

**Genesis 1: In the Beginning**

In our last studies we defined what a worldview is- there are many categories of worldview. I encourage you to look at the chart provided on the church website that has the major categories of worldviews. As you study and look at the chart, you can probably establish where many people are in our nation today. Most are a blending of the 7 worldviews other than Christian Theism (Biblical Worldview). As believers in Jesus, we hold to the authority of the scriptures. They scriptures answer to vital questions of life, death and the created world.

**Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God the heavens and the earth...**

There is a story to be told of the universe and the primary or first reality of all things is GOD. He was before us eternally according to the Bible. It is with Him that all things begin and end. **(Rev. 22:13)** Since there is a beginning, and God was before, He is the authoritative storyteller concerning what has been made. The Bible teaches us that this creation was *ex nihilo* Latin for "out of nothing". **Hebrews 11:1-3**

Let us note the first separation concerning this creation, established by the Word of God. In God's story he sets the earth apart from "the heavens". This would suggest that the heavens are the grand stage upon which the drama of what happens on the earth is going to be carried out.

We know elsewhere that the heavens serve as a witness of the glory of the creator (Psalm 19:1-3). God's word reveals that the earth is unique- at least as far as we know. There is no other planet that we know of that can support life as the earth can. What this also tells us is that God exists outside of this universe. (the third Heaven 2 Cor. 12:1-4)

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**Genesis 1:2 Formless and Empty, God's Spirit Hovered over it....**

Though God is active on the earth and in his creation, it is not his ultimate dwelling place. He is separate from it from the very beginning. By the way, this is one of the beauties of Christ's incarnation. God in Christ became flesh and dwelled in a man.

**Genesis 1:3-10 And God said, Let there be light... evening and morning, the first day.**

The creation begins with God speaking and in doing so, the first separation within the creation is made: light and darkness. Day and night. Note that the light was created- darkness was not. Darkness then is believed by many to be nothing at all except the absence of light. It is light that gives understanding and clarity. Light is truth and life. John 1:1-9.

When God originally created the world, he began by depriving it of HIS light. Then his light shone in. He is the source of it all. In his full presence there is not darkness. Rev. 22:5. This separation of light and darkness is necessary as light is necessary for the natural world to flourish, but biblically we understand darkness and light refers spiritual matters as well. 1 Jn 1:5-7

This parallel between physical and spiritual darkness is wonderfully seen that in the story in John 3. The story of Jesus conversation with Nicodemus. "He came to Jesus at night" John 3:2. "Jesus said, ..people loved darkness instead of light." John 3:16-21.

In our world we have darkness and light materially, but also spiritually. Darkness and light can never agree. They cannot peacefully coexist. The light is the truth of Jesus Christ, the darkness is rejection of that light. This is the root cause of human-kind's dilemma. The rejection of the light of God's testimony concerning himself and the human condition of walking in darkness. As the influence of Christianity diminishes in a culture, the culture becomes more reckless, dangerous deluded and deadly.

Though these are dark times, we can still burn brightly for Jesus and we know that light will eventually be victorious.