

“IN THE BEGINNING”

INTRODUCTION

The Bible begins with the 3 words, “In the beginning” (Gen. 1:1). What an interesting thing it would be to have a video recording of what took place at the creation of the universe from nothing, and then to see the beginning of the events of the 6 days of the creation week. The word “Genesis” means “the beginning” of so many things. Everything God created was “very good” (Gen. 1:31), then other things that began as recorded in the book of Genesis are not all good, but God began His plan to make things better for mankind with the blessing of forgiveness through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Now let’s give attention to some of these “beginnings.”

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, there is the BEGINNING OF THE UNIVERSE.

- A. The universe consists of *space* and *matter*, which would become a part of the universe of which we are a part, and can observe with our eyes, heavens and earth. Gen. 1:1
1. The “heavens” refers to the atmosphere around the earth (the first heaven), and the region of the beautiful stars we observe at night (the second heaven).
 - a. The atmosphere was separated into darkness and light (night and day).
Gen. 1:3-8
 - b. Millions of heavenly bodies (stars, moon, sun and planets) were formed on the 4th day of the creation week. Gen. 1:14-19
 2. The “earth” became a dwelling place for man, as he began in the garden of Eden. Gen. 1:9-13; 2:8
 - a. The earth was filled with various forms of plant and animal life.
 - b. The garden consisted of special ‘trees.’ Gen. 2:9-10
- B. The universe came into being at God’s command in the form of words. Heb. 11:3; Psa. 33:6-9

II. 2nd, there is the BEGINNING OF MANKIND.

- A. Mankind was formed in a special way. Gen. 2:7, 18, 21-23
1. There was absolutely NO “evolution” of life from lower forms to the higher state of man, as advocated by atheists in the world today.
 2. God **made** male and female, so as to reproduce life “after it’s kind.” Matt. 19:4
- B. Man was made in God’s image, in that he has a “spirit” and understanding, making him body and soul. Gen. 1:26-27; Job 32:8; Heb. 12:9; cf Jas. 2:26

III. 3rd, there is the BEGINNING OF SIN.

- A. Sin was the act of **disobedience** to God, as he was told what he could do, and could not do, under the warning of the consequences. Gen. 2:16-17
1. Satan made his appearance in the beautiful garden of Eden. 1 John 3:8
 2. Satan tempted Eve to disobey God. (Discuss Gen. 3:1-24 as desired).
- B. Sin began to **increase** to the point that God decided to send the flood. Gen. 6:1-5
1. Only Noah and his family were spared from the flood.
 2. But, man continued to depart from God’s favor through the years.

IV. 4th, there is the BEGINNING OF DEATH.

- A. Spiritual death came as a result of eating the forbidden fruit. Cf Isa. 59:1-2

- B. Physical death came as a result of being separated from the tree of life. Gen. 3:22-24
 - 1. The first actual death was that of a murder, as Cain killed his brother Abel.
 - 2. Adam and Eve eventually died physically, as with all mankind today. Heb. 9:27

V. 5th, there is the BEGINNING OF A NATION.

- A. God promised a nation from Abraham, from which a **Savior** would come to bless the world. Gen. 12:1-3
 - 1. God renewed this promise through Isaac and Jacob, the descendants of Abraham.
 - 2. Jacob became the father of 12 sons, who formed the 12 tribes of the nation of Israel.
 - a. The family went into Egypt because of a famine—to live and begin the formation of a great nation—the nation of Israel.
 - b. Through God’s providence, Joseph became governor, to preserve the formation of this nation, to eventually occupy Canaan, where the **Savior** would be born. Gen. 3:15; Gal. 4:4

- B. The book of Genesis nears an end with a prophecy of the coming Savior. Gen. 49:10

CONCLUSION

- I. Salvation from sin BEGAN to be enjoyed on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2, when God’s **“new nation”**, the church, came into existence
 - A. Christ, the seed of Abraham, began to save the believers who repented and were baptized for the remission of sins. Acts 2:36-38

 - B. The saved constituted the church, or that **new nation**. Acts 2:47; 1 Pet. 2:9

- II. You can become a citizen of this new nation if you are willing to obey Christ. Heb. 5:8-9

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