

The Greatness of God – Yahweh: The Creator God

Goldstone Church – 08-Jan-17 10:30am

Genesis 1:1-31

Introduction

We're starting a series looking at the *Greatness of God*, looking at from verses across the whole of the Bible; starting where it all began: "Yahweh: The Creator God".

In Genesis 1, we don't just see *how* God created the world, but recognise some of God's characteristics as He created the world.

1. GOD IS... (Genesis 1:1-2)

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters." (Gen 1:1-2)

These verses reveal 3 key aspects of God's character:

- a) [God is...] **Omniscient.** (v.1a)
Dictionary definition = '*Unlimited knowledge of all things.*'
The Bible opens with the phrase, "*In the beginning God*", but the whole of the Bible repeats this fact: God has unlimited knowledge of all things.
- b) [God is...] **Omnipotent.** (v.1b)
Dictionary definition = '*Infinite in power, with unlimited authority.*'
v.1b says, "*God created the heavens and the earth.*"
You cannot create the universe, unless you have the power and authority to do the work. God is infinite in power, with unlimited authority.
- c) [God is...] **Omnipresent.** (v.2)
Dictionary definition = '*Present everywhere and at the same time.*'
v.2b: "*the Spirit of God was hovering...*" Or, the Spirit of God was 'moving'... moving on, and by, and through, and within the earth that was formless and empty. Through the power of His Holy Spirit, God was present everywhere and at the same time.

The God that we worship is:

- Omniscient. He has unlimited knowledge of all things – including your personal situation.
- Omnipotent. He is infinite in power, with unlimited authority – so He is able to act in your personal situation.
- Omnipresent. He is present everywhere and at the same time – and so He is with you right now.

2. GOD CREATES (Genesis 1:3-25)

On the first 3 days, God is **FORMING** the world:

- Day 1: God separates the light from darkness.
- Day 2: God separates upper sky from the lower water

- Day 3: God separates water from the land; vegetation

On the second 3 days, God is **FILLING** the world:

- Day 4: God orders the lights in the sky & makes seasons
- Day 5: God fills the water & skies with living creatures
- Day 6: God creates land creatures & humankind.

This briefly outlines what God did, but also says 3 things about God's character:

a) [God Creates...] **Order**

v.2, the earth was "*formless and empty*". The word also means 'confusion' or 'chaos'. In other words, God is a God that brings order out of the chaos.
cf "*God is not a God of disorder but of peace.*" (1 Cor 14:33)

b) [God Creates...] **Visibly**

On each of the 6 days of creation, there is a significant difference between the 'before' and the 'after'. God doesn't hide in the background, but clearly reveals his creative abilities. And "*God saw that it was good.*"
God's power is revealed and visibly displayed – and it's good.

c) [God Creates...] **Holiness**

v.3 "*God said, 'Let there be light' and there was light.*"
Why did God create "light" first?

"*This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.*" (1 John 1:5)

When God brought light into the world, it was a representation of His own holiness and purity. Part of God's very being is wrapped up in His creation; and what God creates is holy.

With God in our lives today:

- He brings order into our world of confusion or chaos.
- He is visibly active and involved in our daily lives.
- He leads us in paths of holiness; to live lives that are pleasing to Him.

3. GOD RELATES (Genesis 1:26-31)

God uses an amazing template to create His highpoint.

"*God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.*" (Gen 1:27)

We were created using God as a pattern.

Note how God interacts and connects with His highest of all creations:

a) [God...] **Blesses** (v.28a)

God pours out all His goodness, compassion and love onto those who He has made in His image, i.e. you and me. We have been blessed by Almighty God himself. We worship a God that seeks a relationship with us, for the purpose of blessing us.

b) [God ...] **Gives** (v.29a)

"*God said, 'I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the*

earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground – everything that has the breath of life in it – I give every green plant for food.”

(Gen 1:29-30)

The earth's resources are a gift from God, not a right.

Our response is to respect and to enjoy the gifts that God has given to us. We worship a God that seeks a relationship with us, for the purpose of giving us gifts of His goodness.

c) [God ...] **Delights** (v.31a)

God was pleased with all that He had made, i.e. God is pleased that He created you. God doesn't make junk! God takes pleasure in your existence.

We worship a God that seeks a relationship with us, because He knows that what He has made is "very good"; He wants to spend time with you and me.

CONCLUSION

Motto verse for 2017:

"The Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline."
(2 Timothy 1:7).

Note: this is the same Spirit of God that was present when the world was created in Genesis 1. The God who promises to give us power, love and self-discipline, is the same God that reveals himself to us.

He is the God who Is.

He is the God who Creates.

He is the God who Relates with each one of us.

God is calling us to truth and to reconnect afresh with *Yahweh: The Creator God*.
To recommit ourselves to Him.

How will you respond?

AMEN