

# **Ground Work 01 – part one**

## **“God – His Existence”**

### **Genesis 1:1/Psalm 19:1-4**

#### **Introduction**

- Tonight we begin a brand new series I have entitled “ground work – laying a foundation for faith”
  - It is so important that everyone of us are able to give a reason for the things we believe
  - That is what Peter encourages us to do

**“Always *be* ready to *give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you.” – I Peter 3:15**

- We are supposed to understand why we believe the things we do
  - The answer, well that is what my parents believe, or that is what my pastor’s believes, won’t matter a hill of beans to someone with questions the Lord may put in your path
  - Or it may not even be enough to take you through your own crisis of faith, when the circumstances of life do everything they can to get you to question the validity and love of God
- So we have to know what we believe
  - And there are many studies that deal with those type of things, so it is also my purpose in these messages to get us to understand – why it is important that we believe the things we do

#### **Ideas have consequences, they bear results in our lives**

- and so it is my heart to not only show you in the Word why we believe the things we do, but it is also my heart to bring conviction to those beliefs
  - why those beliefs matter to you and me

#### **So we are calling this study, “Ground Work – laying a foundation for faith”**

- and the reason we called it that, is just to call it Doctrine or Theology just doesn’t sound as cool
  - but that is exactly what we are studying
  - We are studying theology

#### **Theology means - “The study of God”**

- And that is what we are going to do, we are going to study the subject of God and hopefully learn more about Him and ourselves in the process
  - But tonight we are going to start with the why first
  - Normally we will spend our study looking in the scriptures to where it is we derive these beliefs, and then explain why it is important
  - But tonight I think it is important for us to understand why

#### **The Why is this – since we are going to be spending the next few months studying the subject of God it is important that we begin with the subject of – the existence of God**

- because before we spend time studying Him we better lay some ground work on why we believe He exists in the first place
  - a belief in the very existence of God is as foundational as you can possibly be

#### **Because without the belief that God is possible you will believe anything else in His place**

- you see the evolutionist can be presented with tons of evidence that his theory does not have the slightest mathematical or scientific chance of being possible

**“One has only to contemplate the magnitude of this task to concede that the spontaneous generation of a organism is impossible, yet we are here as a result of spontaneous generation.**

When it comes to the origin of life there are only two possibilities, creation or spontaneous generation, there is no third way. Spontaneous generation was disproved 100 years ago, but that leads us to only one other conclusion that of supernatural creation. We can not accept that on philosophical grounds, therefore we choose to believe the impossible that life arose by chance.” – George Wald a biochemist from Harvard from his book “Origin of Life.”

- You see without the belief in God – I mean we are here –we had to get here somehow - then you will believe in anything not matter how remote the chance

**So is there any evidence that something out there greater than us exists**

- the Bible states this as fact..

**“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” – Genesis 1:1**

- the Bible never seeks to defend the existence of God
  - the Bible assumes it should be self-evident as you look at the world around you that something greater than yourself has to exist
  - the Bible actually says it strong than that it says in Psalm 14

**“The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God.” – Psalm 14:1**

- the Bible calls it foolish to question the existence of God in the first place
  - but notice the Bible is not saying you are dumb – it is not with the mind we deny God, it is with the heart
  - we don’t want to believe in God because then we would have to be accountable to God – and most men want nothing to do with that

**But in order to get there – in order to understand with my mind, “this God thing is possible” – what should I look for, what evidences or signs are there out there that God, something greater than ourselves actually exists?**

- well there are many but in interest of time and to make it easier for you to remember and share with others, I want us to consider three “Signs” God exists
  - what signs should we look for that Genesis 1:1 is really telling us the truth – that, “in the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth”?

**God – Signs of His Existence?**

**#1 – The Sign of Design**

- Scientist get all excited when they find stone tools in a cave with human bones, human remains, because it shows an obvious sign of intelligence
  - Someone with the ability to design lived here because we see the evidence, we see the tools
  - Evidence of Design is an excellent source to show there was a designer
- In the same way that no one would believe as you look at Mount Rushmore
  - **Picture of Mount Rushmore**
  - That these faces came about after millions of years of erosion and storms
  - That is crazy – it is obvious that Mount Rushmore was designed – there had to be a designer
  - Now I do think it is interesting to think through no one would believe the Mount Rushmore came about by random chance, but many people believe the actual people Mount Rushmore represents – those four Presidents did come by random chance

**But that is not my point – my point is evidence of design is evidence of a designer**

- This design argument originally was formulated by an Anglican Clergyman named **William Paley (Picture)** who lived in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century
  - He used the example of a watch

**“The watch must have had a maker, there must have existed at some time and at some place one who formed it for the purpose which we find it actually to answer,**

**who comprehended its construction and designed its use.” – William Paley from “Evidence of the Existence of Deity” reprinted in 1972 by St. Thomas Press**

**Even Evolutionist admit there are great examples of design**

**“In man there is a three pound brain which, as far as we know is the most complex and orderly arrangement of matter in the universe. It is much more complex than the most complicated computer ever built” – Isaac Asimov (ardent anti-creationist) from “In the game of energy and thermodynamics you can’t break even”**

- Sounds like a good book
  - But Isaac I have a question?
  - If the human brain is far more complex than any computer that our human brain designed
  - Doesn’t it make sense that maybe that complex brain of ours was designed by someone greater than ourselves

**Our own bodies have such evidence of design, but again not everyone sees it that way – Dr. Richard Dawkins (not the family feud guy – picture of Richard Dawson) said in response to Paley Divine Watchmaker argument...**

**“All appearances to the contrary (now stop right there- that means even though it doesn’t appear this way and without any evidence, but go on Richard...) the only watchmaker in nature is the blind forces of physics. The answer, Darwin’s answer is by gradual step by step transformations from simple beginnings, from primordial entities sufficiently simple to have come into existence by chance. Each successive change in the gradual evolutionary process was simple enough, relative to its predecessor to have arisen by chance” – Dr. Richard Dawkins from his book “The Blind Watchmaker page 43**

**In other words you can get a watch without a watchmaker as long as you have tons of time and make little chances every few generation or so**

- Now again that sounds logical, especially to someone who has no alternative, to someone who does not believe that there is a God
  - But there is a serious problem with the theory
  - Darwinian Evolutions believes that small chances or mutations over lots of time produced what we would call different animals
- Or in other words – the fastest rabbit survived to have babies, the slow rabbit became lunch, so the next generation had faster genes than the first
  - And by the way I have no problem with that
- What I have a problem with is that from one small change to the next over millions of years you eventually get a fox
  - You see if that was true – the atheist would be right – evidence of design is not evidence of their being a God
  - Natural selection produced the design

**But in order to say that, and listen close, to argue that natural selection and mutations produced the evidence of design, then those mutations would have to provide new information to the animal it did not previously possess - And that is simply not true**

**“Anyone who understands the basics of biology recognizes of course, as Darwin did, that natural selection is a logical process that one can observe. (Faster bunnies survive to have fast baby bunnies). However natural selection only operates on the information that is already contained in the genes – it does not produce new information.” – L.P. Lester “The Natural Limits to Biological change” page 175-176**

**This means we can see great variation in a kind of animal that is the result of natural selection, what we don't see is a different kind of animal produced.**

- for example wolves, coyotes and dogs have developed over time as a result of natural selection (micro evolution) operating on the information originally contained in the genes of the wolf/dog kind
  - but no new information was produced - these varieties of dogs have resulted from a rearrangement, sorting out, and separation of the information in the original dog kind
  - one kind has never been observed to change into a different kind of animal with information that did not previously exist

**I repeat for clarity “there is no known process by which mutations add genetic information to an animal”**

- how do you know that – consider the words of the scientists..

**“In all the study I have done in my career in life sciences, I have never found a mutation that added information. All mutations that have been studied on a molecular level turn out to reduce the genetic information and not increase it. The essential biological difference between a human and a bacterium is the information they contain. The human genome has much more information than does the bacterial genome. Information cannot be built up by mutations that all lose information. That is like saying a business can make money losing it a little at a time.” – Dr. Lee Spetner, John Hopkins University from his book, “Not by chance” The Judica Press 1997**

**You can always find one weirdo to support your theory... well...**

Consider this from Dr. Werner Gitt – Director and Professor at the German Federal Institute of Physics and Technology...

**“Can new information originate through mutations? Although the idea is central in representations of evolution, mutations can only cause changes in existing information. There can be no increase in information, and in general the results are injurious, not helpful. New blueprints for new functions or new organs cannot arise from mutations. Mutations cannot be the source of new information.” - Dr. Werner Gitt – Director and Professor at the German Federal Institute of Physics and Technology from his book, “In the beginning was information” – Master Book 2006 page 127**

- if natural selection and mutations are eliminated as mechanism that can produce the information we see as “design”, then another source must be found
  - What we can learn from Dr. Werner is new information cannot arise by chance or mutation.
  - It takes greater information to produce information
  - Information is the result of intelligence

**We can therefore conclude that the huge amount of information in all living things must have originally come from intelligence far superior to ours**

- critics would say okay where did that intelligence come from
  - and we could extrapolate that to infinity unless there was a source of infinite intelligence beyond our finite understanding
  - and isn't that what the Bible indicates when it says,

**“In the Beginning God created the heavens and the earth...” – Genesis 1:1**

**What would I look for if I was trying to show that God exists?**

**I would look for evidence of design**

- how did the design get there that is so apparent in every living thing
  - there are only two choices – it got there by small changes or mutations over huge amounts of time – we already showed that is impossible

- or God put it there – showing there must be a God
- What would I look for to show there is a God

## **God – Signs of His Existence?**

### **#1 – The Sign of Design**

### **#2 – The Sign of the Universe**

- Similar to our argument above, so I will not take too long on this one
  - We see evidence of design all around us – how did it get there?
  - There are only two options – it evolved by natural selection, mutations (could not happen)
  - Or it was created – there must be a God

### **Similar to that – The Universe is there**

- we can see it, we can look in our telescopes and see some amazing pictures
  - **two or three pictures of the Universe**
  - so how did the universe get here

### **There are only three options for this one**

### **Three Options for the creation of the Universe**

- **#1 - The Universe always existed**
- **#2 – The Universe created itself**
- **#3 – It was Created**
  - let's consider those three options for just a second

### **The first option, that the universe has always been (i.e., it is eternal), has been utterly rejected by the scientific Community**

- Numerous evidences from the field of astronomy, such as: • The Background Radiation Echo • The Second Law of Thermodynamics • The Motion of the Galaxies
  - now overwhelmingly point to the fact that the universe actually began to exist a finite time ago in an event when all... • the physical space • time • matter • and energy ....in the universe came into being.

### **Now think about what I just said**

- the vast majority of scientist agree the Universe had a moment when it all began
  - which is exactly what the Bible says

### **In the Beginning God created the heavens and the earth” – Genesis 1:1**

- Oh they don't believe that – listen to their own words..

Stephen Hawking, the very popular and immensely respected astronomer from Cambridge University, agrees. He says, **“Almost everyone believes that the universe, and time itself, had a beginning.”** – Stephen Hawking - [Stephen Hawking and Roger Penrose, **The Nature of Space and Time, The Isaac Newton Institute Series of Lectures (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1996), p. 20.**]

- Now because the universe had a beginning that rules out option 1, that the universe has always been. That leaves us with two options for the existence of the universe:

### **Three Options for the creation of the Universe**

- **#1 - The Universe always existed**
- **#2 – The Universe created itself**

### **Option two, that the universe created itself, is philosophically impossible.**

- “Why?” Well, of course, before the universe existed it would not have been around to do the creating.
  - Most atheists believe that what was around before the universe was nothing,

**Well, we all know that nothing cannot do anything.**

- Even David Hume (1711 – 1776), one of the most zealous skeptics of Christianity ever, agreed that things don't just pop themselves into existence.

In 1754, he wrote, **“I never asserted so absurd a proposition as that anything might arise without a cause.” – David Hume from The Letters of David Hume, 2 vols., ed. J Y. T. Greig (Oxford: Clarendon, 1932), 1:187]**

The impossibility of something creating itself is in harmony with a basic law of physics called **“The Law of Energy and Matter Conservation.” - It basically states: “From nothing, comes nothing.”**

- Now I know you have to be pretty smart to understand that but it is the bedrock of science bedrock law of science.

**Three Options for the creation of the Universe**

- **#1 - The Universe always existed**
- **#2 – The Universe created itself**
- **#3 – It was Created**

**Option one and two can be thrown out on scientific and philosophical grounds.**

- (You don't even need to bring the Bible into the debate to rule out these first two options.) Option three, that someone or something outside of the universe created the universe, is the only reasonable option.

**The existence of the universe has led many people to conclude that God must exist, including, Charles Darwin himself said**

**“Reason tells me of the extreme difficulty or rather impossibility of conceiving this immense and wonderful universe, including man with his capability of looking far backwards and far into futurity, as the result of blind chance or necessity. When thus reflecting I feel compelled to look to a First Cause having an intelligent mind in some degree analogous to that of man; and I deserve to be called a Theist.”**

**[Cited by Antony Flew in There is a God: How the World's Most Notorious Atheist Changed His Mind, 2007, p. 106]**

**And friends this is what the Bible tells us considering the universe is supposed to do, it leads us to see there is a God..**

**“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.” - Romans 1:20**

**David says the same thing in Psalm 19**

**“The heavens tell of the glory of God. The skies display His marvelous craftsmanship. Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make Him known. They speak without a sound or a word; their voice is silent in the skies; yet their message has gone out to all the earth, and their words to all the world” – Psalm 19:1-4**