

UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE

Episode 2: Genesis 1 & 2

Genesis is the first book of the Bible, and the beginning of “The Torah” – the first Five books of the Bible, written almost entirely by Moses. It speaks to the beginning of the world, who God is, why the world is perpetually broken, and what God set out to do about it.

Remember: The primary narrative of the Bible is the fall of humankind, and God’s agenda of deliverance through the Messiah, who will ultimately set all things right.

In the beginning, God...

- The Bible starts with this premise, “God exists.”
- God Himself has no beginning, “In the beginning” God already was. He exists outside of time.
- He “created” all the material world. He exists apart from it.
- So the simplest definition that I offer for who or what God is would be this: An all-powerful Being, who exists apart from time/space, and is responsible for all matter, life, and reality.

Created the Heavens and the earth...

- He takes ownership of all reality.
- You don’t have to check your brain at the door.
- Question everything! Not just the Bible, but purported “science”.
- No one was there. We’re all biased about the foundation of our universe.
- Give God/the Bible at least equal voice.
- The Bible is not a science textbook, but it is more scientifically accurate than any other literature from it’s time.
 - o The way plants and animals reproduce.
 - o The separation of waters.
 - o Mankind was made from the “dust” of the earth – everything in the human body can be found in nature.
- God made mankind “in His image”, breathed into man the breath of life, and man became a living soul.
 - o Humanity is distinctly unique from all other created things.
 - o Our intelligence, capacity for creativity, and discovery, our emotional range.
 - o All of this far surpassed our cranial capacity. (Dolphins have roughly the same sized brain).
 - o We are made “in God’s image”. We share a resemblance to our Creator. That resemblance is best expressed in one word: freewill. We have choice as our greatest asset and most damning liability.
- “It is not good for the man to be alone...”
 - o “helper” “helpmate” “co-helper” “one to compliment”
 - o The Scriptures tell us that God made men and women differently, complimentary, but equal in His image.

- John Philips – “God made Eve from Adam’s rib – not his head, for the woman was not to lord over the man. Not from his foot, for the woman was not to be his doormat. But from the middle of him, where she would find equality, under his arm, where she would find protection, and near his heart, where she would find love.”
- WOAH-man! “Therefor shall a man leave his father and mother, and be joined to his wife...”
- “And they were both naked, and were not ashamed...”

This is the last time in the history of the human race that shame was not present. Because the very next chapter our freewill – that greatest asset, resembling our Creator? – becomes our ultimate liability. And we’ve all been paying for it since.

Next time! We get into Genesis 3! Send in your questions to me at john@lifecitynow.org. Visit my website, johnmarkum.org, and remember to subscribe to us on iTunes, Google Play, and rate this podcast or leave a review. I look forward to hearing from you!