

**DAY 1 - (week beginning Mon 12 Aug. 2019)****Read - Genesis 1:1-8**

Abraham Lincoln once said: *"I never behold the heavens filled with stars that I do not feel I am looking in the face of God. I can see how it might be possible for a man to look down upon the earth and be an atheist, but I cannot conceive how he could look up, into the heavens and say there is no God."*

The very first book of your Bible is called Genesis. Genesis means "beginnings." It tells of the beginning of the world....The beginning of mankind....The beginning of sin.....The beginning of sacrifice for sins. And it also tells of the beginning of God's special relationship with the people God created.

I trust that we have noticed the very first words of Genesis: *"In the beginning... God."* In other words before anything else happened... there was God. God was not CREATED. God **is** CREATOR.

Hebrews 1:10 affirms: *"In the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands."* We have to START with God.

The 2nd reason Genesis starts out saying "In the Beginning God" is because without God nothing else matters. Nothing has purpose. Nothing has real value. When we take God out of the picture we end up with an empty, meaningless universe.

In accepting God's character as CREATOR we must accept that God was there before.....

**Prayer:** Lord help me FULLY accept You are CREATOR. AMEN

**DAY 2****Read - Genesis 1:1-8**

*"In the beginning God **CREATED** the heavens and the earth."*

Some scholars suggest that the first name for God is found in these very first verses in Genesis. That name for God is *ELOHIM*. This first name for God is used more than 2,500 times in the Bible, 32 times in the first chapter of Genesis alone. Most believe Elohim derives from the word *El*, which in turn comes from the word for "strong." Specifically, this name means that God is the strong Creator God. When we pray to Elohim we remember that Elohim is the One who is creatively powerful, completely sovereign, and gloriously great.

Something we have to remember about God being CREATOR in Character means that right from the beginning God has been and will forever be. Genesis 1:1 is a simple declaration of Elohim exists, and does not provide an explanation for His existence. The Bible just assumes that He is. As Psalm 14:1 says, only those who are foolish doubt God's existence: *"The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God.'"*

The Hebrew word for "create" means "to create out of nothing." Elohim brings design out of disorder; God created the cosmos out of chaos; and birthed beauty out of barrenness, and God continues to do the same in our lives today.

The early church viewed the doctrine of Creation as the beginning point of theology, and a bedrock biblical belief. Its importance is summed up at the very beginning of the Apostle's Creed: *"I believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth...."*

**Prayer:** Thank you Lord for creation and all that is in it. AMEN

**DAY 3****Read - Genesis 1:26-31**

*"Then God said, 'Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.'"*

In today's world, there are two very different opinions of how all creation happened. On the one hand there are those who believe that creation is a totally random act. This focus is only on the how. Those holding this view state that there is no reason for anything beyond randomness. The second opinion holds that Creation comes from Intelligent design (AKA God created). This goes beyond *what* is, and how it happened, it asks the question, *why?* Why is there a universe? What came before the universe? It looks at who we are and how we got here, and it sees logic and order instead of randomness.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Then, when everything else was ready, God created humankind. Imagine, if God had done it any other way.

Picture the earth as it began, formless, shapeless. Then picture how God created it. As you picture it, we need to remember, we were not an afterthought. We were the purpose of the creation. So the fact that the earth was formless, a void in the darkness it certainly was not fit for human habitation. God had some CREATING to do! Then when all was ready God breathed life into us, and we became what God had been going for in the very first moments of creation. A partner with God!

**Prayer:** Lord help me respect creation which you have given me authority over. AMEN

**DAY 4**

**Read - Romans 1:18-25**

*“For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse...” Vs.20*

The story of creation is about God who created this amazing world and all of these different creatures. Looking at all these diverse creations we see just how creative our God really is. But what I like most is that God lets us be a part of the process. God the CREATOR of the universe is willing to share in the creative process.

However creation itself shouts the praises of God. If we do not cry out, the stones will. God must be glorified by God’s creation. God’s majesty, power and love are seen in the very world that God created. God has revealed God-self to us through what has been made. We have come to know God through this creation. Consider the life that you have. You may think your life is complicated, but you have no idea how right you are.

Creation is truly an amazing thing. If you just take the time to look around you see how much diversity, how much beauty, how much creativity there is in the world that we live in. If you were to stop and notice all the aspects that go into life you would be blown away. Life is far more amazing than we sometimes give it credit for.

However we are accused of choosing instead to worship the things we create.

**Prayer:** Lord forgive me for worshipping man made things instead of You THE CREATOR. Amen

**DAY 5**

**Read - Psalm 19:1-6**

*“The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.” Vs.1*

Biblical writers tell us we can infer something of the greatness of the CREATOR in the wonders of the creation.

Did you know...light from our own sun takes four and half years to get to the nearest star? Neptune is the coldest place in the solar system with temperatures dropping to -236°C. Summer on Uranus lasts for 21 years - but so does winter. Venus is the hottest planet in the solar system, and its surface is as barren as any desert on Earth. Each day on the Moon lasts 360 hours.

Photosynthesis is the process by which green plants and certain other organisms use the energy of light to convert carbon dioxide and water into the simple sugar glucose. In so doing, photosynthesis provides the basic energy source for virtually all organisms

What about the Homing Pigeon, breed of rock pigeon can be specially trained to return swiftly to its home. The exact means by which they can travel great distances to find their home is not yet fully understood. Research indicates, however, a combination of navigational resources: sensitivity to the earth’s magnetic field, to ultraviolet light patterns in the sky, and to polarized sunlight, as well as recognition of landmarks on the earth’s surface.

Only a few facts that call us to have to only look at nature to realise this is no mistake that happened. There is A GOD WHO HAS A HAND IN IT ALL.

**Prayer:** In my unbelief help me believe Your creation power. Amen

**DAY 6**

**Read – Matthew 6:25-34**

Let us consider CREATOR GOD AND NATURE.

A. Nature reveals God: The Order – Beauty – Perfection we see in nature ought to remind us that God is real, and that God is the CREATOR of all things. The order of the universe alone ought to tell us that someone is in control. Order doesn’t just happen. Even the seasons follow each other in order. What happens when no one is in control? CHAOS!

It is against the very laws of nature to believe that order can come from a destructive force like a “BIG BANG” as proposed by some.

B. Nature Obeys God – God spoke and nature obeyed. While the disciples were in the boat during a terrible storm Jesus calmed the waves and they were amazed and said, *“Even the wind and the waves obey Him”*.

Earlier this week I wrote that God calls you and me to be as co-creators.... and Psalm 8:3-6 reminds us *“When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor. You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet.”*

The only creature that does not obey and trust God is MAN. And yet God loves us more than any of what God has created.

**Prayer:** Lord help me yield my all to You Amen