

Introduction: Worldviews that are Worlds Apart

Sunday, September 22/19

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. – Genesis 1:1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made. – John 1:1 - 3

By faith we understand that the universe was created by the Word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible. – Hebrews 11:3

Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created. – Revelation 4:11

The opening chapter of Genesis does something of incalculable importance; it lays down the basis of a Biblical worldview. It gives us humans a 'big story' in which our lives can be fitted and from which they can derive meaning, purpose and value... the Biblical worldview begins with God; the atheistic worldview begins with the universe.

John C. Lennox, Seven Days that Divide the World

I. The Tenacity of the Christian Worldview

II. The Necessity of an Authentic Faith

III. Reasons for Studying Genesis

- The Book of Origins
- The Foundation of Theology
- The Grand Narrative

IV. Why the Christian Worldview is Unique

- God is Ultimate Reality
- God is Eternal Creator and Distinct from Creation
- God is Personal and Relational

- God created the earth primarily as a home for humans, His image bearers.

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

- i. How do you experience the clash of worldviews in your day to day experience? Are you inclined to hide the light of your worldview under a bushel? How so, and why?
- ii. Does your faith expression pass the test of the teaching of Jesus found in the four gospels? Are there deeply held beliefs that you have which need to be rooted out and re-examined in light of God's Word? Can you share an example?
- iii. What benefit do you hope for in doing a study of Genesis this year? What factors will determine how much you get out of the study?
- iv. As we seek to grow in humility this year, what is the most significant truth you see in the first verse of Genesis that causes you to stand in awe of God? Explain to others, and take time to worship God in response.