Rev. Matthew Versemann Trinity Lutheran Church Decatur, Illinois Creation Series – Part 4 Why Genesis 1-11 Matters June 28th, 2020

Why Genesis 1-11 Matters

God's PEACE is ALWAYS YOURS in Jesus.

Hear the Word of God from Genesis:

"And God looked at everything He had made, and said, "Behold! It is very good!"

"By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food, until you return to the ground. For dust you are, and to dust you will return."

"(The Lord said to the serpent), I will put enmity between you and the woman. And between your seed and hers'. He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

DEAR FRIENDS IN CHRIST,

If and when people ask me, "What is your position on Genesis?" My answer, like that of Ken Ham, of Answers In Genesis, is: The Biblical One. Namely, that: the universe did not exist until God created it. God created everything in six literal days. The earth and universe are thousands of years old, not millions. God created the first humans Adam and Eve, from whom all humanity has descended. A worldwide flood literally happened in the days of Noah as a judgment on mankind's sin. But God saved Noah and his family through the flood, on the Ark, 8 souls in all, because they trusted in Him, and were found righteous in His sight. In other words, I take the Bible as it is written.

However, many Christians, pastors, and churches do not take God's Word as written in Genesis 1-11. Now why is that? Because they refuse to believe that the evolutionary scientists can be wrong; even though no one was their when everything began – except God; and in spite of the fact, that none of us – including scientists – can go back in time to test their theories, using the scientific method. Thus, not only is the origin of all things, and the evolution of species in the past, not proven, using the scientific method, it is also not provable, because we can't go back in time.

Thus, as we said at the beginning of this sermon series on Creation versus Evolution, as stated by Ken Ham of Answers In Genesis, "When it come to the origin of everything, you really only have two options: you will either believe the words of men, who were not there, who do not know everything, who's thinking is marred by sin, who are biased, who make mistakes, who refuse to consider all options, and who are constantly revising their theories, to tell us how all of the present got here; or, you will believe the Word of God, Who was there, Who knows all things, Who is not sinful, Who never makes mistakes, Who caused all things to come into existence, Who was an eyewitness, and Who never revises His Words, to tell us how all of the present got here." So which one are you going to believe, and why does it matter?

Here's why it matters. One you destroy the foundation that God's Word is the truth, and that God created all things very good, because He wanted us, and because He wanted all of us to live in perfect communion, with Him, and one another, forever, in paradise, enjoying His gifts, and serving Him in love.....once you eliminate that, and replace it with the false narrative of evolution, that we're here by chance, suffering and death are a normal part of life, and when we die we cease to exist, the whole structure of Christianity collapses, because you're replacing God's truth that everything was created good, but that sin entered the world through one man, Adam, and death through sin, and all of the pain, suffering and death we experience are not a normal part of life – as Evolution teaches – but are an intrusion into God's perfect plan, not caused by God, but caused by man's sin; and you also call into question God's solution, in Genesis 3, that God promised us a Savior, Jesus Christ, and that God introduced the death of a substitute victim – Jesus - so that mankind, and all creation, could be redeemed; and that thru Jesus, God's goal of having us live with Him, forever, in a new and restored Garden of Eden, can be ours' again. This is what is at stake in Genesis 1-11. <u>Page 2</u>

And the main reason that our world and our thinking is so messed up, as seen on the streets of our nation every night, is because so many people — especially the last two generations in our nation - no longer have the truth of God's Word as the solid foundation upon which to build the structure of their lives, but have bought into the lie that mans' words are the truth, and are living their lives based on many different false narratives, but all of those false narratives, have one common denominator; namely, evolution; that there is no God, your life doesn't have any ultimate meaning or purpose so, you might as well be your own gods, and come up with our own truths — and we see a lot of 'little gods' rioting on the streets of our nation. And sadly, they are actually and truly lost, because they've been fed a diet of mans' evolutionary lies, passed down to them, by biased people who didn't want God in their lives, and now we're reaping the results. And I fear that the worst is yet to come, because the trajectory of believing the lies of evolution, and blowing off God and His Word, is a rising or growing trajectory.

So why does Genesis 1-11 matter? Here's why. The very basic, and most essential, questions in one's life, either directly or indirectly, find their answers in Genesis 1-11.

- Where did everything come from? From a loving God. Genesis 1-11.
- Where did people come from? From a loving God. Genesis 1-11.
- Where did the plants and animals, including dinosaurs, come from? Genesis 1-11.
- Where did the gift of one man and one woman united in marriage arise? Gen 1-11
- Where did the fact that there are only two genders come from? Genesis 1-11.
- Why do we work six days, and rest one day? Genesis 1-11.
- Where do we see God wants us to live, forever, with Him, in paradise? Gen 1-11
- Where do we first learn about the devil, and that he's our enemy? Genesis 1-11.
- Where did sin come from? Genesis 1-11?
- Where did pain, suffering, and disease come from? Genesis 1-11.
- When did marital conflict, the battle of the sexes, and divorce begin? Gen. 1-11
- Where did death come from? Genesis 1-11.
- When and how was paradise, and God's goal for our lives, lost? Genesis 1-11.
- Who has dominion over the plants, animals, and all creation? Genesis 1-11.
- Why are we meat-eaters, instead of vegetarians? Genesis 1-11.
- Why do we wear clothes? Genesis 1-11.

- When, and how, did people begin to die? Genesis 1-11.
- Why do we have children and families? Genesis 1-11.
- What happened to the dinosaurs? Genesis 1-11.
- Where did most of the fossil record come from? Genesis 1-11.
- Where did all the people groups, and nations, come from? Genesis 1-11.
- When and Where did God give us the first promise of a Savior? Genesis 1-11.

Now do you see why the devil, the world, and our flesh, are trying so hard to destroy the foundations and truth of Genesis 1-11, and replace them with the lie of evolution? You see, your foundation – that either God's Word is the Truth, or that mans' opinions are the truth – will determine your structure, your worldview, your life, and whether or not you will believe God's promise, that He would, did, and will save you in Jesus; found in Genesis 3:15, that "the seed (singular, referring to Jesus) will crush your head (satan), and you (satan) will strike or bruise His heals", when Jesus allowed Himself to be nailed hand and foot to the cross, so that we could be redeemed. And when you and I, and our children, build our lives on the rock solid foundation of the truth of God's Word, that we are all loving created by God, because He wanted us, and still does want us to have life, with Him, forever, and paradise; but that all of us, starting with Adam, have rebelled against God, and our sin has resulted in all of the pain, suffering, disease, killing, and death that we experience in our lives; but that God never stopped loving us, and sent His Son Jesus, to die on the cross, so that we could all be redeemed, now we have a rock-solid foundation upon which to build our lives; with meaning, purpose, value, and significance; with forgiveness for our past, peace for our present, and hope for our future. But evolution is a manmade lie that robs a person of all of these gifts of God, and is destroying countless lives, with its' meaninglessness.

But, pastor, hasn't evolution and millions of years been proven true, and creation and thousands of years been proven false? Absolutely not! And the fact that we often think like that, reveals how much we've been indoctrinated. And it also reveals how little we understand the doctrine of creations, the evidence for creation, and how to defend our faith in the truths of God's Word, which is why all of us need to start going to places like: AnswersInGenesis.org, and tell our children and grandchildren, to go there, to find solid, Biblically-based, answers to the questions, we all have, because of the lies of evolution we've been fed.

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As I mentioned in our first sermon, both Christians and Evolutionists have a problem; namely, that we can't go back in time, to observe, test, repeat or falsify what happened in the past using the scientific method. You can only hypothesize or hold a belief about where everything came from, as God said to Job, "Were you there when I laid the earth's foundations?" Of course the evolutionist will admit that he wasn't there, but he'll quickly add, "And neither were you." To which, our answer is, "No! I wasn't! But I know someone who was there Who created all things, Who wrote down an eyewitness account of all that He created, and, if we test what the Bible says, by observational science and the scientific method it's backed up and validated. Are you ready to listen?

So what evidence is there for God creating everything, and a young earth; versus, that life arise by chance, and all of life evolved by chance processes over billions of years? PLENTY! And you can find MUCH MORE evidence than I'm going to give you now at: ANWERSINGENESIS.ORG. But let me share my top ten evidences with you now:

NO INTERMEDIATE FORMS IN THE FOSSIL RECORD. If evolution is true 1. we should find countless "missing links" in the fossil record of one species of animal, evolving into another species of animal. In other words, we should find intermediate fossils between butterflies and cats, but we don't see any fossils of "buttercats". We should see intermediate fossils of hippos turning into croco-diles, but we don't see any fossils of "HippoDiles". We should see intermediate forms of crocodiles becoming elephants. But we don't see any fossils of "CrocoPhants". Charles Darwin said, "If evolution is an on-going process, we should find so matter fossils of these intermediate forms in the fossil record, that we would trip over them when we step outside our house." And yet, to this day, evolutionists have not found a single – bonafide (which means one they can all agree on) – not a single bonafide fossil of an intermediate species, although evolutionists have fraudulently tried to make some. However, if God created everything to reproduce according to their kinds, and not to evolve, and then, following sin, there was a worldwide flood that created the fossil record, what should we find, "Billions of dead things, buried in rock layers, laid down by water all over the earth, without any missing links." And what do we find, "Billions of dead things, buried in rock layers, laid down by water, all over the earth, without any missing links." Which is observable, testable evidence for creation, and against evolution.

- 2. FIXED KINDS. If Evolution is true, and one kind of species is constantly evolveing into a new species, we should occasional see intermediate species being born. But what we see is that ONE KIND ALWAYS PRODUCES ITS' OWN KIND, thus, observational science confirms that one kind always gives birth to its' same kind, which backs up creation, that God created everything to produce after their own kind.
- 3. NO SPONTANEOUS GENERATION OF LIFE FROM NON-LIVING MATTER. If Evolution is true, than life spontaneously generated in the ancient past, from non-living matter, and although the evolutionist cannot go back in time to prove this using the scientific method, the fact is they have tried repeatedly to create life out of non-living matter in modern-day experiments; and have repeatedly failed. At the same time the spontaneous generation of life, from non-living matter, by chance, was disproven by Louis Pasteur. And since the only other option for the existence of life is Divine Creation by God, the total lack of evidence for SPONTANESOUS GENERATION backs up God's Word.
- 4. RAPID CANYON FORMATION, AND STRATIFICATION OF SOIL LAYERS. As I mentioned in my sermon two weeks ago, our Lord has a sense of humor. Although we're constantly told that the formation of canyons such as the Grand Canyon and the stratification of earth, or layers of rock, took millions and millions of years. But when Mt. Saint Helens erupted in 1980 in Washington State, if formed a Canyon 1/40th the size of the Grand Canyon, and literal, visible layers of strata, easily seen with the eye in about 24 hours; which is observational evidence in rapid canyon formation and stratification of rock layers.
- 5. QUICK FOSSILIZATION.We've been led to believe by evolutionists that fossilization takes millions of years, as the bones of animals are mineralized, and hardened into rock. However, if the right minerals are present, in the right quantity, fossilization can happen very rapidly. For example, we have found many things in underground mines, over the past century, in a mineral-rich environment, where a miners clothing, a sack of flour, or even a ham, have fossilized into rock over a matter of decades, and not even 100 years, much less millions of years. And a world-wide flood in Noah's day, ripping apart the whole surface of the earth's crust, together with earthquakes, and volcanoes as God opened the fountains of the deep, would have provided the necessary minerals needed for the rapid burial and fossilization of countless animals. <u>Page 6</u>

- 6. CAVE DRAWINGS AND PETROGLYPHS OF DINOSAURS AND HUMANS LIVING TOGETHER. As we mentioned last week, we have found many cave drawings and petroglyphs around the world, but especially by native Americans, that show the Indians in normal life scense, like planting or harvesting crops, with pictures of animals we know today like birds, cows, and deer, but on the same petroglyphs we see other animals that look exactly like dinosaurs, from what we've found in the fossil record; which backs up mankind and dinosaurs being created at the same time by God.
- 7. UNFOSSILIZED BONES OF DINOSAURS, WITH FLESH TISSUE ON THEM, AND RED BLOOD CELLS IN THEM, ARE BEING DISCOVERED. For more information on these discoveries, go to ANSWERSINGENESIS.ORG. The fact that we are finding non-fossilized dinosaur bones, with tissue and red blood cells, is evidence the dinosaurs did not go extinct millions of years ago as Evolutionists say but at least some died in the recent past, which backs up God's Word.
- 8. IRREDUCIBLE COMPLEXITY AND COMMON SENSE. This is the old watchmaker argument; namely, that if you and I went on a walk in the forest, and we stumbled upon a watch, lying on the ground, our experience and reason, would never conclude that the watch came into existence, by chance, over millions of years. Why? Because something as simple as a watch, bears the marks of being designed. And yet, there are multiple systems in the human body, that are irreducibly complex, and thus, logic argues that they have been designed by a designer, and have not arisen by chance.
- 9. THE DOUBLING OF THE EARTH'S POPULATION. The world's population has doubled twice in the last approximate 120 years despite two world wars, pandemics and diseases, and large-scale famines and natural disasters. However, if we used a conservative number and estimated that the Earth's Population doubled every 150 years, it would take only 32 doublings, or about 4800 years, to go from Noah's family of 8 individuals coming off of the Ark, to a population of about 8 billion, which fits perfectly with the evidence. And if we say that humans have been around for the 100,000 years that the evolutionists speculate, there would not be enough room in the universe, for the population of planet earth, given even a conservative growth rate.

10. MATHEMATICS. The late Sir Frederick Hoyle, an agnostic evolutionist, was an Astronomer and Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge University in England. He calculated the mathematical probability of life arising from non-living matter by chance. He concluded that the mathematical chance of achieving even the simplest life form would be $10(40,000^{th} \text{ power})$ – that's a 1 with 40,000 zerous behind it. And to see how impossible this is, consider this, 'if one attempt to start life happened every second, of every year, for the 20 billion years that evolutionists estimate the age of the universe to be, you would still have only reached $10(40^{th} \text{ power})$, and anything greater than $10(50^{th} \text{ power})$ is considered mathematically impossible without added intelligence

And yet, countless people still believe in evolution, and, WANT TO BELIEVE IN EVOLUTION. Why? They want to be their own 'god'. Why? They believe that life without God is where freedom and fun are — when the reality is that life without God is the very definition of hell. Romans 1 declares: "For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God, nor gave thanks to Him, but their thinking became futile, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man, and birds, and animals, and reptiles."

Sadly, countless people are betting on one chance in 10(40,000th power) that evolution is true, rather than trusting the evidence God lovingly created us because He wanted us, and they're ignoring the evidence of the cross and empty tomb of Jesus; for in rejecting Genesis 1-11, they blow off the rest of God's Word, including 1st John 4, "*This is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.*" God has given us countless evidence for the truth of Genesis 1-11, so we'll trust His Word in 1st John 1, "*The blood of Jesus cleanses us from all unright-eousness.*" God wants us to know we're saved and alive in Jesus. But that Good News is entirely dependent on the BAD NEWS that we all sinned against Him, and lost the Paradise and Life He created for us. Still He loved us. The very moment we, in Adam, ruined God's perfect creation by our sin, God immediately promised a Savior – that the most perfect species Jesus – would die so mankind could be redeemed. And on the tree of the cross, Jesus DID NOT SURVIVE, so the weak species of sinners, would not be eliminated, but forgiven. And He blew the lid off of His own grave, so that we could live again, with our Lord, forever, in the Paradise of God. Amen.