

I. Introduction

- A. In 1996, astronomers focused the Hubble telescope on a blank spot next to Big Dipper
1. They left the lens open for 10 days and found 3000 galaxies they didn't know there!
 - a. In 2004, they focused on spot near Orion and discovered 10,000 more new galaxies
 - b. It's called the *Hubble Ultra Deep Field*; it's now be called the *eXtreme Deep Field*
 - c. This doesn't apply to what's out there; it's what we can see with current technology
 2. But there is something that DOES describe what is really out there— **Genesis 1:1**
 - a. The Almighty God bigger than the vastness of universe spoke universes into being
 - b. The Spirit of God moved over the chaos, and God began to move creation (**Gen 1:2**)
 - c. So the story begins. As does our year-long focus on reading & study “*The Story*”
- B. The big question is “WHY?” Why did God create the heavens and earth? And us?
1. God is eternal; God is a Spirit. God was around without a material universe, right?
 - a. So then why did He create it... and us? He got bored one day on a coffee break?
 - b. Can make case that God made heavens and earth to declare His glory (**Psa 19:1**)
 - c. In fact, we could argue that created us for the exact same reason (**Isa 43:6b-7**)
 2. That kind of makes sense... but then it doesn't make sense at all, does it
 - a. Why would an All-Perfect, All-Supreme, All-Sovereign God need MORE glory?
 - b. In fact, how do you get more of *anything* when you are perfect in *everything*
 - c. God makes it clear He is all-sufficient; He needs nothing from us (**Psa 50:9-12**)
 - 1) Sounds like if God were hungry, he wouldn't need to tell us; everything is His
 - 2) That applies to glory too! He did not need to make us to give Him more glory
- C. God never tells *WHY* He created the universe, just that He created it! And get used to it!
1. There will be a lot He won't explain! Perk of being God is you don't have to explain!
 2. We ran into many questions in “*The Story*” this week we wished God would explain
 - a. Why did He create light on Day 1 and plants on Day 3 before the sun on Day 4?
 - b. Why do these ancient people live to be such ancient people (*Methuselah was 969*)
 - c. And how did Noah go about rounding up all the animals and get them on the ark?
 - d. Why was there a talking snake slithering around Garden of Eden in the first place?
 3. We can read “*The Story*” 1000 times and we will always have unanswered questions

II. Creation: In the Image of God

- A. There's another "God created" in **Genesis 1**; that's the part of the story we'll focus on
1. Todd mentioned *Upper* and *Lower Story*; we get a taste of that division this morning
 - a. **Genesis 1** tells the story in grand scope from the divine perspective—*Upper Story*
 - b. **Genesis 2** is same creation story retold from below with more details—*Lower Story*
 - 1) Usually in *Lower Story*, there's a human thrashing about caused by our sin
 - 2) That doesn't start until Genesis 3; Genesis 2 is creation account from below
 - 3) Creation story starts over and is captures from below by different camera angle
 2. Our text will focus on the creation of humankind—the short version, from camera #1
 - a. It won't have dirty details of man being formed from dirt and woman from a rib
 - b. But it will have details—details that actual sets a context for much of the Bible
 3. God here had already put in what was a "full work day" on the 6th day (**Gen 1:25**)
 - a. On days 3-5, His pronouncement of "*it is good*" comes at/near the end of the day
 - 1) We think we're at end— He's made every animal from mosquito to mammoth
 - 2) When we think He's ready to clock out, He's getting ready for His best work!
 - b. At the end of 6th day, God tells Himself (literally), "*Let us make something special*"
 - c. The creation story cranks up to crescendo as God creates a chip off the ol' block
 4. Moses recycles words that begin book "So God created" (**Reading: Genesis 1:26-28**)
- B. God didn't have to make humans; verse right before just said it was all good (**Gen 1:25**)
1. So what was missing? Why did God not stop "Creation Week" while He was ahead?
 - a. One of stories we read this week was of animals being named by Adam (**Gen 2:19f**)
 - 1) Point of that was for Adam to see these were not like him— *no suitable helper*
 - 2) **Another Point:** None of animals were like God either! *None reflect His image*
 - b. God created humans to be like Him; we reflect something of the image of God
 - c. Adam and Eve enjoy a special relationship with God because they bore his image
 2. *What does it mean to be in God's image?* We see one thing immediately (**Gen 1:26**)
 - a. If I have you over for lunch, likely it will dine on an animal. *Sorry Peta!*
 - 1) But having you for lunch doesn't mean I'll dine you! There's a big difference!
 - 2) From Day 1 (Day 6) people and animals are on different level! *Sorry Peta!*
 - b. Should we treat animals ethically? Yes, people in God's image are made with ethics
 - c. But we treat animals differently than people because people bear the image of God

- C. What does it mean to be in God’s image? We see an illustration in Adam ([Gen 5:3](#))
1. Seth was in Adam’s “*likeness, in his own image*” That’s sounds like creation, right?
 - a. Did the kid look more like Adam than Eve? (*Would’ve been a bummer for my kids*)
 - b. No, this more like the expression repeated in [Gen 1](#), “*each according to its kind?*”
 2. *We’re God’s kind!* Don’t look like God in physical sense’ He has no physical sense!
 - a. We share His spiritual nature. Jesus said, “God is a Spirit,” and we share His nature
 - b. God is also moral; He gave us a moral nature, the ability to choose right & wrong
 3. In imperfect, incomplete, inadequate ways, we’re God’s kind. We’re image-bearers.
- D. What difference does this make? Well, it makes all the difference in the world!
1. OK, the flood was a fresh start for humanity, a second creation story ([Gen 9:1-2](#))
 - a. The world had become so evil it had reached a dead end— *a point of no return*
 - b. At times in “*The Story*,” God’s justice will make is comfortable ([Gen 6:5-6,11-12](#))
 2. God tells Noah that human life is sacred because it is made in His image ([Gen 9:6](#))
 - a. We are image-bearers of something holy, something divine, something heavenly
 - b. That changes how we see ourselves; that changes how we treat one another
 3. James says that even changes how we **speak** to one another! ([Jam 3:9-10](#))
 - a. How sad when one minute we praise God and next minute we bad-mouth others
 - 1) The things he finds offensive in cursing others is they are the image of God
 - 2) Curse his child, God is offended, “*You talking about me?*” Image of God!
 - b. *Is James serious?* That brings how I talk to and about others to whole new level!
 - 1) I wonder if this applies to Facebook, Twitter and internet discussion forums?
 - 2) If so, we’d better clear out space for the invitation song... both sides of aisle!
 4. **Point:** See ourselves and others as reflections of God’s image is foundation of ethics

III. Conclusion

- A. Let’s watch a video that I think applies this in a unique way ([Justice: The Bible Project](#))
- B. We are created in the image of God— that call us to live as the God’s sons and daughters
1. It calls us to respect His image in every person, not matter how different than are
 2. It calls us to challenge the sin in our own lives, and make changes when we can
 - a. Our invitation song reminds that this is Father’s world—and that calls us to a truth
Oh let me n’er forget that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet”
 - b. Are you living our the imager of God reality in your life today?