

Ground Work – part two **“God – His Existence”** **Genesis 1:1/Psalm 19:1-4**

Introduction

- We are doing a series we have entitled Ground Work – laying a foundation for faith
 - We are to know what we believe

“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 to know what we believe – but as Peter states in that verse – it is not just what we believe, but why we believe it
 - We live in a world that says – I have my truth, you have your truth, why is your truth any more important than mine

Well the simple reason for that is ideas have consequences

- They produce results and outcomes in our lives
 - And so it is important what we believe
 - If I believed eating 12 ultimate cheeseburgers a day with a large fry with each and a large milkshake was the best way to eat – that belief would have consequences in my life
- So too – what we believe about God, His Word, and the things in His Word has ramifications in my life

So we are starting at the very beginning

- if we are going to spend a few months, laying a ground work for faith, then we should understand first of all why we believe God exists
 - because no matter how crazy the alternative, if I don't believe that there can be a god well then I will believe anything about how we got here

I read you this quote by atheist George Wald, a biochemist from Harvard last week,

“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 laying the groundwork that there could be a god that explains everything we see around us, man will believe anything, no matter how remote the chance
 - And that is why we must have reasons we believe in the existence of God

The Bible states it very plainly in the opening verse of the Bible

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

- But is there any evidence that this is true?
 - Well last week we started to look at three signs
 - Hopefully you are getting this memorized if you were here last week, if not write them down

God – Signs of His Existence?

#1 – The Sign of Design

- The first way we can begin to see that there might be someone out there greater than ourselves in 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
- When we look at our bodies, our brains, the world around us it screams design

Now the atheist will say, there is no designer outside of time and simple changes over billions of years

- that makes it look like design
 - but here is the problem – even though we agree natural selection, adaption is real
 - faster bunnies survive to have faster baby bunnies
- but those adaptations, those changes do not, I repeat, do not add any new genetic information
 - in fact there is no known process by which mutations add genetic information to an animal

So if slow changes over time do not produce new information, leading to a new type of animal

- then the only way to have different animals is to have a creator, an intelligent designer
 - you just look at parts of our body, like the biochemistry of the eye or the ability of our blood to clot
 - many factors go into the eye's ability to focus and the blood to clot
- and all factors have to be present for the clotting to take place
 - if only 3 of the factors were present in a earlier organism, blood would not clot, and therefore those 3 factors would be discarded by evolution which keeps only that which is necessary to an organism
 - evolution wouldn't keep 3 clotting factors in hopes that one day that other clotting factors would arise
- no – all the factors for blood clotting had to be present in the original organism – and that screams design, not small changes over time
 - so if someone wants to know – why would you believe in God - #1 – The sign of Design

Number two review from last week

God – Signs of His Existence?

#1 – The Sign of Design

#2 – The Sign of the Universe

- The Universe is here, we can see it – so how did it get here
 - There are only three options

Three Options for the creation of the Universe

- **#1 – The Universe always existed**
- **#2 – The Universe created itself**
- **#3 – It was Created**
 - now we considered last week...

You would be hard pressed to find a scientist today who believes that the Universe has always existed

“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 what I am telling you is, almost all scientists believe about the timing of the universe is the same thing Genesis 1:1 has told us from the beginning

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

- Oh they don't believe the God part
 - But they believe that at one time all the matter in the universe was compressed in a small dot, the size of a period on the page of your bible
 - And then, in the beginning – it exploded, the big bang
- The point is they don't believe the universe is eternal

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.
 - Because 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.

- Then there is only one option left – the universe was created

If I was looking for signs that something out there greater than myself exists, that there exists a “God” – what would I look for

- I would look for the sign of design – such intricacies in the world around us
 - Systems in our bodies that work together with so many processes – all dependant on one another
- Secondly I would look for the sign of the universe
 - The universe is here – so how did it get here
- Only 3 options
 - It has always been – so hard to find anyone that believes that
 - It created itself – that is impossible – you can not create yourself
 - It was created

But with both of these two arguments, as we saw a little bit last week during questions and answers, someone who holds to an atheistic position will have an answer for everything

Oh you think design is a sign of God – no, what looks like design is just little changes and adaptations over billions of years

- and I know that pastor Jason says there is no known way that mutations add genetic information
 - but it happened so there has to be a way, we just haven't discovered it yet –

but we will

And the universe, well yes we know it hasn't always existed and it could not create itself – but created?

- no way – the elements that went into the big bang evolved from nothing just like everything else later in the evolutionary chain - simple
 - unfortunately we could keep arguing forever because we interpret the facts through our world view
 - and that is why our third sign is so important – and we have saved it for tonight

God – Signs of His Existence?

#1 – The Sign of Design

#2 – The Sign of the Universe

#3 – The Sign of Morality, Logic and Order

- We can keep arguing the interpretation of evidence for years and years and years
 - But you that believe in God have a significant advantage
 - The book of Romans says this

“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

- God tells us in Romans that He has revealed himself to men in their hearts

They deny it, because they don't want to be accountable to God, but they know in their hearts of hearts He exists

- so our job is not to argue until Jesus comes back, but to help those who say they don't believe in God discover what they have oppressed in their hearts

The debate over Biblical creation is a lot like two people debating over air

- what would the critic of air say?
 - What ever his arguments he would have to use air in order to make them
 - This is what is happening with the atheist
- You have to use things from a Biblical or Christian world view if you are going to argue against the Biblical world view
 - And that is self contradictory
 - I'm losing some of you, so let me explain

Most Darwinian Evolutionist don't want Creation taught in school

- and they will say – we don't want to lie to kids
 - not the fact aside that I believe evolution is the lie not creation
 - think about that statement for a second
 - We don't to lie to kids?
- If you hold a humanist world view – no God
 - Then why don't we want to lie

Who decided lying to little kids is wrong?

- Why is murder wrong?
 - You see if all we really are is just chemical reactions – if all we are is evolved animals, then why are things morally wrong
- Is it wrong for vinegar to react to baking soda
 - Is it wrong for a lion to kill a gazelle

No – but there is something in us that tells us we are different

- That humans are different than animals and chemicals
 - Where did that come from? – put there by God

What about morality

- Some people believe it is okay to be racist, to hurt children, or kill people of other religious backgrounds
 - And the atheist would say – you see morality is subject, we each have the right to develop our own moral code. You have no right to put your morals on me”
 - But that is self defeating – because if I have no right to put my morals on you, then you have no right to put your morals on me.
- When push comes to shove, no one believes morality is subjective, personal choice
 - But then where does morality come from

Morality is something we take for granted but why is it in your world view

- most evolutionist believe in some sort of right and wrong
 - they don't believe the Bible or the 10 commandments, but if you take their wallet out of their pocket and take their money, then you will find out they feel commandment number 8 should be followed
- But where does that come from if you don't believe the Bible – put there by God

You can say man developed those over time – but believing that – who says your morality is right, what again is the standard

Hitler was acting in what he believed to be correct, and convinced the majority of people in Germany he was right

- So whatever the majority opinion is doesn't set moral standards
 - The atheist must borrow from biblical concepts that are contrary to his world view

The atheist will say – ‘right’ is whatever brings the most happiness to the most people

- But why should that be the standard
 - Notice it is borrowed from the Bible
 - The Bible says we should love our brother and our enemies
 - But if we are just chemical reactions why should we be concerned with another's happiness
 - Because it was put there by God

So why would it upset you that I kill someone, or lie to kids

- Now I have a reason not to kill and lie – the Bible tells me not to

You see the Christian world view not only accounts for morality – it also accounts for why atheist behave the way they do

- Even though they have no basis for morality, they have one because it is written on their hearts by their creator (Romans 2)

“when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves *their* thoughts accusing or else excusing *them*)” – Romans 2:14-15

- God says the reason you know the difference from right and wrong is I wrote my law on your hearts

Now we can ignore that law and it becomes easier and easier to sin, but it doesn't change the fact we get our morality from God

- The Christian world view just makes sense, whether you are talking about morality or even if you are talking about the laws of logic and the uniformity of the universe

Science requires the universe to be quantified in a way the mind can comprehend

- we assume that the universe is logical and orderly and that it obeys mathematical laws that are consistent over time and space
 - since there is regularity scientists are able to make predictions, position of planets, eclipses
 - without some uniformity this would be impossible
- The problem for the atheist is that such regularity only makes sense again in a biblical world view
 - If we are the result of things that happened that should have never mathematically happened
 - If we are from mutations, things not going right, that happened to work out
 - How can we know anything is going to happen the way we expect?
 - Where is the entire basis for science?
- Most scientist claim that the universe is not designed but they do science as if the universe is designed and upheld by God in a uniform way
 - Again they have to borrow from a Christian world view

Their world view is so contradictory

- so many scientists have said of the SETI program
 - the program that is sending messages out in the cosmos looking for intelligent life

So many scientist have said, one intelligent message back would be all it would take to convince us we are not alone

- And though they believe that about messages from outer space
 - There is language written in our DNA more complex than anything we have developed with our human brains

We will look more at this next week but

- Here is a book which tells the future in advance – just one of the many proofs that its origin is outside of time and space
 - And yet with all these messages written to these scientists – they will not believe

But the fact that our world has universal agreed upon standards of morality

- That it is wrong to steal and kill and lie
 - The fact that universe has order
 - We can predict when planets will be in certain places and when we combine two chemicals together we know what will happen
 - Every kids' volcano experiment is based on the fact we know if you mix baking soda and vinegar you will get a chemical reaction

Why is there order and logic if in reality we are here because the most impossible, illogical, and non ordered of events took place

- if that is why we are here, why can we count on anything happening as we expect it to – why is anything logical and ordered
 - Well - The answer – just like there has to be a designer

- There has to be a creator
- There has to be an originator for morality
- There also has to be a source of logic and order

And when you start to build this argument

- what do I look for if I trying to look for evidence of a God?
 - I would look for signs of design – check
 - I would look for signs of universe's creation – check
 - I would look for signs of morality and logic and order – check

Can I prove God exists beyond a shadow of a doubt – no – I can give good reasons to believe something out there greater than you exists but it is still faith

- ah hah say the atheist – your belief is based on faith, my belief is based on science
 - now wait

The chances of life occurring by chance if figured by equating the probably of have 100 left handed amino acids all line up in the right order to produce protein and other building blocks of life

- there is over 300 left handed amino acids and right handed amino acids but only 20 are used to produce life
 - so you need the right 100 to line up in the correct order
 - scientist have put that odds as the same as flipping a coin and have it land on heads 100 times in the row
- how often when that happens
 - to flip heads once would happen in theory every other time
 - to flip heads twice in row, you multiple $\frac{1}{2}$ by $\frac{1}{2}$ and it will happen in theory, one every four time tries
 - so how about 100 times in a row

You would need to flip that coin 300 million times a second for a quadrillion years

- now think through what I just said, the equivalent of getting 100 left handed amino acids to line up correctly to produce life by chance would be the same as flipping a coin 300 million times a second for a quadrillion years

Now if the universe is 6.5 billion years old – and you need 300 million tries per second for a quadrillion years – there just isn't enough time for life to occur from non life – and it doesn't just have to happen once – it has to happen twice – you need a blue one and pink one, they need to find each other in this primordial soup and have hook up

- but the atheist will say, but we are here so it did happen
 - okay – that is faith then, not science
 - because it is just as likely or I would say more likely, that what Genesis 1:1 says has been right all along – that in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth