**Wednesday Morning Devotion On May 15, 2024**

**Passage: Genesis 1:1-10**

God directly created the world. This act is called "creation." The first book of the Bible, Genesis, records how God began His work.

Today, the world is often influenced by the theory of evolution, leading many to disregard the story of creation. It's unfortunate that many people confuse 'evolution' with 'atheistic interpretations of evolution.' Evolution, as a scientifically verified phenomenon, has abundant evidence supporting it. However, 'atheistic interpretations of evolution' represent a belief system or philosophy not founded on scientific proof but rather on a set of ideas. It's crucial to distinguish between these two concepts.

The Bible tells us that God is the one who creates something from nothing. Humans can only transform existing materials. The process of creating something from nothing is beyond human capability and belongs solely to God. God alone can create from nothing. In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. He then separated the light from the darkness, calling the light "day" and the darkness "night." Following this, God filled the heavens and the earth with all forms of life.

***Let us reflect deeper on the initial conditions of the earth and the transformative power of God’s Spirit.***

**Genesis 1:2a - "Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep."**

**Darkness:** The term used here describes a profound, pitch-black void, an absence of light that envelops the pre-creation state. This darkness, described in Hebrew as a deep, complete blackout, signifies a world before the light—total and utter absence of visibility.

**The Deep:** Translated from Hebrew, this term refers to the watery abyss, suggesting deep oceanic valleys submerged under water. It symbolizes the primordial state of the earth, submerged and shrouded in darkness.

**The Condition of the Earth:** Described as "formless and empty," these words paint a picture of the earth lacking structure and substance, a canvas awaiting the Creator’s touch. This formlessness suggests an absence of order while emptiness indicates a void needing fulfillment.

**Genesis 1:2b - "And the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters."**

***What does it mean that the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters?***

In this context, the Hebrew word translated as 'hovering' originally means 'to spread wings and flutter' or 'to cover.'

This usage is highlighted in a verse from Deuteronomy:

"Just as an eagle stirs up its nest and hovers over its young, that spreads its wings to catch them and carries them aloft" (Deuteronomy 32:11 NIV).

Therefore, the phrase in Genesis 1:2, "the Spirit of God was hovering," can be likened to an eagle spreading its wings over its young. It signifies the Holy Spirit's protective and nurturing action over the earth.

The Spirit acted this way because, at the beginning, the earth was formless, empty, and covered in darkness and deep waters. This imagery of the Spirit hovering reflects God’s warm and enveloping presence, preparing and protecting the earth as part of His creation plan.

**Genesis 1:6-7 (NIV) states, "And God said, ‘Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water.’ So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so."**

The vault refers to a huge space opened up within the waters that covered the earth, which is also referred to as the 'sky' or 'heavens'. Different translations of the Bible depict this vault as a 'dome' (NRSV), or 'expanse' (ESV).

**Genesis 1:8-10 (NIV) continues, "God called the vault ‘sky.’ And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day. And God said, ‘Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.’ And it was so. God called the dry ground ‘land,’ and the gathered waters he called ‘seas.’ And God saw that it was good."**

God created the expansive vault to divide the waters of the world, positioning some above and some below. He then commanded the waters to gather together, which resulted in the formation of seas, and dry land emerged from beneath these waters.

Water, no matter its location—above or below the vault—remains unchanged in its essence. It is pure whether it falls as rain from the sky or emerges from deep underground.

During Noah's flood, as described in **Genesis 7:11-12 (NIV), these divisions were undone: "In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, on the seventeenth day of the second month—on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights."**

The flood brought forth the waters above and below the vault, re-covering the earth and effectively resetting the creation, an event sometimes referred to as a 'de-creation'.

**Some Essential Lessons From Today’s Passage:**

**1.** The climax of creation was the creation of humans. God made humans in His own image, in His likeness. **God, the creator of the universe, had already prepared the earth for us even before the first day of creation, highlighting His intention for our habitation and the profound grace embedded in creation.**

**Our God is Love and He is The Almighty Creator!**

Consider the relationship between parents and children: Some parents deeply love their children but lack the means to help them. Other parents might have the means but lack the affection.

God is our “Heavenly Daddy” who loves us deeply and He is Omnipotent. Then Why Not ask Him?

There was a college student who always asked his roommate for money. The roommate thought that this student must be from a poor family and, feeling pity, often lent him the money. However, an astonishing fact was later revealed: the roommate who always borrowed money was actually the son of a major company's CEO. Naturally, this made the roommate quite angry. Why keep asking me for help when you could just ask your own father?

So, who are we like when we are God’s children but do not pray to Him? It’s like the student who has a wealthy father capable of helping yet continues to borrow money from a roommate instead.

You call God "Father," right?

I encourage you to be a child who frequently prays and 'bothers' your Father in Heaven. God transcends our concepts of time and space, whereas we are bound by them.

When we rely on God and pray to Him, the same time can become a new time, and the same environment can transform into a new one. This happens because our God is the Creator.

**2. Only God can turn chaos into order and emptiness into abundance.**

Human beings, as created entities, are not capable of creating order, peace, and abundance by themselves. No matter how hard we try, some things just cannot be achieved. Even if someone wants to help, they might not be able to. This is because humans are finite beings. **As human beings, we lack the power to bring about such transformations on our own due to our finite nature.**

**If you are seeking peace and order in your life, or if you feel emptiness, remember that only through Jesus Christ can true change and fulfillment occur. If you know anybody who struggles with chaos and disorder in their lives. He or she needs Jesus Christ! Share the gospel of Christ with him/her.**

**And pray that God will use him/her vulnerability to draw them close to Jesus Christ!**

**A Prayer To Start A New Day:**

***Heaven Father,, as we welcome the dawn of a new day, we carry with us the truths of Your Creation. You spoke into the darkness and commanded light; You divided the waters and crafted the heavens. This morning, we ask You to speak again into the dark places of our lives and our world, bringing Your light and life where there is despair and emptiness.***

***Grant us the courage to face this day with a renewed sense of purpose and dependence on You. May Your Spirit hover over our plans and dreams, guiding our actions and decisions. Help us to lean not on our own understanding but to seek Your wisdom and guidance in everything we do.***

***As we step into the challenges and joys of today, remind us that You are with us, organizing the chaos and filling the voids with Your presence. Let us be vessels of Your peace and agents of Your creation, spreading hope and kindness wherever we go. Bless this day, Lord, and use it for Your glory.
We ask all these things in the powerful name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, Amen!***