

Title: The Foundation Of All Else

Text: Genesis 1:1

Main Idea: God is the ultimate reality

Division Statements:

1. God is (v. 1).

It says in verse one, “In the beginning God.” This is the first occurrence in the Bible of the name Elohim. Elohim is the name of God that speaks of strength, the strong one, the almighty, the omnipotent, the one with supreme power. It is a plural noun, but it is clearly used in Hebrew in the singular, the verb created being a singular verb as well as the other verbs throughout the chapter. So what we have here is a uni-plural noun, which is a “plural of majesty” in the Hebrew language and at least suggests the uni-plurality of God’s nature especially when taken with such statements as we find 1:26. God is one and yet more than one. There is therefore a veiled reference in the very first verse of the Bible to God’s nature as a trinity. It is a shadow and a whisper that becomes clearer as God’s revelation progresses and prepares us for statements such as John 1:1, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God.”

Note how this simple and majestic statement refutes the following:

1. It refutes atheism;
2. The verse refutes agnosticism;
3. It refutes polytheism;
4. It refutes pantheism;
5. It refutes materialism;
6. It refutes evolutionary thinking and naturalism;
7. It refutes humanism; and,
8. It refutes secularism.

2. God is almighty (v. 1).

This truth is seen not only from the name of God that is used in the verse, but also from His activity. Note the Hebrew word **בָּרָא** (*bara*), which is used of God alone and refers to His bringing into being something that is entirely new out of nothing, *creatio ex nihilo*. Also, it is correct to say that the verb contains the idea of complete effortlessness. When we consider the object of the verb then, “the heavens and the earth,” we are confronted with an amazing statement of God’s power. Also note that “the heavens and the earth” is a merism in Hebrew (a statement of two opposites to indicate a totality). In other words, God created everything there is in all the universe and existence as we know it.

3. God is self-existent (v. 1).

That nothing created God is also clear from this verse. If all things were created by God, then He alone is uncreated and the source of all else. Nothing gave life to God, but He created the universe and all matter, atoms, energy and forces. He created all life, and therefore, man owes his life - all that he is and has - his obedience, worship and service to God.

4. God is self-sufficient (v. 1).

Self-existence means that God has no origin. Self-sufficiency means that God has no needs and therefore depends on no one else. This is not true of us. We are dependent on many other things, all of which come from the hand of God. But God, alone, is dependent on nothing. Rather as the verse shows, it is upon Him that everything else depends.

5. God is eternal (v. 1).

This final truth about God from verse one of the Bible is implicit from the phrase, “in the beginning.” That God was present “in the beginning” and is the creator and source of all else, means that He has always been, and will always be. He alone is eternal. This implicit truth is shortly made explicit throughout the rest of Scripture, (e.g. Gen. 21:33; Ps. 90:1-2).

Bridging From Text To Sermon

Textual Idea: Moses shows us the magnificent truth that God created all things.

Sermon Proposition: God is the ultimate reality.

Interrogative: What do we learn about God from this text?

Transition: We learn five important truths about who God is.

Copyright © 2010 Chris Rice

Permissions:

You are permitted and encouraged to reproduce and distribute this material for use as sermon or lesson notes. For such use, you may feel free to alter the wording as necessary to meet your teaching needs. You are also permitted and encouraged to reproduce and distribute this material in other formats provided that you do not alter the wording in any way, do not charge a fee beyond the cost of reproduction and give appropriate attribution to the author. For web posting, a link to this document on www.fearingthelord.com is preferred. Any exceptions to the above must be approved in writing by the author prior to use.

For all formats other than handouts to be used in the personal delivery of sermons or lessons, please include the following statement on any distributed copy: By Chris Rice. © 2009 Chris Rice. Website: fearingthelord.com