

The Ancient Greeks talked about 7 Wonders of the World. These were the most magnificent creations that humans with all of their wisdom and power were able to accomplish. The 7 Wonders of the Ancient World were:

- *the Colossus of Rhodes
- *the great lighthouse of Alexandria
- *the Mausoleum at Halicarnassus
- *the statue of Zeus located at Mt. Olympus
- *the Temple dedicated to Artemis located in the city of Ephesus
- *the hanging gardens of Babylon
- *and the Great Pyramids of Egypt

These were the creations that most fully displayed human potential and power. These were the showcases of human development. These were the 7 wonders of the world.

But it is interesting that today only 1 of these 7 wonders remains. You can find some broken artifacts of some of the other 6, but the Colossus, the lighthouse, the mausoleum, the statue of Zeus, the temple of Artemis and the hanging gardens are no longer magnificent displays. Only the pyramids of Egypt remain. And while the pyramids remain a great achievement- Herodotus tells us that it took 100,000 men 20 years to build the Great Pyramid of Khufu - even they are just a shell of what they once were. The internal treasures have long ago been looted; the marble exteriors have long ago been obliterated by theft and erosion. Yes, all great human achievements disintegrate and decay with time.

But there is one creation that continues on and on. That is God's creation. For the Bible tells us that in the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. This morning we are beginning a series on the top ten Greatest Events in Human History. This idea came to me as I was contemplating the significance of our 150th anniversary several months ago before we celebrated our church's birth at the March banquet. Certainly the milestone of 150 years is a significant one. And it was almost natural for me to make the jump to consider what the most critical events in all of human history were. I began to jot them down on a piece of paper. The top ten events in all of human history that have most affected the human race. Now I realize that choosing the 10 greatest events is somewhat subjective and you might disagree with some of them. But these are mine. And what became amazing to me is the fact that all 10 of these events were Biblical in nature. They all are referred to in the Bible in some way. 8 of these events have already happened. They are historical. 2 have not yet happened, but they are predicted in the Bible to happen in the future, so we can consider them to be part of human history already. And what became apparent to me as I considered this top ten list of world events is the critical nature of understanding

them for our interpretation of them forms our worldview. The enemy has done his best to attack these 10 events. He has tried to deny the existence of some of them altogether. He has tried to reinterpret some of them. Because he realizes that a correct understanding of these 10 events forms a person's worldview. A correct interpretation of these 10 world events is essential in understanding who we are, where we have come from, what our purpose is here on this earth and where we are going in the future.

The first event in the top ten list has got to be creation. For in eternity past, according to the Scriptures nothing existed except for God himself. God alone is eternal, one being in 3 persons - God the Father, God the Son and God the H.S. And the Godhead existed without beginning in perfect fellowship, love and harmony.

But then there came the day when God decided to create a material universe. The Bible says that God made this decision to bring glory to Himself - so that He could reveal His character and attributes to a greater degree. The Bible opens with the account of the creation of the universe. The first verse in the Bible says in beautiful simplicity, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Now we all know how this statement of historical fact has been attacked by God's enemy because it is the first foundational worldview building block.

One of the silent evidences that that the Bible was written by God is its account of creation. For if any human being were writing the Bible from a purely natural viewpoint, this single first chapter of the Bible that contains the creation account would be expanded into at least half of the Bible. What a fascinating and wonderful story. God creating the entire universe out of nothing. There are so many questions that remain unanswered in our minds. Why did God create everything in this order? Just how did he make everything? Why did God choose earth and water to be life sustaining substances? Why did God choose to make creatures dependent upon a gas that we call air? Why did God choose a vast expanse of a universe to surround this tiny planet Earth upon which he was going to focus so much of His attention? What was the light that God created the 1st day? The sun was not created until the 4th day. Did God create the earth with an apparent age? It appears that he did. He made trees (not just seeds in the ground), birds (not just eggs in a nest), and a fully grown of developed man and woman (not embryos in a womb). How old did the earth appear to be when God created it? This fact of creation alone answers that ancient riddle - which came first, the chicken or the egg? It was the chicken, of course, for God made all winged birds on the 5th day - he didn't make eggs. Many, many questions. But God chose not to reveal all of those answers. Rather, He chose to give us just enough for us to know beyond a shadow of a doubt that He was the creator of all things.

*Perhaps the order is significant for God knew that there would come a day when a man named Charles Darwin would invent a theory called evolution. And in response to that theory, some Christians would try to synthesize a Creator God with this theory in promoting a theistic evolutionary concept. God's order doesn't really allow for this possibility - for land vegetation, seed-bearing plants and trees were created on the 3rd day while the sun, moon and stars were not created until the 4th day. While it is true in the Hebrew language that the word, day,

sometimes means a longer period of time than 24 hours as our word day also does – he was a great athlete in his day - it is inconceivable that earth plant life that depends on the sun for photosynthesis could exist for a long period of time without the sun.

But there can be no doubt that God created the heavens and the earth. No one can take the Bible seriously as the Word of God and deny that fact. It was not happenstance that the Modern Liberals first attacked the Mosaic Authorship of the Pentateuch - for they were trying to make the creation story a mere legend rather than the inspired revelation from God. But years now have passed and the archaeological finds that they promised to support their theories have not been found. There has never been any Bible manuscript found that would indicate that the Pentateuch was made up of separate, legendary documents. Every indication is that it was authored by a single individual. And while Darwin's theory of a creationless beginning for the world might have sounded plausible to many at first, the missing links that Darwin promised have never been found. All of the fossils found indicate that animals have continued to procreate according to their own kind just as the Bible says. And the central and most important question that evolution raises has never been answered. If, according to the established scientific laws of Physics, energy cannot be created or destroyed, and all matter in a closed system tends towards chaos rather than order naturally, where did the first matter come from out of nothing? Where did that first drop of water come from, from which all evolved? And how can we believe that matter developed into more complex organisms when the established laws of physics prove otherwise? Darwin promised answers to these questions if given enough time. We are over a hundred years from Darwin's death now, we have the accumulated evidence of years of archaeological finds, and we are farther from the answer to those questions than ever.

Why is there such resistance in our world to an intelligent creator of the Universe as the bible advocates? Why do school boards and courts fight so hard to keep this from being taught in our public schools even as a theory to be considered? Why will people accept almost any theory, no matter how illogical or irrational, just so they won't have to admit that God created the heavens and the earth? There are 3 truths that we must accept if we acknowledge that God did indeed create the heavens and the earth, and these are truths that many people in the world just do not want to admit. But there is no question that the creation of the universe is one of the greatest events in the history of man for without this event there would be no other events. And there is no doubt that God did indeed create the heavens and earth - both because the bible says it is so, and because the evidence that we see around us points to that direction. So these are truths that we must accept - and they will be foundational blocks to our worldview in life.

1. Truth #1 - Everything that exists is ultimately God's. Now this is a logical conclusion that we must come to after studying the creation account in the Bible.

*Before God created the universe, there was nothing - no matter at all

*After God created the universe, all matter that is now here was made.

*Therefore, God is the one who brought all matter into existence. And He then ultimately owns all things - because He made them.

Now this is a truth that is important for us to see for it completely changes the way we look at everything around us. If all of matter and life evolved, happened by chance, then ownership of it is up for grabs. Whoever claims it first, whoever is strong enough to claim it - survival of the fittest, whoever wants it badly enough can claim ownership. But if God created everything, then He alone has a rightful claim to what he has made. And while he certainly has the right to delegate ownership of what he has made - he gave the human race dominion over the earth and he entrusts material possessions to his children - He must be recognized as the ultimate owner of it all. We are just stewards of what He really owns.

2. Truth #2 - We, as human beings, owe our existence to God. The reason the human race is here on planet earth is because God created Adam and Eve with the ability to procreate other descendants. The human race did not evolve by chance - it was created by God's purpose.

Sir Isaac Newton made a wonderful replica of the solar system in miniature. In the center was the sun with the retinue of planets revolving around it. It was tremendously innovative back in day when the earth revolving around the sun was a novel idea. One day, another scientist whom Newton knew to be an unbeliever, came into his office and remarked about the miniature solar system. *This is really remarkable, did you make it?* he asked. *No, nobody made it,* Newton replied. *O come on now, you expect me to believe that nobody made this?* the scientist answered. And then he caught himself for he knew that he had just been trapped by Newton. Newton just smiled and replied, *If you cannot believe that nobody made this puny little replica, how can you possibly believe that the magnificent universe was not designed by an great and intelligent creator?*

Now this fact of God's creation implies at least 2 significant things:

a. we all derive everything that we are or have ultimately from God. This is very important for us to realize - for the 2 most basic needs of every human being is to have security and to have a sense of worth. Most human beings will do almost anything and look almost anywhere to find these 2 most basic needs. But we all need to realize that the ultimate source of both our security and worth is God himself. God is our creator - therefore, He must be the source of all that we need. He must be the source of our security. We find the love that we need in Him. We find the protection that we need in Him. We find the provisions that we need in Him. He is the ultimate source of all that we need. We also must realize that we need to find our sense of worth in God. He is the one who created us in His own image. We were created to bring glory to our creator. We were created to fellowship with our creator. We were created to serve our creator. It is only as we realize these purposes that we can realize our ultimate purpose and worth in life.

b. But secondly, because God is our creator, we are ultimately accountable to Him. Because He made us, and made us for a specific purpose, God has the right to demand of us that we fulfill that purpose. And if we

don't, He has a right to demand that we give an account of our lives to him.

Now eventually, when we all stand before God, I would not be surprised if this point isn't the basis for many of the atheistic theories and attempts to deny God his rightful place as creator. Atheism claims to be based upon intellectual integrity. But our observance of the universe around us just doesn't add up to a chance happening.

There is a children's book that is entitled, *The Chance World*. It attempts to describe a world in which everything happens by chance. The sun might rise or it might not every day. Sometimes the moon comes up instead. When children are born, they might have 1 head or a dozen. And those heads might be on their shoulders - or there might be no shoulders. If someone jumps up into the air, it's impossible to predict whether he would come down or not. One day, gravity might be so weak that a child could jump up into the clouds, while the next day it would be so strong that a person couldn't jump at all. It's obvious by the end of the book that it would be impossible to ever live in such a world of chance.

But this is exactly the kind of world that would be consistent with a chance beginning. Why would matter develop purely by chance but then somehow fall into regimented and structured order when the laws of physics tell us that this doesn't occur naturally? But while many people would never admit to living in such a world of chance, nor would they desire to do so, they still want to cling to the notion that the world started by chance. The reason for this is obviously not an intellectual one, so it must be a moral one. There is a strong human tendency to deny any accountability to God. There is a strong human tendency to want to set our own standards of right and wrong and answer only to ourselves. And there is the inner realization that if God did indeed create all things, then He has the right to have all things he created give an account to Him.

Now we are wise if we realize this truth today. The Bible makes this logical connection very clearly. Romans 14:11, 12 says, *As surely as I live, says the Lord, every knee will bow before me; and every tongue will confess to God. So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.*

God gave us this warning for our good. Can you imagine the outcry if suddenly the principle of Rockford High told all of next year's seniors that he had made up a comprehensive test that each one would have to take in order to get his or her diploma? It didn't matter what their grade point average was, it didn't matter how good their attendance patterns were, pass the test or you don't graduate. There would be a public outcry. How dare he spring this new requirement on students without warning them first? Students should have been told about this test when they were freshmen so they could have prepared adequately for it.

God created all things. Everything that is owes its existence to God. Everything that is derives its worth from God. Everything that is must give an account to God. And God has warned us that this is the case. God will never judge unfairly. God has given to us everything needed to please him. So we can prepare to give an account to God, and even look forward to that day as a time of reward. But the day is coming. It doesn't matter if we try to deny it. It still is coming. We are wise if we prepare for the coming day when we will stand before God and give an

account of our lives.

3. Truth #3 - God is not responsible for the evil in this world - we are as human beings. Now we are not going to go into this truth in great detail this morning, because it will form the foundation for our study in 2 weeks, the Lord willing as we consider #2 in the World's Top Ten Events. For certainly one of the greatest events in the world was man's fall from grace into sin. When you think of how sin has affected our lives and everything around us, there can be no question that this is a most significant event. But as we consider the creation account, we must note that each day of creation ended the same way – with God pronouncing everything that he made as being good.

Every day of creation concludes with the same Hebrew phrase - KEE - TOVE - IT WAS GOOD. God was pleased with His creation. And if a perfect God was pleased with it, you know that it was pure quality.

God is not responsible for the wickedness and evil in the world. Now as a human race, we would certainly like to blame Him for it. Often, it is not God directly who is blamed, but rather it is the world around us or society or something that ultimately blames God indirectly. But there can be no doubt from the Biblical account of creation that God did His work well - He is not responsible for evil in the world.

Now why is it so important that we have a Biblical view of this first great event - CREATION? Because a proper view of creation will affect our entire worldview and direction in life. If we realize and accept and live a Biblical view of creation, then we have the foundation for:

- *having a proper view of ourselves with the security and a sense of worth that we need.

- *having a proper view of material things around us, recognizing that we are stewards of all that God has given to us.

- *living our lives in preparation for that day when we will stand before God to give an account of our lives.

- *accepting responsibility for sin and wickedness in our lives and dealing with it in a Biblical manner.

- *living our lives for the honor and glory of God who alone gives meaning and fulfillment to life.