

Grace Evangel Fellowship Pulpit

A WORLD WITHOUT GOD

A Message

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And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth. (Genesis 11:4)

We should begin with an important principle that underlies every other consideration. This is the foundation upon which everything rests. *In the beginning, God created.*

God created

In these first few words from the Bible we are told that this world and universe did not come into being by accident. God created! Some will dispute this and claim the world and universe came into being spontaneously – without the need for an intelligent Creator behind it all. But the harmonious design and the intricacies of the universe and of intelligent life tell us otherwise. The creation all around us speaks, and the only way to develop the opinion that there was no intelligent Creator responsible for all of this is to *start* with that assumption, and to develop theories that leave any possibility of God out of the analysis.

But what if there was a Creator? And can it be proven?

Stand back objectively without any preconceived notion of whether or not God exists. Look closely at the world around you. Consider how interrelated things are! Consider the intricacies of our human bodies and what a wonder they are! It's hard to fathom this all could have occurred spontaneously without the work of a Creator.

I suggest that creation tells us *clearly* that there was indeed a Creator behind all of this; an intelligent, wise, powerful Creator. If you happen upon a smartphone laying on the sidewalk, and as you examine it, would you believe it possibly came into existence spontaneously – or would you deduce there was some intelligent designer responsible?

Since the early days of history mankind has attempted to elevate himself to a high position where there is no need to acknowledge God. The book of Genesis provides great insight into the start of humanity's journey through the ages, and his propensity toward "going it alone" without God.

Some will dispute that Genesis or the Bible in total have any relevance to our life today. It is not my goal here to build the case for the Bible's legitimacy and authority. In ages past the Bible was not disputed and was seen as the authoritative Word of God – God revealing Himself to mankind. Today this is no longer the case; for the

skeptics have grown in number and those who still cling to the Bible's relevance and authority are not equipped to explain why.

Many today belittle religion, saying it is archaic and mythical. And those within religious circles have done much to hurt their credibility, what with division and fighting and failure to earnestly study that which God has revealed before coming to the conclusions they espouse.

But this is not about religious belief versus scientific fact. This is not about religion at all. It's about whether or not God exists – whether or not He created this universe – and whether He incorporated into His blueprint behaviors that are destructive and unsatisfactory; or if “anything goes.”

Now if there *is* an intelligent Creator – and if He wished to communicate with His creation beyond just what we can discern from the creation itself – how might He do so? I suggest that the Bible is God's revelation directed to mankind, to provide details on His created order. While many writings from antiquity claim to be divine; I believe the evidence clearly points to *the Bible* being God's method of revealing Himself to mankind. He tells us of His plans, and of His design, and of His will for mankind.

More on the evidence supporting my conclusions concerning the Bible will be forthcoming in a future writing. For now I simply want to point out a few interesting things that I believe have *great* relevance to our current world situation.

In God's image

Now considering the creation as documented in the Bible, we are told that God created mankind *in His image*. Yet, we see many examples of imperfection. The best of men or women is far from the standards God has established, and the example He provided in His Son. My explanation based on a study of the Scriptures is that while created in God's image, we will not fully develop into His image until we are redeemed and then glorified in the age to come.

For the premonition of the creation is awaiting the unveiling of the sons of God. For to vanity was the creation subjected ... in expectation that the creation itself, also, shall be freed from the slavery of corruption into the glorious freedom of the children of God. For we are aware that the entire creation is groaning and travailing together until now. Yet not only so, but we ourselves also, who have the firstfruit of the spirit, we ourselves also are groaning in ourselves, awaiting the sonship, the deliverance of our body. (Romans 8:19-24)

So as we await this outcome – fully inheriting God's image when we find the deliverance He will bring – we live in a less than perfect state and at times are *far* from reflecting the true image of God.

Man's heart is wicked

So, man was created in God's image. And there is certainly a spark of that image within each of us. But we are filled with flaws due to our inherited mortality – this weakened mortal state that we trace back to Adam and Eve.

Moving on to Noah's day, we read:

And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. (Genesis 6:5)

Far from the humanistic philosophies of our day that would say man is inherently good, here the Creator is informing us that the opposite is true. Man is inherently bad; at least man apart from God and His influence.

A few verses later we read:

The end of all flesh is come before Me; for the earth is filled with violence through them ... (Genesis 6:13)

In Romans, the apostle Paul makes the following observations about humanity.

God's indignation is being revealed from heaven on all the irreverence and injustice of men who are retaining the truth in injustice, because that which is known of God is apparent among them, for God manifests it to them. For His invisible attributes are described from the creation of the world, being apprehended by His achievements, besides His imperceptible power and divinity, for them to be defenseless, because, knowing God, not as God do they glorify or thank Him, but vain were they made in their reasonings, and darkened in their unintelligent heart. (Romans 1:18-22)

In short, we can know of God from seeing that which He created. His existence is “apparent” and we are defenseless if we fail to acknowledge Him and give thanks to Him for creating the wonders of the universe and for giving us life.

If we read further in Romans 1, Paul goes on to tell us the side effect of mankind’s turning away from the Creator. Since man chooses to ignore God and go his own way, God allows him to experience certain consequences ... dishonorable passions (here homosexual behavior is described), a disqualified mind, injustice, wickedness, evil, greed, envy, murder, strife, guile, depravity, the detesting of God, pride, invention of evil, lacking natural affection. (Romans 1:24-32). In these words we see an apt description of humanity – at least humanity that ignores God – in our present day.

So it’s a bit like “Lord of the Flies” when man tries to live apart from God and His “blueprint” – His design for this universe. When God created, He built a certain design into the created order. Recognizing God we should seek to be in harmony with that design; listening closely to His instructions ... the things He approves of and the things He does not. In our less-than-perfect state we may have certain impulses or desires that are counter to God’s design, but we should not be guided by a base “if it feels good do it” approach to life. If we would live in harmony with God’s created order, I suspect the world would look much different from the rebellious lot we see all around us.

Christ’s purpose is to bring humanity to the point where we are fully in God’s image, but we have far to go to reach that pinnacle. In the meantime we live in a world crying out for redemption. And we live in a world where the wickedness of man’s heart is clearly seen. Many of our woes result from things that mankind is responsible for. Ignoring God’s design and trying to set our own course in contrast to that design leads to many of the problems we see around us.

So, while God the Creator may be invisible in form, His existence is obvious through His creation. Yet mankind has chosen to ignore God and even claim He does not exist. God is not acknowledged or thanked, and instead mankind turns to a different “authority.”

They [mankind] change the glory of the incorruptible God into the likeness of an image of a corruptible human being and flying creatures and quadrupeds and reptiles. (Romans 1:23)

In Old Testament times man turned away from God the Creator and instead made gods of things that were visible ... things that were tangible ... idols. Man preferred created things rather than the Creator Himself. We may look at this idol worship as something that is archaic and irrelevant in our present day, but let me suggest that what we worship today is human authority (government leaders or humanistic ideals) or “science” (or at times certain brilliant men and women that are behind scientific discovery and theory). We look to them for instruction and even for the salvation of mankind while ignoring the one true God Who created all things.

This takes us to a most interesting and revealing episode in Genesis:

Tower of Babel

And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth. (Genesis 11:4)

The Tower of Babel! Keeping in mind that God had commanded mankind to be fruitful and inhabit the earth, this tower was a direct rebellion against God. “We will not scatter and inhabit the earth. We will stay in this one place. And behold what we can do on our own, without acknowledging God and without His help.”

This was a world thinking it did not need God, countermanding God’s plans and directives. It was the pride of man and *his* abilities apart from God. The ability to build a magnificent tower for the world to see and marvel at!

So God thwarted man’s plans, scattering them to distant places and “confusing” their tongue, making it difficult to communicate and to repeat the tower incident.

Today we see a similar thing happening, and the tower is science. How marvelous the discoveries mankind has made, and the advances in science and medicine. These discoveries can be good things if they are not a substitute for faith in God and recognition that He is the Creator of all that we see and all that we discover. But sadly this is often not the case. It is “science versus God.” It is the advances of science replacing the need for God. Often it is science mocking God and positioning Him as archaic and irrelevant and even mythical. Beliefs based upon the Bible – God’s revelation – is ridiculed and set aside in favor of “pure science.”

But as already stated, the evidence favoring an intelligent Creator is overwhelming. Science, properly done, will always *include* a recognition that God is behind it all, and that He created these things we are discovering thru science. Science that begins with the premise that there is no God and that there was no Creator responsible for this creation is bad science.

The imperfection of “science”

Science is also not perfect as many will often claim. For a fair number of years in my life I was told butter was unhealthy, and to substitute margarine instead. This was science at work. Later we were told that butter is not unhealthy after all, and in fact margarine might pose some health risks. (Alas, all those years of suffering thru the distasteful margarine era when I could have been eating butter!) Some will say that science has now evolved and that it can now be believed. But I suspect the same was said when margarine was being touted as a better alternative.

Furthermore, science is sometimes manipulated by those wishing to leave God out of the equation, or by those seeking to *use* science as the ultimate authority to accomplish their objectives. “Marvel at this amazing tower of science we have built and bow down to every edict declared by the scientific experts without question.” But one problem is that experts will often disagree.

There are often *motives* behind things, so the science being touted may not even be *objective* science. Could it be that *better* science is being suppressed by those wanting to secure power, or authority, or money?

Conspiracy theories

Before you write me off as a crazy conspiracy theorist, let me suggest that there is most definitely a conspiracy at work. Satan, the Deceiver, is real – and must never be ignored. We may not be able to see the Deceiver visibly, but since the day he led Adam and Eve astray he has been opposing God at every turn, attempting to lead mankind away from God by casting doubt and suspicion. And remember the observation of God in Noah’s day that was previously mentioned:

And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. (Genesis 6:5)

So most certainly there are conspiracies at work every day, powered by Satan in the spiritual realm, influencing the already wicked hearts of man. Satan is real, and it is a mistake to count him out. This being the case, is even science free from these influences – these conspiracies? We should always consider motives behind the scene before dealing with things only at the visible, superficial level. Is there money to be made? Is there power to be built? Is there authority to be strengthened? As for *specific* conspiracy theories being touted at times, I cannot judge (though some seem rather far-fetched). Still – a healthy degree of skepticism is wise in light of the influences and motives at work behind the scenes.

As I write these words the world is grappling with a virus pandemic. And as I pause to contemplate the unfolding of events, I see this virus being used as a means to control the masses thru fear of sickness. The virus is certainly real, but I also see it being used as an opportunity by those wishing to exercise greater control over the masses, building power and strengthening authority. Whatever the experts decree, the masses accept; allowing governments to take greater control over the lives of individuals.

I see differing opinions on this virus and its prevention. But dissenting medical opinions are buried by the Press and by authorities intent on presenting only the

“official” narrative, thereby keeping fear alive and enabling their preferred political opinion to rise in power. Propagation of fear begets willingness to be controlled, thereby begetting increasing power of government “for the good of the people.”

This might all be harmless if the motives of those in power were good. But I suppose the same could have been said as the Tower of Babel was being built. “While God has said to scatter and populate the earth, surely we are better off to congregate in this one place and built the greatest city ever built, for the good of humanity.”

Deception – Did God really say that?

Mankind’s motives may start out with good intent. But they do not remain such for long. Remember what God observed in His human creation even in Noah’s day. And go back even further to the Garden of Eden.

The serpent was a deceiver and caused Adam and Eve to doubt God. “Did God really say that, Eve? Did He really say you shouldn’t eat from this tree of the knowledge of good and evil? Wouldn’t you be better off if your eyes were opened so you could know good and evil without depending so much upon God?”

Many today say the same. “Did God really say that?” Often what they say is far worse. “Is there really a God?”

Even those acknowledging God’s existence are very selective in their hearing. We often hear quoted a familiar passage from the Bible, “Let he who is without sin cast the first stone.” Yet we never hear the clause immediately following this when Jesus told the accused woman, “Go and sin no more.” Those turning away from God often do so because they do not want their actions to be judged by Him. They do not want *anyone* casting stones or judgements at them for their behavior. They do not want to acknowledge the second part of the passage as God says to them, “Go and sin no more.” They will not acknowledge that *anything* is sinful, which literally means “missing the mark” that God established within the blueprint for His creation.

This goes back to a fact stated at the onset. “God created!” And since He created, and did so with a design and a purpose, it is possible to be in harmony or out of harmony with that design and purpose. Seeking to find a way without God, and even at times *opposed* to God’s plan, will always come with consequences. Including God, and acknowledging His blueprint for this universe, will cause us to be in harmony and at peace with the Creator.

Now returning to the Tower of Babel incident, we see man’s attempt to turn his back on God, using his knowledge and skill to build something great; something magnificent. With this in mind, let’s fast forward to the book of Revelation.

Fast forward to Revelation

In the final book in the Bible we read of events to take place in the final era upon this present earth. Here we read of a world order – a world government.

And it [the Beast] is causing all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free and the slaves, that they may be giving them an emblem on their right hand, or on their forehead, and that no one may be able to buy or sell except the one having the emblem of the wild beast ... (Revelation 13:16)

I once thought, how could such a thing occur? Could this really happen? Could nations voluntarily agree to submit themselves to a single world leader, regardless of how charismatic that leader might be? Could nations voluntarily lay down their national identity to become part of a world society? How could a world leader arise and amass enough power that he could force specific actions upon the masses (accepting the mark of the beast) as a requirement for their buying needed goods; and even gathering to battle against Christ Himself when He returns (Revelation 19:19)?

In our current day face masks are being mandated in public places, businesses are being closed or reduced in capacity, masks are being required before entering a business, and perhaps the stage is being set to require a mandatory vaccination in order to transact daily life requirements. I am not suggesting we are living in the end times described in Revelation, but I do see how the stage is being set and the masses prepared for such events. Individual freedom and choice is being forcibly overruled by government directives, supposedly based upon “pure science” and “for the public good.”

Twenty years ago I might not have seen how a world dictator as described in Revelation could rise to power; at least not in my lifetime. But as I look around me today I see such great fear of a virus, fueled by many within the government and within health agencies, causing the masses to voluntarily lay down their individualism and even their national identity to become part of a world society. The World Health Organization. A world environmental agency. This is so-called science being revered. It is a present-day Tower of Babel. Full trust in this science and in world leaders, paving the way (in my opinion) for the advent of a world leader as described in Revelation. “Don’t be scattered any longer! Come together! Look at how much we can accomplish when united as one!”

A part of me wants to remain silent about these world events as they unfold. After all, it is God’s plan that mankind comes to see their inability to govern without Him. Even the best of governments will ultimately fail, and man will then see his dependence upon God – his *need* for God. It is a part of God’s leading all mankind to the point where every knee bows before Him.

But I also know God wants believers to serve as His ambassadors. More on this point shortly. But first, let’s consider the Deceiver that played a role in the Garden of Eden.

The Deceiver

While he cannot be seen visibly it is important to remember there is a Deceiver at work in the spiritual realm. And his work in the unseen, spiritual realm has great influence on the physical realm we see all around us. This has been the case since the days of Adam and Eve in the Garden. There he took the form of a serpent and clouded the minds and loyalties of the first man and woman, leading them to make decisions that had destructive consequences. Today the Deceiver works invisibly in the background but with the same intent – to cloud our minds and loyalties and to lead mankind into bad decisions that are counter to God’s “blueprint” and that have destructive consequences. In the future the Deceiver will once again take on a visible form, as the Beast we see at work in Revelation – again with the same intent – to cloud the minds and loyalties of all people in all nations as he assembles a world order and even leads man to oppose the Lord when He returns.

And while current world events unfold, those of us who are believers in the one true God are commissioned to be His Ambassadors; proclaiming His truth to the world in which we live.

Ambassadors

As ambassadors we are to speak out on our Lord's behalf. We are not to be silent without interjecting a word concerning God along the way as we have opportunity. We read in 2 Corinthians:

For Christ, then, are we ambassadors, as of God entreating through us. We are beseeching for Christ's sake, 'Be conciliated to God.' (2 Corinthians 5:20)

We are proclaimers of God's revealed truth! We are entreating or pleading with those we encounter – as though God is pleading thru us! This passage tells us we are to proclaim that God is conciliated, or at peace with the world. We are to encourage those within the world to become conciliated with God – thereby bringing about the reconciliation of all things which is God's ultimate purpose.

And for those of the world to become conciliated with God the Creator, we must first call on them to believe there is a God, and to acknowledge Him, and to subject themselves to Him (and not to science or any man or woman). We are to revere the Creator, and not any of His created order.

Ambassadors – we must use these days as an opportunity to speak out; even when what we are commissioned to say might be contrary to the opinions of world leaders or so-called science or medicine. Recognize God and revere Him above all else. Proclaim His existence, His role as Creator of all things, His revelation to us thru Christ Jesus and thru His Word, His love and His grace.

Let us not live complacently in a world without God. We are His ambassadors, speaking on His behalf, with words not of our own devices – but with truth revealed to us by God Himself.

This overview contains the thoughts and opinions of the author and is a work in progress as his study of the Scriptures continues. Some things that God has revealed are very clear. That Christ died for our sins; that He was entombed; and that He was roused (1 Corinthians 15:3) is clear. That all are to be ultimately reconciled to God thru the work of Christ is also very clear (1 Corinthians 15:20-28). But on many specifics in the Scriptures there are a variety of interpretations and opinions, and none should conclude they have the complete and final understanding on these matters that are less clear. The reader is encouraged to consider various opinions, but to study and to think for himself. Within the Body of Christ we should study and discuss our understandings so as to mutually reach a more complete understanding of that which God has revealed.

Unless otherwise noted, Scriptures are taken from the Concordant Literal New Testament and the Concordant Version of the Old Testament. Concordant Publishing Concern, P O Box 449, Almont, MI 48003 (Concordant.org)

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