

SESSION 18 OVERVIEW

Welcome back to our usual scheduled Bible Study session we are continuing to look at Genesis 1 :1-31 and John 1: 1-51. I hope you have enjoyed your break and made use of the time to complete some of the work you may not have managed to complete previously.

Moving on we begin tonight as per usual with 15 minutes of prayer tonight our focus is on Psalm 51v13-19 and Psalm 119 v25 -37

When you pray Psalm 51 I want you to bear in mind the person who the psalm was written about, the circumstances under which this person was praying, the relationship that person had with God and how important that person considered that relationship with God to be. We cannot assume that because we have not committed the sin David had that this psalm is in appropriate. Think of it this way, we all sin knowingly and unknowingly so when we pray this prayer we are asking God to reveal to us our faults, forgive us and help us to be in right standing with him. Think about your own circumstances.

Psalm 51v13-19

Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you

Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God; You who are God my Saviour, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.

Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise.

You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; You do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.

May it please you to prosper Zion, to build up the walls of Jerusalem.

Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous; in burnt offerings offered whole; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

Moving on now to :

– Psalm 119 v25-37

I am laid low in the dust; preserve my life according to your word.

I gave an account of my ways and you answered me; teach me your **decrees** (noun a formal and authoritative order law a judicial decision or order Theology one of the eternal purposes of God by which events are foreordained).

Cause me to understand the way of your **precepts** (noun a commandment or direction given as a rule of action or conduct an injunction as to moral conduct; maxim. A procedural directive or rule, as for the performance of some technical operation. Law a writ or warrant. A written order issued pursuant to law, as a sheriff's order for an election. Originated 1300-50 Middle English Latin praeceptum piece of advice, rule, noun use of neuter of praeceptus,

past participle of praecipere to direct, foresee, literally, to take beforehand, equivalent to prae-pre+cep-, combining form of capere to take + -tus past participle suffix) Synonyms Directive, order, guide, instruction, prescription.), that I may meditate on your wonderful deeds.

My soul is weary with sorrow' strengthen me according to your word.

Keep me from deceitful ways' be gracious to me and teach me your law.

I have chosen the way of faithfulness; I have set my heart on your laws.

I hold fast to your statutes, LORD; do not let me be put to shame.

I run in the path of your commands, for you have broadened my understanding.

Teach me, LORD, the way of your decrees, that I may follow it to the end.

Give me understanding, so that I may keep your law and obey it with all my heart.

Direct me in the path of your commands; for there I find delight.

Turn my heart towards your statutes and not towards selfish gain.

Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your word.

I won't take up any of this time tonight discussing ministry updates because it was all included in the Newsletter if you haven't already subscribed to the Newsletter please do.

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Define words and wrestle with meanings (Pray and Meditate, Discern, define, Compare, investigate, consult, wrestle, summarize)

Genesis Chapter 1 v1-31

John Chapter 1v1-51

KEY WORDS

Beginning

Beginning

Created

God made

Darkness

Darkness

Spirit of God

God

Light

Light

Man (Adam)

Man (John)

Life

Life

Definitions

Beginning:- the time or place at which something begins the first or earliest part a person's background or origin.

Created :- `bring into existence invest (someone) with a title of nobility, make a fuss; complain the creation: creating of the universe, especially when regarded as an act of God

Darkness :-with little or no light. Of a deep or sombre colour. (of skin, hair, or eyes) brown or black. (f a person) having dark skin, hair, or eyes. Characterized by unhappiness or unpleasantness: the dark days of the war. (of an expression) angry. evil; sinister: dark deeds. Mysterious: a dark secret. darkest of a region most remote, inaccessible, or uncivilized. Ignorant the absence of light. A dark colour or shade nightfall.

Spirit of God:- the non-physical part of a person which is the seat of emotions and character this regarded as surviving after the death of the body, often manifested as a ghost. A supernatural being the prevailing or typical quality or mood: the nation's egalitarian spirit a person identified with their role or most prominent quality: a person's mood courage, energy, and determination. The real meaning or intention of something as opposed to its strict verbal interpretation.

Light:-the natural agent that stimulates sight and makes things visible; electromagnetic radiation from about 390 to 740nm in wavelength a sour of illumination. An expression in someone's eyes understanding; enlightenment: a person's opinions, standards and abilities. An area that is brighter or paler than its surrounding. A person eminent in a particular sphere.

Man :- An adult human male, a male member of a workforce team, etc a husband or lover: man and wife. A person human beings in general; the human race a group or person in a position of authority over others, such as a corporate employer or the police. A figure or token used in a board game in nouns denoting a man of a specified nationality or origin:

Life:- the condition that distinguishes animals and plants from inorganic matter, including the capacity for growth, functional activity, and continual change preceding death. Living things.

PRAY AND MEDITATE

☒ Recording Interpretations

1 Key Word Definition in relation to the passage

The first key word we will attempt to interpret this evening is the word BEGINNING. This word is common to both Genesis Chapter 1 and John Chapter 1 and appears to have some significance exactly what significance we shall examine. We have already established that the word beginning was given the following definition.

Beginning noun an action or circumstance of entering upon an action or state: the time or place at which something begins the first or earliest part a person's background or origin. Source; first cause

Origin of the word beginning before 1000; Middle English beginnen, Old English beginnan, equivalent to be - be + - ginnan to begin, perhaps orig. to open, akin to yawn

Synonyms relating to the word Beginning are as follows : Institute, inaugurate, initiate.

Begin, commence initiate, start (when followed by noun or gerund) refer to setting into motion or progress something that continues for some time.

2 Phrases from other translations that give new insight

Comparing Translations as we have been doing in session 15 and 16 we can see that in verse one Genesis1:1

Nothing too drastically different to note in the translation of this verse except the use of the word heaven as a singular in the KJV and plural in all the other translations. Are we to assume that the implication is that during the time of King James it was common thought that there is only one heaven, and that the more modern da interpretation is that there are many heavens? The second point to note is that the Amplified version goes into more detail informing us that God who's name we are given as Elohim created by forming from nothing. Why does the Amplified version highlight the name of God as Elohim? What significance, if any, does the name have in relation to the action of creating something out of nothing?

John1:1

The point we noted when comparing translations of verse 1 was the fact that the kjv, Niv and ESV implies indirectly that the word was Christ whereas the Amplified directly identifies the word as Christ there without ambiguity.

3 some of the cross-references you found relating to the key ideas.

Job 38:4-7 Where were you when I, laid the foundation of the earth: Tell me, if you have understanding.

Who determined its measurements-surely you know!

Or who stretched the line upon it?

On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone.

When the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

The story of Job is quite a complex one, I believe one of the most complex stories in the bible to understand. The general outline of the story is as follows: Job is a faithful servant of God living his life in total obedience to God doing nothing wrong in the sight of God, however a calamity of overwhelming disasters strikes him to the point where he is overwhelmed, however, he still remains faithful to God regardless. After continuously seeking to hear from the Lord who is silent throughout the whole ordeal. The Lord finally speaks the response is as indicated in the verses just read. We know from V1 in Genesis that in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. So God's questions are specific, he wants Job to realise that he can totally trust him and that he is firmly in control because he created everything therefore he knows everything and would restore order just like he did in the beginning when there were chaos. In other words Job's afflictions, no matter how severe they were to Job was not a problem for God to handle and fix.

Ps33:6;

By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host.

This verse is referring quite clearly to all the verses in Genesis Chapter 1 where God said something and then it was created. The reference to the breath of his mouth is in particularly targeting the incidence where God breathed life into man this is not covered in Chapter 1 but is in Chapter 2.

136:5

To him who by understanding made the heavens for his steadfast love endures forever;

The pronouns 'him' and 'his' both clearly refers to God once again and we know that from verse one God indeed did create the heavens. This verse sheds a bit more light by going further to suggest that God understood how to make the heavens and the necessity (importance) of the heavens. It further suggests a reason for why God made the heavens linked to his love which is forever enduring. It reiterates how mindful of us God is he clearly foresaw a need a provision mankind were going to require in the future and made it.

Isa 42:5

Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it;

This verse clearly summarises every ability of God illustrated in Genesis Chapter one we see that they are listed in what he did, what he gives breath (life) and spirit (intelligence).

45:18 For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens (he is God!), who formed the earth and made it (he established it; he did not create it empty, he formed it to be inhabited!); I am the Lord, and there is no other.

This is a very bold statement and it is very unusual because it depicts God's edifying himself and making it plainly known that he is the only God, the provider the one to turn to because he made the earth and he made it habitable, to be lived in and so he establishes things.

John 1:1-3

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was in the beginning with God. 3All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made.

If anything, we are getting a confirmation that Genesis Chapter 1 is very much to be compared to John Chapter 1. This verse in particular is focusing on the word of God. It speaks of the word of God as being a he (a person), a witness to all that God did in the beginning. It further states that without this word or him nothing God made in the beginning was made. It goes deeper to suggest that nothing God does is done without the word. This makes me reflect on Jesus's statement in the New Testament without me you can do nothing. Also his statement saying to come through the father one must do so through him Jn14:6.

Acts14:15;

Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them.

Here we see specific reference to God as the only living God and that besides him there is no other God, they are just worthless idols. God's credentials or evidence in his existence is referenced to all that he did in the beginning when he created heaven, earth and sea.

17:24;

The God who made the world and everything in it living Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man.

This verse emphasises God's uniqueness and sovereignty, it highlights his holiness thus reiterating the point that God made everything without him man cannot make anything and would not exist therefore man is unable to make a home for God. This illustrates that God cannot be confined or contained in a Temple built by man, he cannot be quantified. This is not an arrogant statement it is just a fact of life.

Col.1:16,17

For by him all things were created in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities all things were created through him and for him.

Here we see an in depth look at the meaning of God created the heavens, the things that are invisible the thrones imply rulers (world leaders), (spiritual leaders in the realms of the spirit), good and bad ones. Every leader he made and they are made for his purpose .ie to serve him as he is sovereign. (brings me back to my observation of the Landlord tenant relationship that seems to be established in Genesis Chapter 1 , the inventory is made in the chapter, the Landlord (God) has placed his tenants (man) to enjoy and improve on all that he has made and provided for them to inhabit).

Heb1:10;

And You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands;

The word foundation clearly implies something to be worked upon, something that has been established with the ability to grow. Once again God's command to be fruitful multiply and work the

land to man is indicated in this verse. There appears to be a distinction between God as being the only one that can make heavens as well as earth. And man being restricted to just earthly things, anything other God has full dominion.

11:3

By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

In this verse, it brings in the concept of faith as something that is believed before it is actually seen. Also the concept of something being an idea or a thought which is invisible before it becomes visible. This is clearly demonstrated in Genesis chapter one, God's word always preceded a manifestation of something physical and tangible. It was very rapid also . If you think he took a day to establish everything that he made in total it took God 6 days to make everything. Remember Jesus' words about Faith, If you have faith as a mustard seed, ... Jesus later states that we also are capable of doing these things even more miraculous than his miracles signs and wonders. Why because of our belief in him and faith him in him. Ref to v27 where God made man in his own image after his likeness.

Rev4:11

"Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."

This verse speaks of why God is to be given the glory (credit), honour(respect) and power (sovereign authority) for our lives and everything we have we are the world because he made everything.

V1 Gen1:1

In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth.

This verse is further confirmation that the Genesis Chapter 1 and John Chapter 1 are very similar. The beginning of creation, the introduction of God on Earth. God came down to earth to dwell among man, in human form.

1Col1:17;

And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

This confirms the statement made by John Chapter 1 v1 that all things are made through him and that without him nothing is made that is made. It references to the fact that before something occurs he has to come first, and what is made is held together by him. In relation to our lives, we can see that he had to be involved with our existence and that in order for us to live our lives we need him to be involved in every aspect of it.

1John1:1

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life.

This verse looks upon v1 from another angle, it discusses the disciples witness of the existence of the Son of God, God in human form. It cannot possibly be referring to us as in you and I of today but of reliable witnesses who actually physically met and spoke with Jesus. Those that were his followers.

Rev1:4,8,17;

4John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne. 8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." 17 When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, Fear not, 'I am the first and the last,

The introduction to this verse is particularly distinctive as it describes the letter as being from him, him we take to mean Jesus. He is further described as being who is, who was and who is to come. This summarises succinctly Jesus' constant presence with us Holy Ghost, Jesus' presence in the beginning the word, and Jesus his second coming as v11 promised in Acts 1v11. The seven spirits are those belonging to God, his character, his personality his essence.

Verse 8 further describes God, Jesus as the alpha and omega that is a beginning and end of the Greek Alphabet it is clearly a simile with reference to his beginning and end. God is all there is, he is everything, everything we need, everything that is real and meaningful nothing else matters or is of significance. The verse then repeats what we have already covered in verse 1 of Revelation.

Verse 17 This verse describes in more detail how seeing him had a profound affect on the person who saw him, it basically terrified him. We know this because of Jesus's response Fear not, then we see that with his right hand he places it on the shoulder of this person, whom we know to be John. his favourite Disciple, now John was familiar with Jesus, yet when he saw him in Heaven with all his splendour he was terrified of him. How can this be? What are we to presume from this? That we would not be able to cope with being face to face with our maker? We know that our maker is merciful and is full of grace and truth John 1 v 17 It is this grace that we are reliant upon. This verse homes in once again upon the identity of Jesus as being first and the last, it is a quantitative attempt of describing him, although he cannot be contained or quantified. He is infinite, yet here we see him as described as the last which implies infinite has a definition.

3:14;

And the angel of the church in Laodicea write: "The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness the beginning of God's creation.

Interesting thing about this verse is whom the letter is addressed to, the Angel of the church, it doesn't say to the leaders of the church, but it references to the spiritual realm that manages the church. So we see in this verse we are in a dream, trance, spiritual realm. All reference is not made to the natural, but to the supernatural. So unlike all the other epistles written by Paul to the various churches this epistle is written in the supernatural to the supernatural principalities that govern the seven churches in Asia.

The words of the Amen, I am assuming the prayerful people of God, the faithful and true witness the beginning of God's creation are referring to Jesus as the word who was the initial witness to all that God said and did in the beginning when he created the Heavens and the Earth.

21:6;

And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.

This is a very prominent statement as it is punctuated with an exclamation mark which is categorised as a shout. Jesus' declaration that all that he has established has been secured and that Satan has

been defeated. The verse further repeats his authority and identity and concludes with a promise. He will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. Could you imagine if Jesus charged for us to drink from this spring of life how many of us would die? Unlike the world where we have to pay for our food and water and dependant on our ability to do this is whether we go hungry or starve to death. World economy relief is so vital, providing food and clean water supplies are key to the survival of the world. For the Rich to have all the wealth and to hold up their hand as a control factor would mean sacrilege for the poor. That is why a lot of wealthy people support a lot of charities that provide relief.

22:13

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”

A repeat of the previous verses.

Rev 19:13

He Is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God.

Clothed in a robe dipped in blood, describes of Jesus as the sacrificial lamb, and the Word of God, could mean the promise, the word that ignited change in the beginning, the word that became flesh.

Heb4:12;

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

This is a powerful statement, in the sense that it describes the word as a more tangible powerful active force, one that causes things to happen. The word as a living and active entity. Why liken the word to the sharpness of a sword? Words can be quite cutting, which is why when you are guilty of sin you can be affected by a word spoken. It pierces the soul and spirit, This talks about guilt, guilt is a terrible thing it can cause someone to go insane. The word is described as intelligent ,as it discerns the thoughts and intentions of the heart. So if it is discerning there is no hiding the truth from it and it will pinpoint with sharp accuracy exactly the nature of the sin. We often see this in prophetic utterances and declarations. We see this exhibited in John 1v v47,v49.

1John 1:1;

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life.

Repeat see above.

1John 1:2;

The life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us

This verse is a testimony of a witness, a witness to the manifested life of God in the form of Jesus, which has promised and now proclaimed the eternal life. Are we therefore to presume that there is eternal life in Jesus?

Ch17:5 And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

Here we see a conversation between Jesus and the father, about establishing him in his presence and confirming that he was with him in the beginning. Jesus is asking God the father to Glorify him and prove his identity. This is an interesting statement, as it would appear that although we see that God has already confirmed Jesus' identity, at his baptism by John. It was essential that his identity was confirmed as this was the last and final act on earth before he departed. Jesus was basically asking for God to restore him back to his original position since the beginning of time thus securing his position on the right hand of the father. The fact that Jesus is now seated at the right hand of the father means that this high priestly prayer was fulfilled.

Phil2:6 who though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,

This verse clearly outlines the humility of Christ, although he had the full status of God he did not use it in an arrogant way or in a derisive way to cheapen it or make it look as if it was a commodity. It is to his example that we look daily in our lives as we grow in him.

At this point I feel we should pause and not go on to investigate findings from a Bible commentary or dictionary because It would take away the benefit of learning to discern and interpret for ourselves.

For home work I would like you to continue to look at the next key word in the passages and then perform the same analysis as you have seen me do this evening. If you are really ambitious and done that well in advance before the next session continue with the other key words.