

Vine Ministry UK Live Bible Study session 10

Use cross-references

Genesis Chapter 1v1- 31

V1 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.

V2 Jer4:23

I looked on the earth, and behold, it was without form and void; and to the heavens, and they had no light.

This verse must be a vision of Jeremiah looking back into the past to see the earth before it was formed and the chaos that existed prior to God's presence and divine intervention in creating

order.

V3 2Cor4:6

For God, who" said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

In this verse we see that God gave light so that he could be seen and known. No one has ever physically seen God, but his reflection is found in Jesus Christ his son. When we know Christ intimately we also therefore know the father. Jesus is proof that God is a living God, he came as God incarnate, in the flesh. Light given so that you can see the truth of a matter and not what Satan wishes for you to know.

V6 Job37:18;

Can you, like him, spread out the skies, hard as a cast metal mirror?

Interesting thing about this verse is that it uses the simile the skies being like a cast metal mirror. Let us look in turn at the definition of each of these words.

Cast: throw forcefully in a specified direction, throw so as to spread over an area, cause light or shadow to appear on a surface direct one's eyes or thoughts towards something cause to be associated with something shed or discard something **shape metal or other material by pouring it into a mould while molten arrange and present in a specified form or style**

Metal: A solid material which is typically hard shiny malleable (able to be hammered or pressed into shape without breaking or cracking, easily influenced, pliable), fusible and ductile (able to drawn out into a long wire, able to be deformed without losing toughness), with good electrical and thermal conductivity e.g. iron copper and silver.

Mirror: a surface, typically of glass coated with metal amalgam, which reflects a clear image. Something regarded as accurately representing something else.

In other words this verse speaks about God's ability to take something in it's **most vulnerable state and mould it into a specified form or style. The quality of this substance is likened to metal which has the quality of being able to be hammered suffer hardship and oppression without falling apart suffering breakdown, and also being able to withstand currents of heat and electricity transmitted though it's structure. Keeping the identity the same familiar features as the substance had but it is now transformed into something else. I think from what I have just said you can almost see the similarity of God moulding us whilst we go through trials in our lives and transforming us into something else. So the verse in it's entirety is asking the question of Job whether he had the ability to do what God did in the beginning when he made the heavens, something that was weak and molten like metal, spread it out over a specific area in the air to span the whole earth without losing it's original structure or damaging it in anyway. The graphic explanation of what God actually did. It should be every leadership's aim, to do exactly the same thing when they mentor and train disciples.**

Ps136:5;

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

Interesting use of the preposition 'to' in the sense belonging to , an asset of. A quality of God is understanding the nature of something and how to change and handle it to create something spectacular, the verse then pauses and explains it is out of his steadfast strong unflinching love which

endures tolerates forever. He sees our imperfections yet his love still is unshakable. Oh what love what joy what peace in knowing this. It is this a quality that makes God unique from man. This is a quality every leader should aspire to acquire.

Jer10:12;

It is he who made the earth by his power, who established the world by his wisdom, and by his understanding stretched out the heavens.

Wisdom and understanding are key attributes of God and it is through this he was able to create all that he did in the beginning. We must seek therefore to gain wisdom and understanding from God, who has immeasurably more than we can imagine, to handle all our situations.

51:15

It is he who made the earth by his power, who established the world by his wisdom, and by his wisdom, and by his understanding stretched out the heavens.

Repetition once again of what we have already read.

v7Prov 8:27-29

When he established the heavens, I was there; when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep.

The book of proverbs is based on the wisdom of Solomon as received from God. This references to the person who is speaking, as being actually present at the time when God laid the foundations therefore implying that he has the wisdom and knowledge as God used in the beginning to establish the heavens and the earth. Compare this to the earlier verse where God asks Job where was he in the beginning when he laid the foundations of the earth. God has wisdom which he freely gives to all who asks.

Ps148:4

Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

What is interesting about this verse is it's reference to the heavens and the waters as if they are living things, asking them to praise him. We know that the elements of the world are controlled by God, evidence of this is seen when Jesus calmed the storm and the waters. Which implies that these are part of the supernatural manifestations within the earth realm just like humans. Why is praise due also from them as it is from us? Because he made them.

V9Job38:8-11

8Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb. 9When I made clouds its garment and thick darkness its swaddling band 10 and prescribed limits for it and set bars and doors,11 and said, Thus, far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stayed?

Here we see in this verse that God is firmly in control, he sets boundaries for even the elements.

Ps33:7;

He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap; he puts the deeps in storehouses.

God is a God of order he arranges things in a fashion where there is order and meaning. In verse

Genesis verse 10 we see that he did exactly this with the land and the waters and the seas.

136:6;

To him who spread out the earth above the waters, for his steadfast love endures forever,

See Repetition of this verse earlier

Jer5:22;

Do you not fear me? Declares the LORD. Do you not tremble before me? I placed the sand as the boundary for the sea, a perpetual barrier that I cannot pass; though the waves toss, they cannot prevail; though they roar, they cannot Pass over it.

This verse is particularly interesting as it employs the use of two questions which appear to imply that God expects us to fear him. Then it proceeds to say that God puts a never ending barrier of sand between the waves and seas that they cannot pass over and he even says he cannot pass. The waves tossing are a metaphor to problems and trials that we face. Like Job these problems will not kill us if we trust in him as he gives them a limit.

2Pet.3:5

For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and was formed the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God,

This verse appears to be a reason for something having happened to a specific group of people who ignored the sovereignty of the word of God. From this we can definitely assume they were people who were not in the way of Godly matters. From the previous verse 4 we see that the verse is referring to scoffers who have selfish desires and make reference to the fact that the promise of the coming of the Lord doesn't appear to be happening. These people are the ones who ignore what God did in the beginning and all physical evidence that God is real.

V11 Ps104:14

You cause the grass to grow for the livestock and plants for man to cultivate that he may bring forth food from the earth

This verse emphasises one attribute of God's ability as a provider of food for cattle, man, and the earth.

V14 Jer. 10:2;

For the customs of the peoples are vanity, A tree from the forest is cut down and worked with an axe by the hands of a craftsman.

This verse is indicating the result of vanity among people, they destroy what is natural to make something synthetic of material value. In relation to Genesis v14 God established the light so it distinguish the darkness from the light, so that we may see clearly the correct pathway to follow and the times and places for everything. Vanity is not an attribute that we should desire , but to seek the direction and wisdom of God is infinitely better.

Ezek.32:7, 8;

7When I blot you out, I will cover the heavens and make their stars dark; I will cover the sun with a cloud, and the moon shall not give its light. 8 All the bright lights of heaven will I make dark over you, and put darkness on your land, declares the Lord GOD.

This verse is quite severe and contrasts the result of disobeying God having absence of light and being disregarded by God. Directionless, placed in constant Darkness. This would definitely affect the crops having no light

Joel 2:30,31,

30And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke.

31The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.

This verse highlights the reason God made the light in the expanse for signs and seasons in Genesis v14 and indication for the coming of the LORD.

3:15;

The sun and the moon are darkened, and the stars withdraw their shining.

This clearly depicts an unusual season to mark something that has occurred or about to occur for a very important reason. Judgement of the Lord on a particular disobedient nation. Another example of how the lights in the expanse give a sign.

Matt. 24:29;

Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

Once again another instance where the coming of the son of man is indicated by a sign in the expanse.

Luke 21:25

And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves.

The signs in the expanse here we see will baffle the nations whom are observing it.

Ps104:19

He made the moon to mark the season, the sun knows it's time for setting.

This verse repeats Genesis 1:V14 -15 reiterating the point why God created the Light in the Expanse.

v16Deut. 4:19;

And beware lest you raise your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun and the moon and the stars, all the host of heaven, you be drawn away and bow down to them and serve them, things that the LORD your God has allotted to all the peoples under the whole heaven.

This verse specifically makes reference of being diligent not worship the moon and the stars and

that God is the only one worthy of worship.

Ps 136:7-9

7To him who made the great lights, for his steadfast love endures forever, 8the sun to rule over the day, for his steadfast love endures forever, 9the moon and stars to rule over the night, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Here we see a combination of the reason why God made the great lights, moon and stars out of love. For good and not for evil.

V18 Jer. 31:35

35 Thus says the LORD, who gives the sun for light by day and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar- the LORD of hosts is his name:

This verse is interesting because it identifies God by his acts of creating the light moon and stirring up the sea, it emphasises God's Power and authority by using graphic illustrations.

V21 Ps 104:25,26

25 Here is the sea, great and wide, which teems with creatures innumerable, living things both small and great.26 There go the ships, and Leviathan, which you formed to play in it.

This verse is particularly striking because it goes further to not just reiterate the point that the sea has many creatures as outlined in Genesis v21 it suggests that God formed ships and Leviathan the devil to play in it. I think it implies a reference to the fact that the sea is a dangerous place for ships.

V26Ch 3:22;

Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever

God made man in his likeness and image in Genesis v26, however, man was missing one attribute that would distinguish him from God which is knowledge of Good and evil. However, this was not God's intention quite obviously.

11:7 Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech.

God is sovereign, man is not on an equal level to God therefore God made certain restrictions to prevent rebellion.

Isa 6:8

And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me."

God selects and appoints specific people for specific jobs and give them authority above other men but only with his strict guidance and his direction. Nothing is done without his involvement.

Ch5:1; This is the book of the generations of Adam. When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God.

An introduction to the book of the genealogy of Adam emphasising God's intention to make Adam

and successive generations in his own image.

9:6;

“Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image.

God’s value for man is clearly indicated by this verse, as he first made him in his likeness and then made a penalty for death as death.

1Cor.11:7;

For a man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God, but woman is the glory of man.

This establishes the ranking of a man to a woman, Man is considered directly in the image and likeness of God and woman is considered to come from man.

Ephi.4:24;

And to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

The new self is describing being born again, via baptism and affirmation of the Lord being the only person that is accepted by the believer. The definition is outlined also in this verse of what it means to be in the likeness of God.

Col3:10;

And have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

This verse goes further to suggest that there is a renewing of the mind by acquiring knowledge that God has and having a mindset to that of God.

James3:9

With it we bless our Lord and father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God.

This verse highlights the duality of the power of the tongue, we bless God and also curse our fellow man who is made in the likeness of God. Thus causing a conflict of moral conduct.

Ch9:2

The fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth and upon every bird of the heavens, upon everything that creeps on the ground and all the fish of the sea. Into your hand they are delivered.

This verse speaks of the authority and dominion that is given to man by God in relation to the rest of the living things on the earth.

Ps8:6-8

You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet.

All sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, & the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

This verse is a repetition of the previous, it establishes what and how exactly God has given man

authority over in greater detail. It gives me a sense of overwhelming gratitude. And clearly is an indication of the Lord's steadfast, and enduring love.

James3:7For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind,

This verse speaks of man's ability to subdue every kind of beast or creature thus gaining dominion very much in the theme of the previous verses.

V27ch 2:18,Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.

This verse depicts God's mindfulness of mankind. And explains why God created woman for man in Genesis chapter 27 for his companion.

21:23;

Now therefore swear to me here by God that you will not deal falsely with me or with my descendants or with my posterity; but as I have dealt kindly with you so you will deal with me and with the land where you have sojourned."

Interesting thing about this verse is it makes a distinction between posterity and descendants

Defn. Posterity all future generations

Descendant a person, animal that is descended from a particular ancestor.

The obvious difference is that descendant has the inclusion of animals in the definition which may include cattle and livestock and property belonging to a person, in other words wealth. This speaks quite clearly of prosperity for future generations the blessings of of God as outlined in Genesis v28.

5:2; Male and female he created them, and he blessed them and named them Man when they were created.

This verse is a repeat, hence a confirmation, of Genesis verses 27 and 28

Mal2:15,

Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring, So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth.

This verse outlines God's purpose for creating man in his image and speaks of purity and fidelity in order to preserve the bloodline to produce Godly offspring ultimately resulting in the manifestation of the word as flesh, God incarnate(Jesus).

Matt.19:4;

He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female

This clearly repeats Genesis v27 and 28