**God Created The Heavens and the Earth**

Genesis 1:1-25 (Key Verse 1)

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

By the grace of God we were able to complete the book of Mark. That wonderful and graceful book, I hope you received at least one word of God from that book. Now, we have started with the book of Genesis. It is called the book of the beginning, where it all began. As human beings, it is our nature to think and ultimately question our existence. Why do I exist? What is my purpose in this life? Am I a result of chance or coincidence? Today we have a field of science, which tries to understand the universe, the causes and effects. Though it is fundamentally known that, science does not try to answer the question why, rather science is more interested in how things happened or happen. That is why science and faith cannot be against each other. Many have misled others by making science compete with matters of the faith. The passage today is about the question, why. And the book of Genesis provides that answer. Today we are particularly looking at Gen 1:1, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” This one verse is the foundation of the whole Bible. This one verse is the foundation for our Christian faith. To the world the origin of all creation is a mystery, however through Genesis 1:1 that is mystery is resolved. May we receive one word of God through this passage. Amen!

Let us all read verse 1, “1In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” This is a very simple bible verse however, its weight is immeasurable. First, it says in the beginning. What does this mean, in the beginning? It means in the beginning of time, in the beginning of all things, before anything was. Right at the start. God was right there at the beginning. Take note that, the bible does not say, God began to exist at the beginning. But at the beginning, God. This means that, at the beginning God was already in existence. That is why our time and God’s time can never be the same.

Secondly, what then happened at the beginning? God created the heavens and the earth. What does this really mean? It means, because of God, there is a beginning. There is no beginning without God. Because it is God who created the heavens and the earth. It is that creation that caused the beginning to be in effect. So because of God, there is a beginning. Because of God, there is time. Because of God, there is a cause, there is a meaning. Because in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. This means that, all that we can see with our eyes, the types of plants that exists, the stars, the rivers, oceans and seas, all the types of birds and animals, all of creation, all of that exists, God created it all. Evolution is not the answer, God is the answer. Evolutionary science as it stands, is the best science to explain life form in the secular world, however, it falls short to explain the origin of life.

Look at verse 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. This verse illustrates the process of creation, after the beginning, already God had began the process of creation. Creation was not complete as yet. Only God can bring completeness and form to His creation. Only God can fill the void that exists within His creation. In other words, fulfillment comes from God. This still leaves us with a question on how then did God complete His creation?

Verse 3 says, “And God said, ‘Let there be light and there was light.” Verse 6 says, “Then God said, ‘Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the heavens,’” and that’s what happened. Look at verse 9 it says, “Then God said, ‘Let the waters below the heavens be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear’ and it was so.” Look at verse 11, “Then God said, ‘Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit after their kind with seed in them’; and it was so.”

Verse 14, “Then God said, ‘Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be for lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth’ and it was so.” Verse 20, “Then God said, ‘Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens,’” and it goes on to talk about that creation, and God saw that it was good. In verse 24, “Then God said, ‘Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after their kind and it was so.” Back to our question, how did God do this? What was His method? God spoke. God spoke it into existence out of nothing. This is God. He willed it and spoke it into existence. Psalm 148:5 says, “He spoke and they were created.” This is where everything came from. It didn’t exist out of chance, God willed it into existence. He spoke and it came into existence. As believers, as book of Hebrews says, “By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible” [Heb 11:13].

The New Testament affirmation of God as creator. In Hebrews 1:10, “And Thou Lord in the beginning didst lay the foundation of the earth and the heavens are the works of Thy hands.” In Romans 4:17, we read “As it is written: “I have made you a father of many nations.” He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.” In John 1:3 we read, “All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.” Therefore, the material space, time, universe had an absolute beginning.

Next question is how long did it take for all creation to happen? It took six days. Look again at the following verses, verses 3 to 5 says, “3And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. 4God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. 5God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.” Creation happened in period of days. God defined what a day is, which is what we even use today. A day has these two fundamental things, night and day. And so the first thing God created is light.

In verse 6-8, God creates the sky, there was evening and there was morning, the second day. From verses 9-13 God created land and seas and saw that it was good. The land produced all kinds of vegetation, there was evening and there was morning, the third day. In verses 14-19, God created the solar system, stars, galaxies, moon separating what governs day and night, and God saw that it was good, and there was evening and there was morning the fourth day. In verses 20-23, God created the creatures of all kinds of birds, all living creatures of the sea and God saw that it was good. And there was morning the fifth day. Verses 24-25, God with his word created living creatures for the land according to their kinds, wild animals, livestock according to their kinds and God saw that it was good. Ultimately God creates mankind in His image a subject of our next week message. God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

Also note that each time God completes his creation, God saw all that he had made and it was very good. God did not do a partial job but completed what he created. And by God’s own judgment all that he had created was good. If indeed the creator says what they created is good, who then can say otherwise, on what bases can say otherwise. God as creator, firstly means that what they created fulfills the purpose it was created for, secondly it’s a feeling of joy from the creator. Now, because it is God who was in the beginning, it was God who created from the beginning. Only God can create. We as his creatures can discover and build on what God created. All creation as we see it, is filled with His glory because God is the artist, His creativity is reveled through what He has created. Psalm 19:1 says, “..The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.”

When we say that God created the world, we are also saying that God has a relationship to His creation. It is in the context of this relationship that mankind and all creation can know that its existence is not an accident, but rather there is meaning, there is purpose and that is why all things long for God its maker [Rom 8:21-22]. Saint Augustine put it well, “You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.”

I still remember during my early years at Wits as student, that my goal though I was a bible believing Christian was to become a good engineer and make lots of money. My meaning in life was still derived by what others who graduated lived for. What was good was largely defined by what society deemed as good. I would say I was a wonderer, always wondering what was the purpose of my life. Why did I really exist. I still remember how passionate I was about education. So I made it my goal to do well at Wits so I can return to my home town and help learners at schools with education. I actually believed education was what people needed to be free from poverty and meaninglessness. So this mission for education really was my driver. I even remember when I met the missionaries. Still saw education as the fundamental human problem. Until gradually through bible studies and observation in the world, it became clear that, some of the most corrupt and proudful people are educated people. This created a temporary void, until I learned and received that, man’s fundamental problem is separation from their creator. Realizing more than ever that, no level of education can cleanse anyone from sin. Everyone and myself need Jesus, to restore our relationship with our maker. I am a product of God’s creation. This challenges how I should look at things and others. My faith and meaning in life can rest on God, rather than societal norms. And so far I really thank God for the Holy Spirit, that in difficult decisions and conflicts, I am humbled by what I now acknowledge as the Holy Spirit, who has helped me to turn to the word of God, from which all things were from for council and wisdom. Through the grace of God, I am always humbled by the word of God. It is my prayer that God’s creative word may never depart from me, but may continue to have authority in my life, to continually raise me as Jesus disciple. If God’s word could create something out of nothing, I would really be foolish and unwise not to surrender my life before Jesus. Not that I have fully surrendered, however one thing I strive for is God’s word to never depart from me. For our God through his word created all things. Today I believe what people need is the word of God, thank God. It is my prayer that, if there is anything I could be remembered for in this life, is a man who relied on the word of God. May God help us all, in daily life to trust and rely on Him, who created the heavens and the earth. Amen!

**In conclusion**, when we believe that God is our creator, then we realize that we are his creatures. When we believe that God is the owner of our lives, we can become godly people. We are humbled because we realize all supreme power and authority belongs to God. Because God made us our existence is not accidental. It was planned by God according to his good purpose. When we realize that God is our Creator, we can overcome meaninglessness and lack of direction in life. Because we now know the truth about where we came from and where we are going. We came from God and we are going back to God. When we believe that God is the creator, we become possessors of eternal life in this eternal God. When we believe that God is our Creator, we can have absolute values, and absolute meaning. Otherwise, our meaning and purpose, our morals and values are relativistic. If we do not have creation faith, it doesn't matter whether we are men or monkeys. When we know that God created the heavens and the earth, we realize that our own existence in the world is not an accident, but a sovereign act of God. So my you’re your existence is necessary, your life and my life have meaning and value in God. Because, in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Amen!