



The Beginning and the Ending!

Maranatha Class, Fall—2019

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The Bible begins with a revelation. The Bible ends with a promise.

The Bible begins with these words: “*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth*” (Genesis 1:1). The Bible ends with these words: “*He [Jesus] who testifies to these things says, ‘Yes, I am coming quickly.’ Amen. Come, Lord Jesus*” (Revelation 22:20).

Do you believe these words?

Do you really believe them without reservation?

If you do, then you are an exception to the norm!

Why? Because the vast majority of the human race, including many professing Christians, do not accept the “plain sense” (literal) meaning of these verses.

The two (2) most abused areas of God’s Word is:

- 1. The beginning and**
- 2. The ending of the Bible.**

Truth: These two areas have been SPIRITUALIZED INTO MEANINGLESSNESS by “so called” spiritual philosophers and biblical theologians.

Please understand...I know that evangelism and the importance of winning people to Christ should be my first concern. And...It is! I don’t want anyone I know to go to a devil’s hell. I want “all to come to the saving knowledge of Christ.”

However, When a Christian starts spiritualizing Scripture, he/she is playing with fire. That person starts making Scripture to say what he wants it to say!

- **Some people, including some preachers, love to spiritualize the Scriptures because when they do so, they can make the Bible say whatever they please, and in the process they get to play God.**
- **Many professing Christians today are members of churches whose leaders use spiritualization to play fast and loose with the beginning and ending of the Bible.**
- **The preaching and teaching they hear is based upon spiritualization, and it converts the opening chapters of the Bible into a mythical story, and the ending of the Bible into mythical promises.**

NOT AT HARVEST ASSEMBLY! I am so glad our pastors and teachers at Harvest present the gospel message as truth from beginning to the ending.

It is our desire in our Maranatha class to present the Bible message as the absolute truth and nothing but the truth without doubt and without reservation as to what God's Word means.

We start this class with the following fundamental truths as our base for teaching:

- **God began a good work and will end with a good work.**
- **God is faithful with His Word, His covenant, and His promises.**

The Beginning...Isn't it ironic that we begin our study with "The Beginning."

TRUTH: Regarding the origins of our planet and life, the Bible plainly reveals that both were created by God in six days about 6,000 years ago.

- Christendom seemed to have no problem with this revelation until the 19th Century.
- Scientists before that time — even the man acknowledged to be the greatest scientist in history, Sir Isaac Newton (1642-1726)— believed the biblical story and affirmed it in his and their writings.
- **The Attack of Science...History:** In the 19th Century, scientists began to challenge the biblical story, reaching its culmination with Darwin's Theory of Evolution which was proposed in 1859 in his book, *On the Origin of Species*.
- As the 20th Century began, the Bible was on the defensive, and the battle came to a climax with the Scopes Trial in 1925 when William Jennings Bryan tried to defend the biblical view while Clarence Darrow mocked and scoffed the Biblical view.

The Weak Christian Response

- **In response to the relentless attacks of scientists, Christian theologians scrambled to try to make the biblical story line up with the claim of the scientists that the universe was billions of years old and that all life had evolved haphazardly from a single source.**
- **This was accomplished primarily in one of two ways, or a combination of both.**
 1. **The Day-Age Theory** = converted each day of the Genesis creation week into a million or more years.
 2. **The Gap Theory** = speculation: there is a gap of millions or billions of years between the first two verses of Genesis.

There are different versions of the Gap Theory, but all versions postulate that God's original creation was most likely corrupted by the rebellion and fall of Satan. Then millions or billions of years later, God decided to bring order out of the chaos by re-creating the earth and its heavens.

Note: Some who subscribe to the Gap Theory believe that the re-creation process took only 6 literal days. But most would contend that each of the days were actually millions of years.
- **They thus combine the Gap Theory with the Day-Age Theory and end up with a creation process that took place over a time span of billions of years.**

WHAT IS THE SITUATION TODAY?

Today, the Gap Theory, or some version of it, is held by most Christians — even some Evangelicals. Many believe that God intervened at some point and created Man.

- *Many, if not most believe in Theistic Evolution. In other words, they believe God created all life, but that it emerged over a long period of time through a process of guided evolution.*
- *When challenged to simply believe the creation story in the Bible, they often respond with scoffing.*

A Basic Issue and the Strong Christian Stance:

The Bible teaches that God is omnipotent (Matthew 19:26). He could therefore have created the whole universe in the twinkling of an eye. He did not need time.

He chose instead to create the universe and all life in 6 days because the Bible says He wanted to give us a model for life — namely, 6 days of labor followed by one day of rest.

God doesn't need time for special creation. For instance, when Jesus converted water into wine at the marriage feast in Cana, He did so instantly, proving He was the God of time (John 2:1-11). **With God, there is no need for time.**

Improper “Solutions”

To try to solve the contradiction between scientific theory and the biblical story by using the Gap Theory or the Day-Age Theory or both is an admission that God needs time.

One problem with the Gap Theory is that it appears to contradict Scripture. Consider this verse from Isaiah 45:18 —

“For thus says the Lord, who created the heavens, (He is the God who formed the earth and made it, He established it and did not create it a waste place, but formed it to be inhabited), I am the Lord and there is none else.”

Evolution

- ***The whole theory of Evolution is the greatest fairy tale ever concocted by the depraved mind of Man.***
- ***The complexity of both the universe and life attests to intelligent design and the necessity of a Creator.***
 - ✓ *To deny this is equivalent to standing in front of Mount Rushmore and saying, “Wow! Isn't it amazing what can be accomplished accidentally by erosion?”*



Could the images on Mount Rushmore have been formed accidentally through natural erosion? (Photo by author)

A scientist would write off such a person as insane. Yet, that same scientist will then turn around and argue that both the universe and life evolved accidentally.

Ray Comfort wrote a book entitled, *You Can Lead an Atheist to Evidence, But You Can't Make Him Think*. **Truth in words!**

Summary of Today's Lesson:

The Bible sums it up best. In the Old Testament it says, *"The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God'" (Psalm 14:1)*. In the New Testament it says: *"Even though they [speaking of ungodly people] knew God, they did not honor Him as God... but they became futile in their speculations... Professing to be wise, they became fools" (Romans 1:21-22)*.

The Conservative Christian can enthusiastically say, "My God, My Redeemer, My Creator and Companion. You are our Peace."

