

(Genesis) - Part 1

by Zac Poonen

Zac Poonen's sermon emphasizes the importance of understanding Genesis as foundational to grasping God's perfect will and the nature of sin and salvation.

Duration: 1:00:39

Scripture: Genesis 1:1-2, Matthew 19:4, Matthew 22:29, 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Topics: "Genesis"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes the importance of putting God first in every aspect of our lives. He refers to the phrase 'in the beginning God' from Genesis 1:1 as a reminder to prioritize God in our work, home life, personal life, finances, and every area of life. The preacher also highlights the consequences of not putting God first, using the example of the earth becoming shapeless, empty, and dark due to God's anger. He warns that if we exhibit characteristics such as pride, jealousy, and competition, we too will become shapeless, empty, and dark. The sermon encourages listeners to examine their hearts and strive for humility and obedience to God.

Transcript

We want to begin a study in the book of Genesis, commencing today, and before we turn there, there are two verses in the New Testament that I would like to turn to. First of all, in 2 Timothy, chapter 3, that we want to read, 2 Timothy 3, 16 and 17. All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching.

Now, when we read this verse, we must remember that when that verse was written by Paul, the New Testament was not yet compiled. Many books of the New Testament were not even written. And mostly what was known as scripture in those days was the Old Testament.

And that was what Paul had in mind. Of course, today we include the New Testament also under that verse. But I find among many believers, generally, there is an ignorance of many things in the Old Testament.

And yet the word of God says, all scripture, which means that there is no portion of scripture which is not inspired by God. And I remember as a young Christian myself, many years ago, I felt that one way that I would show my respect for God was by getting to know his word. I mean, if your father wrote a letter to you of, say, 25 pages, you would certainly be disrespecting your father if you didn't read it carefully.

If you just read one or two pages and tossed it aside, I don't think there's any better way of showing disrespect for your father. I believe that one way we show respect for God is by taking his word seriously. All scripture is inspired by God.

That means God has given us his word. And I show my respect for him by taking pains to understand what he has revealed in his word. And it is profitable for teaching, that's what we do in the church, use the entire scripture for teaching.

For reproof, that is to rebuke. God's word rebukes us and corrects us when we are going astray. And for training in righteousness, that teaches us that we don't become righteous overnight.

We have to go through a training course to become righteous. And if you are really seeking to understand righteousness as Christlikeness, then we realize we've got a long way to go, and that through God's word we can be trained in life situations to be righteous so that the man of God may be adequate, complete, perfect, equipped for every good work, meaning equipped to do everything God wants us to do. So if I neglect some portion of scripture, in that measure I shall be incomplete, imperfect, inadequate, and not fully equipped for every good work.

Because all scripture has been given for this purpose. And one of the burdens I've had through the years for the church here is that as the years go by, if the Lord tarries, that we shall be able to go through the scriptures so thoroughly that we shall know the scriptures as God intends us to know them. And yet not in a theoretical, intellectual, academic way, but rather in the way that God intends us to know the scriptures.

And this is the reason why we have these Bible studies. The other verse in Matthew 19 is in Matthew 19 and verse 4. When the Pharisees came to Jesus and tested him, verse 3, and said, Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause? He answered, Haven't you read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female? For this cause shall a man leave father and mother and flee to his wife. And that's from Genesis chapter 2 that Jesus quoted.

That means Jesus had studied Genesis. He knew what verse from Genesis to quote to answer these people. So we are following in the footsteps of Jesus when we study Genesis.

And then they said to him, verse 7, Why then did Moses command to give her a certificate of divorce and divorce her? He said to them, Because of your hardness of heart, Moses permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it has not been this way. Notice that phrase, from the beginning. That means before Moses.

That means God permitted something in Moses' time, but if you want to know what God's perfect will was and is, you have to go beyond Moses to Genesis chapter 1 and 2 to understand God's perfect will for man. That's why it's very important. Those two chapters, particularly of Genesis, are very important because it is the only two chapters in the Bible where there is no sin, where sin has not come.

You finally come to it again in the last two chapters of the Bible where there's no sin, Revelation 21 and 22. But those are the only four chapters in the whole Bible. Genesis' first two chapters, Revelation 21 and 22, the last two chapters in which there is no sin.

So we need to understand God's perfect will. We need to go back and understand from the beginning, He said to you, God's will for man was not that. In other words, in Matthew 22, when Jesus was speaking to the Sadducees, they asked a question concerning the resurrection.

In Matthew 22, He replied them, saying in verse 29, You are mistaken, not understanding the Scriptures or the power of God. Brothers and sisters, there are two things we need to know, the Scripture and the power of God. We have seen groups that study the Scripture, but do not know the endowments with the power of the Holy Spirit.

We have seen groups that emphasize the baptism in the Holy Spirit, but not the intensive study of the Scriptures. But Jesus said that if we do not understand the Scriptures and the power of God, we will be mistaken. It's a very important verse.

In order not to be mistaken, we must know the Scriptures, and we must know the mighty power of God through the Holy Spirit. That is a balanced Christian, one who has received the endowment of the Holy Spirit's power, and who knows the Word of God. May God help us to be that.

This is the reason why we study God's Word like this. And that is an introduction. We go back now to Genesis chapter 1 and verse 1. In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

Notice that the Word of God begins with a wonderful phrase, In the beginning, God. We can say that's like saying, put God first in everything. Your office work, let it be with these four words, In the beginning, God.

Your home life, In the beginning, God. Your personal life, your finances, every area of life, your eating, drinking, your sexual life, every part of life, church life, In the beginning, God. That's the way it has to be.

That means God is put in his rightful place. And that's why the Scriptures begin with those words. And sin is when, in the beginning, it's not God.

It's something else. That is idolatry. Anything other than that is idolatry.

In the beginning, God. In every area of your life, children, what's the first thing they must be taught? In the beginning, God. We can apply that to every area of life in general.

But the other thing I want you to notice in this verse is that the Word of God does not try to prove the existence of God. One would think that, according to human cleverness, there are atheists in the world. We need to somehow prove to them that God exists.

And that we should sort of begin with a paragraph saying, let's see, there are stars, there are so many things, there must be a God. Nothing of that. The existence of God is not understood by reasoning.

It is not by the intellect that we understand God. It is in the spirit. And that doesn't come by proof.

It doesn't come by argument. It doesn't come by logic. It comes by revelation.

And that is why the Bible does not attempt to prove the existence of God or to speak about how God was always there or try to explain it in any way. Nothing of the sort. In the beginning, God.

Of course, there is another verse of Scripture which, in terms of time, is even previous to Genesis 1 verse 1 because Genesis 1 is dealing with the creation of the heavens and the earth. But we can say that John 1 verse 1, if you turn there, in terms of time, goes back even beyond Genesis 1 verse 1 because John 1 verse 1 reads like this. In the beginning was the Word.

And that also should be true in our life. That in the beginning, the Lord Jesus Christ, taking the first place in every area of life, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. Now, this is relating to a time which was even before the beginning of Genesis 1 verse 1, even before the creation of the heavens and the earth, way back in eternity past, God existed.

And we are told in John 1 verse 1, the Word, referring to the Lord Jesus Christ, was with God, meaning that He was another person with God, and He was God, speaking of His deity from all eternity, and also speaking of the fact that there is more than one person in the Godhead. And this is something that doesn't come out very clearly in the English translation in Genesis 1 verse 1, but the Old Testament was written in the Hebrew language. And in the Hebrew language, there is a word called El, E-L, from which we get the word Israel, and many other words that end with L in the Old Testament.

It means God. But there is a word for God which is the plural of El, and that is Elohim, E-L-O-H-I-M, like Cherub, Cherubim. Cherubim is the plural of Cherub.

Cherubim is the plural of Cherub. And Elohim is the plural of El. And then we can ask ourselves, how is that? And that's the word used here.

Elohim, God, in the plural. So that we can say that right in the first verse of Scripture, there is a testimony to the fact that though God is one, yet there is more than one person in God. That's just my way of introduction.

Let's turn back to Genesis 1-1. In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. I want to point out to you that in Genesis 1, there are two words used concerning God's work.

One is the word create, and the other is the word make. And they are not the same. To create means to make out of nothing.

That means there was nothing there, and then something was created. But to make means to make out of something that was already there. For example, man's body, Adam's body, was not created.

It was made out of the dust which was already there. But his spirit, that was created by God from something that did not exist. So that's just to illustrate the difference between the two, because then we shall understand that Genesis 1 is not a description of the creation of the heavens and the earth, but of the remaking of the heavens and the earth, which were already created earlier.

Verse 1, in the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth full stop. That's finished. And then in the rest of Genesis 1, he's talking about something that happened after the heavens and the earth had been created.

Now we know that God, whenever he does anything, he does it perfectly. There's nothing imperfect with God. Whenever God makes anything, if it comes straight from his hand, it is perfect.

And yet we read, verse 2, and the earth was formless and empty. Void means empty. And darkness was over the surface of the deep, or as some translations have it, the earth became without form, empty, and dark.

Three things, without shape, empty, and dark. Then we know that something must have happened between verse 1 and verse 2, for this perfect earth that God had made to become shapeless, to become

empty, and to become dark. And then in that condition, the Spirit of God moved over the surface of the waters that were on the earth.

And then we find throughout this chapter, the word made, verse 7, God made something. And verse 16, God made the true great light. And he made the beast, verse 25.

What happened between verses 1 and 2 for this darkness to come? That we know from other portions of the scripture is the fall of Lucifer, the head of the angels, and all the angels who followed him in rebellion. That fall took place between verses 1 and 2. And we can ask, why is it not described here? Because this is a book that is dealing with the history of man, and God's dealings with man. And therefore he begins straight with the creation of man in the first chapter, and all of God's dealings with man.

And this other part of the angels is just mentioned separately in some other portions of scripture. But we know that happened there, because by the time you come to Genesis chapter 3, Satan is already there. And so, we see that between verses 1 and 2, something happened which made the earth like this.

If you turn to Isaiah 45, verse 18, there's a verse that tells us something interesting. Isaiah 45, verse 18, it says, For thus says the Lord who created the heavens, Isaiah 45, 18, He is the God who formed the earth and made it. He established it, notice the word made and created, and did not create it as an empty waste place.

No. And it's the same word used in Isaiah 45 that's used in Genesis 1-2 in the Hebrew language. He did not create it empty.

But we read in Genesis 1-2, it became empty. What happened? We read another verse in Jeremiah 4, verse 23, I looked on the earth, and behold, it was formless and void. And to them, heavens, and they have no light.

The same three things we saw in Genesis 1. Shapeless, empty, and dark. Verse 25, I looked, and behold, there was no man. And this we read in the last part of verse 26, was because of the fierce anger of the Lord.

So when we put all these verses together, we find that there was a manifestation of God's anger on the earth long before Adam was created. That is what made the earth shapeless, empty, and dark. God didn't create it like that.

And so, we can just turn to see something about the fall of Lucifer, which is mentioned in two passages. Isaiah 14, just look at it briefly. Isaiah 14, verses 12-15.

We read about the head of the angels. How have you fallen from heaven? Isaiah 14-12. O star of the morning, or Lucifer, or shining one, sun of the dawn, just remember this word used to describe Lucifer in the margin.

The shining one. We will come to that later in our study of Genesis. How have you fallen from heaven, O fellow, the shining one, Lucifer, sun of the dawn? You have been cut down to the earth, you who have weakened the nations.

That is, later on, after man was created, he weakened the nations, but going back to his previous history, it says here, you said in your heart, this is the origin of sin, he didn't speak, he only thought in his heart. Sin

originated in the thought life. A big warning to all of us.

Sin originated in the universe, in the thought that came into an angel's heart. You said in your heart, be careful what you say in your heart, I will ascend to heaven. Sin originated with these words, I will go up.

Never forget it, my brothers and sisters. Salvation originated with these words in Jesus, I will go down. This is sin, I will go up.

This is salvation, I will go down. And that applies in many areas of life. The main thing in our flesh is this poison of Lucifer, I will go up.

I want to be bigger than my brother and sister, I want to have more than my brother and sister, I want to be better than my brother and sister, I always want to go up, I want to be a little bit above him in some way. And Jesus went exactly the opposite way, there is no salvation apart from that spirit gripping us, I will go down. And to cleanse ourselves from filthiness of the spirit is to cleanse ourselves from this, I will ascend.

I will raise my throne above the stars of God, I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the Lord, I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will make myself like the Most High, I will be like God. It came into Lucifer's heart first, and that's what he told Eve in the Garden of Eden, you will be like God. And that is the thing which he tries to put into our hearts also.

You can be like God When we try to run other people's lives, what are we trying to be like? What are we trying to be like? God. When we judge other people, what are we trying to be like? God. God is the only judge.

God is the only one who's got the right to run other people's lives. But when that comes into us, it's the spirit, I will be like God. Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the spirit.

The other thing I want you to notice here in the fall of Lucifer is, nevertheless, verse 15, you will be thrust down to Sheol, to the recesses of the pits. He who exalts himself will be humbled, abased. He who humbles himself like Jesus will be exalted to the right hand of the Father.

But the other thing I want you to notice here is, the five times this phrase comes, I will, verse 13 and 14, I will, I will, I will, I will. This is the origin of sin. My will.

And this is the origin of salvation. Not my will, but thy will. Jesus said in John 6, 38, I came down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me.

The reason I point that out to you is, so that we can get back to the root. John the Baptist said, the axe is laid to the root of the tree. Jesus came to lay the axe to the root.

Moses could chop off a few fruit through the law, but Jesus has come to lay the axe to the root. And the root is not adultery, it is not love of money, it is not anger, it is not sexual lust. The root is, I will go up above others, I will be like God towards others, I want my way.

That is the root. And even when we have got rid of anger, even when we have got rid of sexual lust, even when we have got rid of the love of money, if I don't allow the Holy Spirit to lay the axe to the root, which is, my desire to be like a little mini-God to other brothers and sisters. My desire to go up at least a little bit above others.

The axe is not laid to that. My desire to have my own way and not to use in a confrontation with another person. If the axe is not laid to that, my brothers and sisters, all of our so-called working out our own salvation is just cutting a few fruit from the branches of the tree.

Jesus has come to lay the axe to the root. And that's why it appears as though victory takes so long. I am chopping off a fruit here, but a fruit comes out there.

I am chopping off a fruit there, another one comes out there. It will keep on coming. It is a never-ending fight.

If I think that it is these fruits I have to chop off. Fruits are chopped off only to get honor before men for a godly, saintly life. But if you want honor before God, you have to go to the root.

This desire to act like God towards other people. You see all the many manifestations of that in our life. This desire to be a little bit above another, over another, not rather than under.

This desire to have my way. This unwillingness to deny my will. Why do we say the cross is so important? Because the cross is canceling out my will.

And that is to lay the axe to the root of the tree. And if we do not do this, we have not cleansed ourselves from the spirit of Lucifer. Let's turn to the other passage in Ezekiel 28.

Ezekiel chapter 28, where also the history of Lucifer is described. In verse 14, you were the anointed cherub who covered. He was, he had an anointing.

Do you know that Lucifer had an anointing? An anointing must refer to the Holy Spirit. Lucifer was anointed. He lost the anointing.

But he did not lose the supernatural gifts. That's why the devil can heal the sick. That's why the devil can do supernatural things in heathen religions and through evil spirits.

When did he get those supernatural abilities? God didn't give it to them after he had fallen. Definitely not. God gave it to him when he was the anointed cherub.

And when he lost the anointing, he retained the supernatural abilities. A tremendous warning for us to be careful when we see Christians with supernatural abilities. It does not prove that they still have the anointing.

It does not prove it. They may use the name of Jesus with supernatural abilities, but they may have lost the anointing. That's what many have not understood.

To discern between the anointing, which brings grace, in addition to the gifts, and just the supernatural abilities. It's when we discern between these two that we are not surprised that Jesus said, Many will come to me in the last day and say, Lord, Lord, we prophesied in your name. We have supernatural abilities.

Cast out demons and heal the sick. And he will say, I never knew you. The anointing is gone.

That's a great warning to us that we also can receive supernatural abilities. And if we are not careful to walk in brokenness and humility, taking up the cross, we can lose the anointing and yet retain these supernatural abilities, even to heal the sick, or to share the Word, or to minister. We can deceive ourselves

that the anointing is on us.

The anointing is a freshness. The anointing is something that can be there only if I have an absolutely clear conscience, before God has brought it. You were the anointed cherub.

Not now. Now you are not the anointed cherub. You were the anointed cherub who guards, it says on the margin.

He was appointed to guard something. I placed you there as a guard. You were on the holy mountain of God.

Verse 13, You were in Eden. The garden of God. Do you know that long before Adam was in Eden, Lucifer had been placed in Eden to guard Eden.

And he was thrown out of there. And that's why he was so jealous when somebody else was now appointed to replace him to guard Eden. And he was determined, I'll get him also out of there.

And he succeeded. We understand that jealousy began there. You are not given that responsibility which you were once given for whatever reason.

It has now been given to another brother. And jealousy? I had that once. You see what the satanic nature is in all these things.

You had the feel of perfection in the last part of verse 12. You see, this is spoken to the king of Tyre, verse 12. And we are told that in Ephesians 6.12 that these principalities are the rulers of this darkness.

So even if there was an earthly king of Tyre, there was a ruler on top of him. That was the devil who was the real king of Tyre. You had the feel of perfection full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

That was how he was created. Full of wisdom, perfect in beauty. And yet he perverted that wisdom.

He became proud of that beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God. And it speaks there about these precious stones that were his covering in the last part of verse 13.

It says the middle and the gold and the workmanship of your the margin says tambourines and flutes. There was musical ability in Lucifer in the garden of Eden. Tambourines and flutes.

In other words, musical ability which was given to him. Music was created by God in the garden of Eden long before Adam. It was an ability he gave to the angel.

There was nothing sinful in it at that time. It was a perfect ability given to Lucifer. He had wisdom, perfection in beauty, musical ability.

And we read here they were all in you on the day you were created they were prepared and you had the anointing. You can imagine what music there must have been among the angels with the anointing, perfection and musical ability. It must have been absolutely fantastic.

And now I want to tell you something. After the anointing has gone from Satan he has not lost that musical ability and he has perverted it and used it in the world to lead people to hell. That's why we have to be very careful in this realm of music.

Not all music even if there are Christian words to it is necessarily spiritual. And how will the devil infiltrate Christianity? He can't infiltrate Christianity in the musical realm by singing songs to heathen gods. He'll use Christian words but with another spirit with another beat in it that makes people more interested in tapping their legs and shaking their hips rather than in glorifying God.

He lost the anointing but he didn't lose the musical ability. Therefore be careful. He lost the anointing but he didn't lose his intelligence.

His intelligence is still there. He's wiser than any of us. Further.

Verse 15 You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created until unrighteousness was found in you and that unrighteousness was tried. We saw in Isaiah 14 we see here what he was proud of. What are the things you can be proud of? Verse 12 Wisdom Beauty Verse 13 Musical ability Verse 14 Your position as a leader The anointing These are the things one can be proud of.

One's wisdom I'm a wise brother. One's physical beauty I'm good looking. I'm attractive.

One's musical ability Such skill in music. The anointing I'm anointed with the gifts anointing of God. My position as a leader the one who is to guard.

These are the things that puffed up Lucifer and these things are written for our warning. He was blameless for a while until and that history can be written about many believers given so many things by God blameless until this unrighteousness from spiritual pride came into him. By the abundance of your trade you were internally filled with violence and you sinned.

In the heart came rebellion. Therefore I cast you as profane. Verse 17 Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty because of your abilities.

How many millions of people that word has to be written about since that day. Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty. Your heart was lifted up because when you looked into the mirror you saw that you were good looking.

Your heart was lifted up because when you compared yourself with other believers you were more intelligent. You were more spiritual. Your heart was lifted up because of your spiritual beauty.

Because of your wisdom. Because of your musical ability. Because of your spiritual gifts.

The same spirit and you corrupted your wisdom. That wisdom which should have made him humble was corrupt and became demonic. James speaks about that wisdom which is from beneath.

That demonic wisdom which is full of jealousy and strife and competition. Yeah. You see the beginning of that.

What was the result of all this? We turn back to Genesis 1. The earth was shapeless empty and dark. And we can say why have we studied Lucifer's history so much? Because it is these things that I have just spoken about which made the earth the object of God's anger. God resists the proud.

And that was true even in those days. Because God resisted the proud the earth became shapeless, empty and dark. And the warning for us is that if these characteristics are found in our life we also will become shapeless, empty and dark.

Shapeless means without the image of Christ. Empty means hollow no content having a form of godliness but empty inside, no power. And dark means no life.

No revelation. No life of Jesus. That can happen today.

It's happening. Happening to people who were born again were anointed. You were the anointed cherub.

You were an anointed believer. You were an anointed man of God. You were an anointed sister.

What's that word? But because you got puffed up the anointing is gone. You have a good testimony before other believers but the anointing is gone. Brothers and sisters shall I tell you what we learn from verses 1 and 2? Fear to lose the anointing and to retain the testimony before other believers.

Fear it. Fear it. Fear when that emptiness comes into your life which is an indication that the anointing is gone.

Fear when the darkness is creeping into your life an indication the anointing is gone. We must be in the light. God wants to give us revelation.

God wants to give us content. Fear when that freshness is gone from your life and the Christian life has become stale. Fear when the freshness has gone out of your relationship with another brother or another sister.

You can't do anything about the other person's part. You can do something about your part. Fear to lose the anointing.

Then we end up in Genesis 1, 2 in our life. And the spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. Satan was now, as we read in those verses, cast out from he had free access being a spirit being unlike man who was created subject to the law of gravity.

When Lucifer was appointed in the Garden of Eden he was not subject to the law of gravity. He could move in a flash of a second right into the third heaven into the immediate presence of God and being in the Garden of Eden in a flash of a second. He was a spirit being.

He didn't have a body. He could be right there in the presence of God in the third heaven. But he was thrown out of the Garden of Eden and thrown out of the third heaven and he was thrown down to the second heaven.

We'll come to that a little later. But Satan is not in hell. Satan has never been in hell.

Did you know that? Hell is in the heart of the earth and Satan has never been there. Not till today. And he will never go there.

He's been cast out from the third heaven to the second heaven. He's the one of the spirit, along with the spirit rulers in the heavenly places. That's why we find prayer so difficult.

So difficult to communicate with God. It's not easy to communicate with men because the devil's headquarters is there. It's so difficult to communicate with God.

That's why we feel sleepy when we want to pray. Because it's the second heaven where the devil is there trying to hinder our communication with God. That's why it's a battle.

We wrestle with principalities and powers in the heavenly places. One day as we read in Revelation chapter 12 he'll be cast down from there to the earth. That day hasn't come yet.

It's coming very soon. Then when Jesus comes back from the earth he'll again be cast down still not to hell but to the bottomless pit and then finally released from there for a little while back to the earth as we studied in Revelation 20 and then finally thrown not into hell but into the lake of fire which is quite another place where hell also is thrown. That is the final lake of fire.

The eternal lake of fire where nobody has gone there yet. So we see there are stages Satan's falling down and the present is in the second heaven. Right? We see the earth was formless and void and darkness was over the surface of the deep.

The spirit of God was moving over the surface of the water. It's a very beautiful picture of what God did to remake that earth which he first created perfect which became imperfect through the devil's sin and which now the spirit of God is moving over in order to remake. It says here that the earth was covered with water long before the flood of Noah there was another flood that's spoken of here the flood that came as a result of Lucifer's sin we can say it's Lucifer's flood.

Noah's flood was many hundreds of years later. But the earth was first created. Beautiful earth that God created and then Lucifer's sin and the earth was judged and part of that judgment was the whole earth was covered with water it was a flood and not a speck of land you could see anywhere.

And you read about this in 2 Peter chapter 3 where we read about the verse 6 2 Peter 3 verse 6 The world at that time was destroyed being flooded with water. Verse 5 In the name of Jesus Christ I notice by the word of God the heavens existed long ago the earth was formed out of water and by water through which the world at that time was destroyed being flooded with water. The earth was destroyed.

It was not destroyed in Noah's day. In Noah's day the waters were over the earth only for a short while. Even the vegetation was not completely destroyed because we read that when the dove went out of Noah's ark he could bring back a leaf.

But it was destroyed in Lucifer's flood completely. And then we read in Genesis 1-2 The Spirit of God moved over this flooded earth. This dark flooded earth.

It's a picture of how the Holy Spirit seeks to move over man who has been ruined by Satan. Genesis 1-2 is a picture of man in his fallen state. Shapeless, empty dark and then God wants to remake man.

This is the work of salvation. The Spirit of God moving. There can be no remaking without the Spirit of God moving whether it's the earth or a human being.

The first thing is the Holy Spirit has to move. We are so dependent on the Holy Spirit to be transformed into the likeness of Christ. We need to see Genesis 1 as a picture of our sanctification and our transformation.

Because at the end of Genesis 1 you read in Genesis 2-3 Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it. He had completed His work. Genesis 2-2 God completed His work and He sanctified the seventh day.

That's the first time the word sanctification comes in the whole Bible. And therefore I say this whole thing can refer to our sanctification also. Like it says in Genesis 2-2 One day it will be written God completed it in our life.

And therefore we look at this as a picture of how God transforms us and therefore it's very interesting to see that it begins it begins with the Spirit of God. Where a believer does not value being filled with the Holy Spirit transformation is impossible. Where a believer thinks it is just my denying myself my gripping my teeth my judging myself my doing this very good leave out the Holy Spirit and it will be Buddhism.

It will be yoga. Never begin with judging yourself begin with the Holy Spirit. Let Him reveal to you the things that you can never see.

In His light we will see light. The second thing the second agent by which transformation takes place is the word of God free Then God spoke His word. We can read it like that.

Then God sent forth His word. Let there be light. Therefore we see that this whole work of of remaking this spoiled earth of remaking the mess that the devil has brought upon the earth this remaking of this mess is done by the Spirit of God and the word of God.

Remember the verse we saw at the beginning from Matthew 22 where Jesus said you are mistaken because you don't know the word of God and you don't know the power of God. If you don't know these two you don't have Christianity. What you've got is a lot of good theories.

No, it's the Spirit of God moving and the word of God to which the earth submitted the earth submitted to the moving of God's Spirit and to the spoken word of God. Of course the difference is the earth did not have a will of its own to resist the Holy Spirit moving or to resist the word of God but when this happens to fallen man man has the opportunity to resist the Holy Spirit and to resist the word of God and that's why God's not able to do a work in man like He did on the earth. The remaking of the earth was such a perfect job that at the end God says that means God inspected it and said couldn't be better, excellent.

That's because He just submitted.

There's a lesson there for us brothers and sisters that if we can learn to submit to the Spirit of God moving it's a beautiful word I'm told that in the original as it says in the margin here of your Bible the Bible Genesis 1-2 it says was hovering or brooding it's like a bird hovering over the nest a dove so we see there that the Spirit of God is pictured like a bird even there in Genesis 1-2 hovering you know just over there moving speaks of gentleness it's not the Spirit of God kicking, pushing no that's the devil kicking, pushing we've got that in us brothers and sisters we've got it in our flesh just think of the way we treat our children we discover how much of it is in our flesh kicking, pushing and then we see the Spirit of God is hovering trying to change change us into the

likeness of Christ firmness with gentleness determined to transform this earth firm about it but yet not with kicking and pushing and yelling but gently that's how He moves with us that's why the word of God says be still and know that I am God we have to really be still to hear the gentle voice of the Spirit saying not this way the other way and I don't listen and He doesn't kick He doesn't push He lets me go in the wrong way but He still whispers not this way the other way and I still don't listen He lets me go no kicking, no pushing at all no need to say that don't say that word now no need to say that to him or to her I don't listen I am determined to say I want to get it off my chest He won't stop me He'll let me do it He'll let me do the

greatest evil in the world He won't stop me

so that's the sad thing that's why transformation is so slow brothers and sisters learn from Genesis 1-2 that transformation can take place only if we can be submissive to the hovering of the Holy Spirit over us be sensitive to those gentle promptings little things don't do that not now hold on go right now and apologize to Him don't put it off settle that matter now there's a wrong attitude in your heart to that person cleanse it now no pushing, no kicking hovering the aim is transformation remaking this mess that the devil has made in my life listen to that voice, brothers and sisters listen to it that's how we have delayed the work of God in our lives and the word of God, submit to it the word of God is always bringing light the unfolding of God's word brings light Psalm 119 verse 130

God said, let there be light and that's always what God is doing God's word is to bring light into a dark situation light into darkness and there was light if I submit to that word of God it will always bring light into my life every word of God has got the same power that that first word of God mentioned in scripture has to bring light if I submit to it it will bring light into my life we read in 2nd Corinthians 4 2nd Corinthians 4 and verse 6 for God who said light shall shine out of darkness is the one who has shone in our hearts so then we read that what we are studying in Genesis 1 we are going on the right line we are going in the right direction because the Holy Spirit says here that that's exactly what it all means that it is a picture, spiritually of that light that shines into

our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ in other words, the light of revelation that's number one the light of revelation is the beginning of the work of transformation and the other thing we read in John 1, 4 is that, that light is the life of Jesus in him was life and that life was the light of men so from both these verses we see that the light is a picture of revelation and of the life of Jesus revelation leading to transformation of character or we can also say that comparing that first day of the remaking of the old creation to the first day of the week when Jesus rose up from the dead and to think of the tomb as the darkness and into that tomb God says let there be light and Jesus rises from the dead and that resurrection is the

light the beginning of a new creation on the first day of the week this is the first day of the week of the old creation and what we read in Luke 24 is the first day of the week of the new creation and in both cases it is light out of darkness, death being overcome it is resurrection which is pictured there in Genesis 1, 4 Genesis 1, 3 there was light resurrection, revelation resurrection, the life of Jesus and that is why we speak so much about putting to death that which is of Adam because there cannot be a resurrection if there is no putting to death of the Adamic life if we die with him we shall live with him if we do not die with him, we shall not live with him if we bear in our body the dying of Jesus the life of Jesus will be manifested in our body so if you want the resurrection

you must have the death first and that's why I say the cross is central in the whole of the scriptures and you see it right there let there be light God is always seeking to do that in our lives let there be light in that area think my brothers and sisters when you have a difficulty a relationship problem with someone we can say that it is an area of darkness think of your relationships with all the brothers and sisters like a house with a hundred rooms and some rooms the light is not on or some rooms it's a zero watt bulb it's on but sort of a bit dim relationship with somebody other rooms is thousand watts bright and what does God want to do he wants to enter those rooms not the rooms which are bright he wants to enter the rooms where there is no light and say and the word of God is let

there be light in your relationship with that brother let there be light in your relationship with that sister now the question is like the earth submitted will you submit or not there will be no kicking no pushing by the Holy Spirit only a hovering and the word of God going forth let there be light let there be light let there be light in that area which is a bit shady in your life some practice something you are doing in your office something you are doing with your money let there be light let there be light some habit which is not so good the word of God is let there be light and he waits patiently till we submit to that let there be light and if it can be written about our life in that room and there was light praise God in that relationship with that person there was light in that

shady area of my life there was light then the work of transformation is progressing so we can think about that I think we have something to meditate on we can stop there and see where what application it has in our own personal life so that we can allow the word of God and the Holy Spirit to accomplish its purpose in our lives

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