

Revelation's HOPE

Lesson 5: Into the Throne Room (Prologue to the 7 Seals)

I. Joy in a Package☺!

A. Why Do People Choose to Have Children?

- Some say, that is just the way we are as humans.
- Others say it guarantees the survival of the species.
- There are even some who really do not have an answer, and feel we should not have children because the world is “overpopulated anyway”.
- If you are a parent, have been a parent or have been around children you know the answer to my question.
- There is something special about the newness of life and being in a loving relationship with someone.

B. Revelation shows this is a reality that God experiences.

II. Revelation 4

“After these things I saw, and behold, a door opened in heaven, and the first voice that I heard, a voice as of a trumpet speaking with me, one saying, Come up hither, and I will show thee the things which must come to pass hereafter. ²

Straightway I was in the Spirit: and behold, there was a throne set in heaven, and one sitting upon the throne; ³ and he that sat was to look upon like a jasper stone and a sardius; and there was a rainbow round about the throne, like an emerald to look upon” (**Rev 4:1-3, ASV**). Hebrew Scriptures→

A. Who is on the Throne?

²⁶ “And above the firmament that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone; and upon the likeness of the throne was a likeness as the appearance of a man upon it above. ²⁷ And I saw as it were glowing metal, as the appearance of fire within it round about, from the appearance of his loins and upward; and from the appearance of his loins and downward I saw as it were the appearance of fire. . .” (**Ez. 1:26-27, ASV**)

. . . and there was brightness round about him. ²⁸ As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of Jehovah. And when I saw it, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spake” (**Eze 1:28 ASV**).

- Ezekiel and John see Jesus on the Throne.
- Ezekiel falls before Him and is then told to speak to the rebellious “followers” of God. The Elders fall before Jesus in Revelation.
- Where are we in the Sanctuary?
- Priest moves from Holy to Most Holy Place on the Day of Atonement / Judgment.
- Ark – throne
- Its as if we go from looking at God’s final Church needing to repent to a view of what Heaven sees. Vertical to Horizontal.

B. More from Revelation 4

⁴ And round about the throne were four and twenty thrones: and upon the thrones I saw four and twenty elders sitting, arrayed in white garments; and on their heads crowns of gold. ⁵ And out of the throne proceed lightnings and voices and thunders. And there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God; (**Rev. 4:4-5**, ASV)

- 24 Elders – who are they? More later
- Seven spirits – sevenfold spirit.

⁶ and before the throne, as it were a sea of glass like a crystal; and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, four living creatures full of eyes before and behind. ⁷ And the first creature was like a lion, and the second creature like a calf, and the third creature had a face as of a man, and the fourth creature was like a flying eagle. ⁸ and the four living creatures, having each one of them six wings, are full of eyes round about and within: and they have no rest day and night, saying. . .

C. Cherubim

“Then I looked, and behold, in the firmament that was over the head of the cherubim there appeared above them as it were a sapphire stone, as the appearance of the likeness of a throne . . . ¹² their backs, and their hands, and their wings, and the wheels, were full of eyes round about, even the wheels that they four had. ¹³ As for the wheels, they were called in my hearing, the whirling wheels ¹⁴ And every one had four faces: the first face was the face of the cherub, and the second face was the face of a man, and the third face the face of a lion, and the fourth the face of an eagle. ¹⁵ And the cherubim mounted up: this is the living creature that I saw by the river Chebar” (**Eze 10:1, 12-14**, ASV).

D. Clear these beings are near to God, but what do they say?

Revelation 4

. . . Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come. ⁹ And when the living creatures shall give glory and honor and thanks to him that sitteth on the throne, to him that liveth for ever and ever, ¹⁰ the four and twenty elders shall fall down before him that sitteth on the throne, and shall worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and shall cast their crowns before the throne, saying ¹¹ “Worthy art thou, our Lord and our God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power: for thou didst create all things, and because of thy will they were, and were created” (**Rev 4:1-11**, ASV)

- Create: ktizo “habitate” “cause to habitate” (Thayer’s Greek Lexicon); “invent” (Liddell-Scott Greek Lexicon). **1 Timothy 4:3** (God’s creative activity); **Ephesians 2:10** (change completely). Hebrew equivalent: Bara (Deut)
- Why Create? Why risk? One word→
- What is best in all Creation? The ones made in His Image: His children, friends. Each new life brings joy. Human race is then told to multiply. To eat life-giving food. Notice how intimate God gets with His creation.

IV. Back to the Roots: Genesis

- Six days of Creation (**Genesis 1**: please read for your understanding).

- As we progress to **Genesis chapter 2** we have what I like to call repetitive enlargement. In other words, what was found in summary form in chapter 1 is now expanded on in chapter 2 - there was only one creation account. This form of writing is found in other places in Genesis (See **Genesis 5; 11:10**, etc). Literal Genealogical accounts usually involve summaries and then expansions.
- Creation was “very good” when God was done. Very Good!
- **Genesis 1** – Literal because of the world for day being “yom” and a numeral being attached to it.
- This is where we get the phrase “evening and morning”
- God finishes the week by resting with His creation and this weekly cycle has continued since that time.
- The capstone being that we can Sabbath with Him every week.
- We also have the conjunction “and” linking everything from **1:1 to 1:31** = not two separate creations or a long period between verse 1 and the rest of the chapter.
- What a wonderful event!! Imagine it. . .
- A wonderful truth but some have forgotten and taught other theories. These theories have led some to believe:

“Teaching the Biblical theory in science classes makes as much sense as including the stork in classes on reproduction! I don’t know of any intelligent person who has examined the evidence that doesn’t believe in evolution” (Dr. Garrard, a University of California Biologist famous for his work on the brain).

V. Evidence for a Creator

A. Scientists who believe in the possibility of Intelligent design

1. Hawking

“So long as the universe had a beginning, we could suppose it had a creator” (Hawking, *A Brief History of Time*. 1988. pp. 140-141).

2. “. . . almost everyone now believes that the universe, and time itself, had a beginning at the big bang” (Stephen Hawking and Roger Penrose, *The Nature of Space and Time*. 1996. p. 20).

- Philosophically, it is possible to believe in a beginning, a Creator.

3. Sir Frederick Hoyle – 1970’s Astronomer

The smallest conceivable life-form needs at least 2,000 proteins to carry on basic life functions. Hoyle decided to calculate the probability of all the essential proteins forming spontaneously (by the way, spontaneous generation as a theory went out with the science of Pasteur).

4. Result: 1 chance in 10 raised to the power of 40,000! Less likely than winning the lottery every single week for 80 years!! Not condoning the lottery☺

5. Tornado: This spontaneous generation of a bacteria is about the likelihood that “a tornado sweeping through a junkyard could assemble a 747 from the contents therein” (Sir Frederick Hoyle, “Hoyle on Evolution,” *Nature*. November 12, 1981, p. 105).

6. Morowitz – Molecular Biophysics

- Concluded that the odds of a whole bacterium assembling by chance would be one in 10 with 100 billion zeros after it (www.direct.ca/trinity/origin.html).
- We can see that just one tiny organism would be very unlikely, let alone millions of them needed to form the primordial soup necessary for the big bang.

- Most will answer that given enough time, this could happen.

7. Takahata- Paleontology

“Even with DNA sequence data, we have **no direct access to the process of evolution**, so objective reconstruction of the vanished past can be achieved only by creative imagination,” (N. Takahata, *A Genetic Perspective on the Origin and History of Humans*, Annual Review of Ecology and Systems, 1995).

8. Michael Behe

“Lynn Margulis is a distinguished professor of biology at the University of Massachusetts. At one of her many public talks she asks the molecular biologists in the audience to name a single, unambiguous example of the formation of a new species by the accumulation of mutations. Her Challenge goes unmet” (Michael J. Behe, *Darwin’s Black Box*, 26).

- Behe emphasizes “irreducibly complex system [s]”
Ex1: Bombardier beetle squirts hydroquinone and hydrogen peroxide into face of enemy. Beetle has chemical inhibitor makes it harmless so it can be stored for right moment.

Which came first: the chemicals or the inhibitor?

- EX2: MOUSETRAP “The bottom line is that it is impossible explain a chain of events that could have led to the evolution of such a complex system” (Dr Michael Behe, *Darwin’s Black Box*, 154).

B. Fossil Record

- Specimen Creek (Yellowstone): 72+ volcanic ash layers assumed to be 72 separate forests piled one on top of the other over 70,000 to 140,000 years.
- Has been revisited because of the research of Clyde Webster in Hawaii.
- Webster discovered that each volcanic eruption contains a distinct chemical fingerprint unique to its magma chamber.
- This fingerprint stayed constant for 10-12 months.
- Webster went on to discover that there were 4 different kinds of chemical fingerprints at Specimen Creek and these were mixed in sequence. Specifically, volcano #1 had a fingerprint at the bottom of the forest and then #1 also had fingerprints on the top.
- This led Webster to conclude that no more than 12 months had transpired in the formation of the fossil “forests” at Specimen Creek rather than 70,000+ years.
- Four fingerprints show that there were 4 volcanic sources. Three of them had been found as of 2004.

C. The Geological Column (especially the Grand Canyon): problems with the erosion rate, etc. Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe show examples of catastrophic erosion due to water.

- Geological Column part 2: problems with the organisms in the layers.
- Evidence for catastrophes – especially involving water and volcanism.
- Baleen whales being studied by Paleontologists show that there were at least regional floods in our world covering a huge portions of Continents – including the United States (Leonard Brand).

D. The results of believing an alternate philosophy.

“Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God for the likeness of an image of corruptible man, and of birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts unto uncleanness, that their bodies should be dishonored among themselves: for that they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile passions: for their women changed the natural use into that which is against nature: and likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another, men with men working unseemliness, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was due (**Romans 1:22-27**. . .)

LOOK AT WHAT COMES NEXT→

“And even as they refused to have God in their knowledge, God gave them up unto a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, hateful to God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenant-breakers, without natural affection, unmerciful: who, knowing the ordinance of God, that they that practise such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but also consent with them that practise them (**Romans 1:28-32**).

VI. It Comes Down to Faith: Moore - Paleontology

“The more one studies paleontology, the more certain one becomes that evolution is based on faith alone; exactly the same sort of faith which it is necessary to have when one encounters the great mysteries of religion.... The evidence from paleontology is from discontinuity; only by faith and imagination is there continuity of variation” (Dr. Moore, *The Dogma of Evolution*, 160-161; emphasis mine).

- Which Faith Will You Choose to Believe?
- Order Established at Creation
- The End Note at Creation: the Creation of mankind
- All heaven and Earth rejoiced – a wonderful event had occurred!
God had “friends” / family!
- We will learn more about this God later, but for now the Creator is. . .

VII. The God Who Made Us

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us. . .” (**John 1:1-3, 14**, KJV). **Jesus is the Creator!**

- I choose to have faith in a God who made us and has a plan for us. That we are not left cosmic orphans by some impersonal force. That the story of beginnings in this Faithbook are a trustworthy account of our origins. To say>
¹¹ “Worthy art thou, our Lord and our God [Jesus], to receive the glory and the honor and the power: for thou didst create all things, and because of thy will they were, and were created” (**Rev 4:1-11**, ASV)