Knowing that we are far removed from the original culture and language of Genesis how should we proceed in our study? What might be some of the biases that you bring to interpreting Genesis?