

A World of Purpose

May 21, 2017 ~ Isaiah 45.18-19

Read to “created the heavens”

- ❖ To “create” is not simply an action
 - ✧ Think of it in the “creative” sense
- ❖ Imagine an artist who's about to start lay brush to blank canvas
- ❖ Imagine a sculptor who's about to start chiseling away at a block of stone
- ❖ Now imagine they're fully engaged in the work
 - ✧ They're so focused on their work that they don't eat - they don't sleep
- ❖ Artists lives in reality and brings something into existence in that reality
- ❖ God did the same / God lives in the ultimate reality
 - ✧ He brought our entire universe into that reality with Him
 - ✧ He’s an Artist in the truest sense of the word
 - ✧ “God is not like artists” / “Artists are like God”

Read to “formed the earth and made it”

- ❖ There are two types of sculptors / create from clay & cut from stone
 - ✧ Formed by adding material (modeling) / removing material (carving)
 - ✧ God is a third type (*like a modeler*) / He creates from nothing
- ❖ But note here that he “formed” and “made”
 - ✧ **Formed** indicates the process / **Made** indicates the finished product
 - ✧ Human artists, inventors, builders, workers, have gone on to do the same
 - ✧ We are made in God's image to “**form and make**” things
- ❖ God had an end in mind when He began to form things
 - ✧ The forming was complete when the making was complete
- ❖ God didn't just create “**things**” He created complex “**processes**”
 - ✧ Creating complex self-sustaining processes is much harder than things
 - ✧ God (through Jesus) created and sustains His complex creation
- ❖ A designer has an end in mind at the start / God's no different / **Gen 1.31**
 - ✧ “**Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good.**”
 - ✧ Declaring it to be “**very good**” means it met His expectations

Xition: We must differentiate between heavens and earth . . .

Heavens and the Earth

- ❖ Man given dominion on earth ~ **Read Gen 1.26** “Let Us make .. on the earth”
- ❖ God retains ownership ~ **Read Jer 27.5** “I have made the .. proper to Me”
- ❖ God owns heavens & earth ~ **Read Ps 89.11** “The heavens are .. founded them”
- ❖ Heavens God’s realm ~ **Read Ps 115.16** “The heaven, even .. children of men”
- ❖ God counted & named stars ~ **Read Ps 147.4** “He counts the .. all by name”
- ❖ There are an estimated 10 trillion galaxies in observable universe
 - ✧ On average an estimated 100 million stars per galaxy
 - ✧ Number of stars is 1 to the 24th power / Some think that an underestimate
 - ✧ Million, Billion, Trillion, Quadrillion, Quintillion, Sextillion, Septillion, Octillion
 - ✧ Few people know anything past trillion / That’s why we all use Zillion
- ❖ There are trillions * trillions of stars (yet God named each one)
 - ✧ **Read Job 38.1-11** ~ “Then the Lord .. waves must stop”

Read to “has established it”

- ❖ God made the earth and established it
 - ✧ When people found towns or businesses they put up signs (Est. Year)
 - ✧ God established the earth in a similar fashion (Est. Circa 4004 BC)
- ❖ Towns and businesses founded to last / Failure is sad
- ❖ Man visited us from Ozark, AR at presbytery this past week
 - ✧ He represented First Presbyterian Church of Ozark, AR (Est. 1851)
 - ✧ PCUSA / They have 5 members / Vision to restore this Church
 - ✧ CPC voted to 'sponsor' him / We want to see him succeed
- ❖ We don't want to see a second date added (Est 1851 - DisEst 2017)

Disestablishment is Sad / Feared

- ❖ People are saddened by failure & loss / Some even fear it
- ❖ People fret over the state of the earth
 - ✧ pollution / deforestation / nuclear power / animal and plant extinction
 - ✧ global warming / climate change / genetic experimentation
 - ✧ But God rules & overrules / I’m thankful for sanitation improvements
- ❖ Founders typically die / successive generations must maintain vision
 - ✧ Non-Christians don't acknowledge Founder's former & present existence
 - ✧ They insist there was no founder and thus no vision to maintain

Xition: But we know that’s not the case . . .

God Runs This Establishment

- ❖ Gary North asks in describing covenants, "**Who's in charge here?**"
 - ✧ Non-Christians insist that no one is - so they seek an elite to rule
 - ✧ Their belief is somewhat justified
 - ✧ Sin has made the earth "*appear to be*" without adequate governance
- ❖ It's a question all Christians are asked - "**Why is the world so messed up?**"
 - ✧ The answer is that God's original caretakers (Adam & Eve) failed
 - ✧ Man was deceived, acted irresponsibly, and messed everything up
 - ✧ Satan's influence upon the Est. of the earth has been profound
- ❖ God reserved heaven for Himself but leased earth out to man
 - ✧ Yet note **Ps 24.1-2** ~ "**The earth is .. upon the waters**"
 - ✧ God retains all permanent rights to His creation / We're copyrighted
 - ✧ Jesus tells story of owner leasing out vineyard
- ❖ God is a sole proprietor – but He does hire / fire managers

Read to "**did not create it in vain**"

- ❖ The earth was not created in vain
 - ✧ God had a purpose in mind when creating the earth
 - ✧ The earth will fulfill that ultimate purpose
- ❖ The rebellious reject this ~ They insist on purposelessness and vanity
 - ✧ But .. What's funny is that people must live for something
 - ✧ So many people without hope in this world want to save the planet
- ❖ **III**: Maxwell book, "**Talent is Never Enough**". "**If people lack a plan for themselves, they'll become part of someone else's plan.**"
- ❖ All people are part of God's plan - whether they want or acknowledge it
 - ✧ Believers seek to know and do God's will / Bible reading & obeying
 - ✧ Unbelievers ignore God yet still fulfill His will

Read to "**formed it to be inhabited**"

- ❖ God's purpose for the earth was habitation
 - ✧ For man as well as all other plant and animal life
- ❖ **Psalm 104** describes this beautifully (*Amy Grant song from 80s*)
 - ✧ Life is everywhere on earth / highest ~ lowest ~ most extreme envs
 - ✧ Life is so pervasive that it's deemed common
- ❖ We need to dig deeper into this purpose of "**habitation**"

Xition: But let's look at how God has made life on earth possible . . .

Earth is Utterly Unique

- ❖ The cover of Time magazine in 1966 asked "**Is God Dead?**"
 - ✧ Intended to be provocative and shocking / It succeeded
 - ✧ Science was thought to have killed "**the need of God**"
- ❖ 1971 NASA funded a SETI study / Recommended \$10B Project Cyclops
 - ✧ Large antenna arrays were to "*listen*" for signs of intelligent life
 - ✧ Carl Sagan estimated of 1 to the 24th planets 1 to 21st could support life
 - ✧ This amounted to 1 of every 1,000 planets
- ❖ Only two rules at the time 1) size of star, and 2) distance from star
- ❖ But over time more requirements were added to this small list (now 200+)
 - ✧ 3) Hospitable galaxy (*safe from radiation / collisions*),
 - ✧ 4) Stable sun (*very consistent energy output – min solar flares*),
 - ✧ 5) Molten magnetic core,
 - ✧ 6) Large gas giants close by (*protects earth by absorbing meteors*),
 - ✧ 7) Circular rather than elliptical orbit (*not too long hot or cold periods*),
 - ✧ 8) Large moon relatively close and circular orbit (*control tides*),
 - ✧ 9) Rapid rotation (*not too long hot or cold periods*)
 - ✧ 10) Tilted axis (*23 degrees – creates seasons*)
- ❖ Probability of finding another earth declined steadily (*nearly impossible*)
 - ✧ But it's obviously not impossible, right... As it happened here... FAITH

Amazing Facts About Earth, Sun, and Moon

- ❖ Earth
 - ✧ Only planet covered with water & life / 500k islands
 - ✧ If orbit elliptical life would die / if rotated more slowly life would die
 - ✧ Year around sun (365 days, 5 hrs, 48 mins, 45.51 secs) Accurate 1/1000 sec
 - ✧ If average temp goes +/- 2 degrees all life dies (*roast / freeze*)
 - ✧ Earth's 24 hour rotation preserves life (*slower and we'd roast and freeze*)
 - ✧ Tilt of 23 degrees required to have 4 seasons (*at 0 or 90 all life would die*)
- ❖ Sun
 - ✧ Earth receives only 1 billionth of sun's rays
 - ✧ Yet that is equivalent to 130 trillion horsepower
- ❖ Moon
 - ✧ If closer huge tides would scrub planet flat / Water over 1 mile deep
 - ✧ Moon rotates once in exactly the same time it circles earth (27.3 days)

Amazing Facts About Water and Air

❖ Water as Liquid

- ❖ 70% of earth's surface covered with water
- ❖ Surface water acts as huge heat sink / captures day & release night
- ❖ Absorbs heat without increasing much in temperature
- ❖ Atmosphere of earth prevents excessive evaporation

❖ Water as Solid

- ❖ Most everything contracts as it cools / water does also
- ❖ But... As it approaches freezing it begins to expand
- ❖ It takes up slighter more room in sold than liquid so it floats
- ❖ Warm water under frozen surface sinks (*preserving life*)
- ❖ The warming and cooling produce Coriolis effect (*ocean currents*)
- ❖ This preserves life in water / It also prevents destruction of '*container*'

❖ Air

- ❖ Hot water sinks, thankfully / Hot air rises, thankfully
- ❖ If cool air rose instead the earth's surface temp rise (*no animals*)
- ❖ Cold air would begin just above earth's surface (*no birds*)
- ❖ Several layers of atmosphere protect us from harmful radiation and meteors

God Formed Earth to be Inhabited

- ❖ Our entire solar system was created to support life on earth
 - ❖ Man is not a product of random chance
 - ❖ Man is a product of deliberative creative effort

“What is the Meaning of Life?”

- ❖ We begin to address that question when faced with death
 - ❖ 1973 – Grandma died – Death is serious
 - ❖ 1975 – Sister Bridgot died – Death comes to the young
 - ❖ 1981 – Saved! – God exists and life has meaning
 - ❖ 1984 – Brother Mike died – Death comes to the reckless
 - ❖ 2000 – Father died – Death leaves us with regrets
 - ❖ 2004 – Mother died – Death comes to the sad
 - ❖ 2014 – Sister Brenda died – Death comes to the weary
 - ❖ 2017 – Brother John died – Death comes unexpectedly
- ❖ Death has claimed all of my immediate family members

The Sermon Today was Entitled “A World of Purpose”

- ❖ God created trillions * trillions of stars, our galaxy, this earth – for a purpose
- ❖ God created mankind in general for a purpose
- ❖ God creates each individual for a purpose
 - ✧ Man’s purpose is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever
 - ✧ Of my immediate family I was the only Christian
 - ✧ God preserved me until now to tell this story
 - ◆ The story of a family that didn’t know God and didn’t live to serve God
- ❖ Unbelievers see no ultimate purpose or meaning in life
 - ✧ All that they do in their own minds is temporary
- ❖ Yet God has purpose in everything
 - ✧ We are all a part of God’s plan
 - ✧ The evil and the good
 - ✧ The saved and the unsaved

- ❑ **Our sins separate us from the powerful God that created our world**
- ❑ **God appointed a Savior to pay the penalty for those sins**
- ❑ **But we must seek Him while He may be found**
- ❑ **And we that know the Lord must share this good news while there’s time**

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling,

And to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

To God our Savior, who alone is wise,

Be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever.

Amen *pause* Go in peace . . .