

And God Said, God as Creator *Genesis 1:1-5*

Theme: God, Nature of

Aim: To show that God is the Creator and by right of creation, has a prior claim on mankind.

1. One of the characteristics that we as a free people have inherited from our frontier origins is a dogged, often called rugged independence of spirit and love of freedom.
2. What that sometimes means is, we don't want anyone telling us what to do. We like to do our own thing. And to paraphrase the Jews protest to Jesus in John 8:33 "We're Americans, we've never been anyone's servants!"
3. But there is a power greater than any political power or freedom that has a prior claim on us.

I. In the beginning God created ... Genesis 1:1-5 (do not forget that man is likewise included in any listing of created beings.) A couple of things we must note here.

A. In the beginning ... God is a self explained existence.

1. He is the uncaused first cause, by His nature.
2. He does not have to explain Himself.
3. Everything else needs an explanation, but not God.
4. He identified Himself to Moses in the burning bush, "I am that I am ... " Exodus 3:14.

B. He is the Eternally Self Existent One.

1. Everything else has a beginning.
2. He does not.
3. What existed before "the beginning"? God did.
4. Hear the Scripture:
 - a. Psalm 90:2: "Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God."
 - b. Isaiah 57:15: "For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy:"
 - c. In 1 Tim 6:14-16 Paul said of Jesus, and it surely applies to the Godhead: " .. that you keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing, 15 which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, 16 who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.

C. He is the creator.

1. Man can "create" only in the sense that he "rearranges" materials that already exist.
2. Even in the reproductive cycle, each new life must get its DNA and genes from a pre-existent source.
3. But God can create something where nothing previously existed.
4. This is called creation "ex nihilo" Latin for "out of nothing."
5. See Isaiah 40:27-31, 43:14-15.
6. Paul lamented the fact that men in his day (as ours) worshipped and served the creature (created thing) rather than the creator ... Romans 1:25.

II. There is one lesson I want to drive home from this today.

A. Because He is the Creator, He has prior claim on us as His creation.

1. Look again at Isaiah 43:14-15. He is going to allow the Israelites to be carried into Babylonian captivity. How can He do that. Because He is the Creator!
2. Later Isaiah uses the beautiful analogy of the potter and the clay, Isaiah 64:8-9.
3. A few years later Jeremiah expanded that analogy, Jeremiah 18:1-11.

B. We are His creation as such He has the inherent right to:

1. Make demands on us and tell us what to do!
2. To demand that we serve Him.
3. Just as the potter in the prophet's analogy, He has the right to do with His creation as He wills. The clay has no rights in the matter at all.

1. One last observation, His desire for us is totally benevolent.

2. He desires that you obey Him and serve Him for your own good, here and in eternity.

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