

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

Vol. XXXIV

September 29, 2024

No. 39

“In the beginning...God”

Jerry Fite

Before a material universe existed, there was a beginning. Prior to the yearly practice of chronicling time with the turn of a calendar, there was a beginning. Outside the vast universe, and when time began, God already was present. The first verse in our Bible reads, “*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth*” (Genesis 1:1). The Scripture, without offering introductory proof, or parting apology, asserts boldly, “*God created...*” the universe in which we now live.

In the first chapter of the Book of “origins,” titled “Genesis,” we are introduced to God as “Creator.” Thousands of years removed from the beginning of creation, we see God’s handiwork (Psalms 19:1). We call it a “kosmos” denoting a “harmonious arrangement,” instead of viewing creation as a disjointed patchwork of “chaos.” After ushering in the beginning, God displayed His glory creating order in a habitable earth which sustains us to this very moment, ages removed from the beginning.

Isaiah draws our attention to the beginning to see God in His creative work. “*Have ye not known? Have ye not heard? Hath it not been told you from the*

beginning? Have ye not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is He that sitteth above the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in... (Isaiah 40:21-22). Isaiah characterizes “the beginning” in terms of God’s work in establishing the foundations of the earth. We can see that this spherical ball called earth is not fixed upon deeply imbedded blocks, but is a rotating planet orbiting around the sun with no visible wires attached. We stare, it is not an illusion; we orbit, no visible foundation exists. God sits high above the earth making us look like grasshoppers in comparison. God’s omniscience and omnipotence are on display as He stretches the heavens out as curtains forming a tent to dwell in, and from within, we can look up to a circular vaulted dome-like sky.

Jeremiah helps us see the glory of God in creation. “*He hath made the earth by His power, He hath established the world by His wisdom, and by His understanding hath He stretched out the heavens*” (Jeremiah 10:12). God’s omnipotence is magnified in that He spoke the universe into existence. “*By the*

word of Jehovah were the heavens made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth...for He spake, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast” (Psalms 33:6,9). We should glorify God by acknowledging this fact and reverently worship Him with joy. His wisdom also comes to light in creation. It was not sheer power with a swipe of the hand or a commanding word that issued the heavens into existence, for Jeremiah declares with wisdom and understanding did God stretch out the heavens.

Paul declaring the obvious writes, “*For the invisible things of Him since the creation of the world are clearly seen, being perceived through the things that are made, even His everlasting power and divinity...*” (Romans 1:19). God’s omnipotence and omniscience are clearly seen when we honestly look at evidence from the existing created world...but as Paul quickly warns, “*...that they may be without excuse*”... if we don’t. The inhabited world exists providing evidence of an orderly universe. Life is sustained overtime with productive and protective systems working repeatably in the animate and inanimate world. These systems reveal design, and strongly point to an intelligent designer, God!