



The Voice of Truth



October 7, 2012

“In The Beginning God...”

By Jimmy Pettigrew

The Word of God teaches that everything was created (earth, universe, mankind, animals, etc..) within the six days of the creation week, as first recorded in **Genesis 1-2; Exodus 20:11** and **31:17**. God “*hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all things that are thereon, the seas and all that is in them, and thou preservest them all*” (**Nehemiah 9:6**).

Those who hold to the theory of evolution claim that man has evolved from some lower (non-human) form of life. Those who hold that man owes his origin to the creative act of the infinite God agree with the Biblical account, “*In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth*” (**Genesis 1:1**).

The Evolutionary theory is faulty at every turn, but is relentlessly held to in spite of the fact that it cannot be observed or proven in the laboratory. Dr. Duane Gish has commented: “Evolution in this broad sense is unproven and unprovable and thus cannot be considered as fact. It is not subject to test by ordinary methods of experimental science-observation and falsification. It thus does not; in a strict sense even qualify as a scientific theory” (*Evolution: The Fossils Say No!*, Creation-Life Publishers, San Diego, California, 1979, p 21).

If evolution is true we should find a multitude of living forms which shade one into another; monkeys for example into men? One evolutionist says he rejects the concept of creation because it cannot be verified scientifically. Therefore, he automatically rules out the very possibility of creation. It could not have happened because he cannot subject it to scientific tests. Oh really; if that be the case, then the believer in evolution that stays with the scientific tests principle, he must abandon evolution. Dr. Robert A. Millikan, Nobel laureate in physics, has well said: “The pathetic thing is that we have scientists who are trying to prove evolution, which no scientists can ever prove” (Quoted in: *Nashville Banner*, August 7, 1925).

Organic evolution is not a “fact” of science. It is no wonder that evolutionists admit that evolution is a matter of faith which cannot be scientifically proved. God asked Job: “*Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth*” (**Job 38:4**)? No scientist was there to observe the origin of the universe, the solar system, and our earth. Therefore, it is impossible for any statement concerning ultimate origins to be based on observations by a scientist.

The General Theory of Evolution teaches that the living evolved from the non-living by natural processes. Dead matter created living matter. The evolutionist John Tyler Bonner acknowledged that there is no scientific confirmation of the origin of life. People, there is no scientific evidence which proves that non-living created the living. Evolution can give no answer to the question of how matter came to exist in the first place. The General Theory of Evolution cannot be established scientifically.

Man has existed from the beginning of the creation (**Genesis 1:26-27**). Jesus Christ Himself confirmed this truth in **Mark 10:6** and in **Matthew 19:4**. He taught that Adam and Eve were made; they were made male and female; and they existed “*from the beginning of the creation.*” This is the true view of man’s origin!

Isaiah understood that man had been on the earth from the beginning, as he put it, “*from the foundations of the earth*” (**Isaiah 40:21**). Paul stated, “*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; that they may be without excuse*” (**Romans 1:20**). The apostle stated that since the creation of the world the invisible things of God have been: clearly seen; and perceived. Please tell me, who has clearly seen and perceived the things that were made from the beginning of the creation, if no man existed on this planet for billions of years? Paul in this

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passage without a doubt was teaching that man has existed since the creation of the world.

Now in **Luke 11:45-52**, the account is recorded of the Lord rebuking the rebellious Jews of His day. But the thing I want us to notice is this; Jesus, in these verses, placed the murder of Abel near the "foundation of the world." Yes, Abel's death occurred some years after the initial creation, but it was close enough to that event for Jesus to state that it was connected with "the foundation of the world." Now, if the world came into existence several billion years before the first family, how could the shedding of human blood be declared by God's Son to extend back to the "foundation of the world"? Man is not billion years younger than the origin of the universe. Man has been on the earth "from the **beginning of the creation**" (**Mark 10:6**); "since the creation of the world" (**Romans 1:20**); and "from the foundation of the world" (**Luke 11:50**).

The Bible is not silent regarding our origins. God Almighty created the universe (and everything in it) simply

by speaking it into existence. He said, "'Let there be light'; and there was light'" (**Genesis 1:3**). "By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth" ... "Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. For **He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast**" (**Psalms 33:6, 8-9**). The Bible plainly teaches that God, by the word of His mouth, spoke the universe and everything in it into existence in six days! "O Lord, thou that didst make the heaven and the earth and the sea, and all that in them is" (**Acts 4:24**). "I will give thanks unto thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made" (**Psalms 139:14**). Therefore, man is not the result of evolution; man is the result of creation: "whom I have created for my glory, whom I have formed, yea, whom I have made" (**Isaiah 43:7**). "Lord, thou hast been our dwelling-place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God" (**Psalms 90:1-2**). •

"Behold, I Thought..."

By J. Wiley Adams

2 Kings 5 is a classic account of man's wisdom versus the wisdom of God. In **Isaiah 55:8-9**, we learn that God's thoughts and ways are not man's thoughts and ways. His thoughts and ways are higher than ours as the heavens are higher than the earth. What may seem right to man is not the criterion for pleasing God (**Prov. 14:12**).

In the earlier days of this century, gospel meeting sermons used to include such basic topics as why we sing but do not play, strange fire, the comparison of the Old and New Testaments, morality, and nearly every preacher had a sermon on Naaman, the leper. Under such preaching the stories of the Bible came alive. Brethren were well-taught. Even the children sat speechless at the Bible accounts of Noah and the ark, David and Goliath, as well as the wise man and the foolish man. It has changed but it needs to be revived.

Such a subject has been assigned to this writer for this special issue. It is about Naaman, the leper reported in **2 Kings 5**. No one ever preached it better than the late Fred Dennis of the upper Ohio Valley. I can hear him now as he preached the plain and simple story of the need to let God have His way—the need to obey Him rather than man.

Syrian king's chief-of-staff. He was a great, honorable and brave man. At times he fought against Israel and took captives from among them. One of these captives was a little maid who waited on Naaman's wife.

It was discovered that Naaman had the dreaded disease called leprosy. He was a leper. He sought desperately to find a cure. He was willing to try anything to get well. When the little maid from Israel knew that her master had leprosy, she told her mistress there was a prophet in Samaria (Elisha) who could heal him. The king of Syria heard of this possibility and told him to go with a letter from him to the king of Israel. He sent many gifts to get on the good side of him and he in effect demanded that he be healed. This nearly scared the king of Israel to death. He thought the king of Syria was trying to pick a fight with him. He tore his clothes in frustration. He said, "Am I God to kill and make alive?" No one had ever been healed of leprosy before (see **Luke 4:27**).

But when Elisha, the man of God, heard the king of Israel had torn his clothes in despair he said, "Let him come now to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel."

Naaman was the captain of the Syrian host. He was the

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So, this important man and all his company came to Elisha's door. Normal courtesy was not extended. After all, this man was an enemy of Israel. Instead of asking him into his house or going out to roll out the red carpet for him, the prophet sent a messenger with the simple message to dip seven times in the Jordan river and he would be healed of his leprosy. Sometimes we tell people we don't like to jump in the lake. It may have sounded like that to Naaman. He was outraged. He said in his wrath, *"Behold I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the Lord his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper."*

What a simple thing the prophet had required of him to do. He took issue about the superiority of the rivers of Syria over the muddy Jordan. His pride was badly injured. He either had to get rid of his pride or his leprosy. In a rage he turned away. One of his servants was a wise man and appealed to him to try this simple procedure—wash and be clean. He decided to swallow his pride and obey the prophet of God. When he dipped seven times in the Jordan he was cleansed, *"and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean."*

The lessons we learn from this Biblical account are

several. First, we must go to the right source for help—the prophet and not the king. Second, one must then have faith enough to do what is required—not argue the point. Third, we must not challenge God's will at any point—we must yield. And fourth, we must obey God to obtain the desired end—salvation. Sin is worse than leprosy. Only the blood of Christ will take it away when we obey the gospel (**Rom. 1:16**).

As long as Naaman fought the will of God, he remained a leper. What a lesson for those of us who live on this side of the cross. God requires the hearing of his word to gain faith (**Rom. 10:17**), confessing the deity of Christ (**Rom. 10:10**), repenting of sins (**Acts 2:38**), and being baptized for the remission of sins (**Acts 2:38**). This is plain and simple. Many like Naaman are outraged at its simplicity and turn away, but they are still in their sins. Those who submit and turn to God will go away with sins removed—saved.

Are you like Naaman? Many are. Why not be like the three thousand on Pentecost (**Acts 2**) or the Ethiopian eunuch (**Acts 8**)?

*"And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized calling on the name of the Lord" (**Acts 22:16**).*

Credit: Guardian of Truth - 2/4/93 ♦

"Straightway" By Jarrod Jacobs

Last week, I had the pleasure and privilege of baptizing a dear lady into Christ. In our study together, we talked about **Acts 16:25-34**, where it says among other things, *"he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway" (**Acts 16:33**).*

The word "straightway" in the KJV is an important word because it denotes the speed with which an event happened. Other Bible versions use the terms "immediately", "at once", "right away", "without delay", and "presently" in this text. All of these words denote the speed of the action taken. What does this teach us?

Our Soul's Salvation Depends Upon Our Action.

We understand Christ's blood was shed for everyone (**Matt. 20:28; Titus 2:11-12; Rom. 5:8**; etc.) At the same time, our salvation depends upon our response to the Lord's sacrifice. In the case of the Philippian jailor, he asked Paul and Silas, *"What must I do to be saved?" (**Acts***

16:30).

Notice that the jailor recognized he had something to do. He asked, *"What must I do ...?"*. He was not the only one to ask such a question, either. On more than one occasion, folks in the New Testament recognized that they had to take action if they wished to be saved (**Acts 2:37, 9:6**, etc.).

It is the same for us today. If we expect to be saved, we must take action (Heb. 5:8-9; Matt. 7:21)!

Our Soul's Salvation Must Not Be Delayed.

The Philippian jailor not only acted, but he also saw the need for taking immediate action when it came to his soul. In our study, we find in **Acts 16:25** that the apostle Paul and Silas were praying and singing at "midnight" before the earthquake occurred. After the earthquake, the jailor entered and took advantage of the gospel plan of salvation.

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Therefore, this man, after hearing the truth at midnight, determined he needed to be baptized into Christ for the remission of sins, and did so "immediately"! They did not wait until a later time, but went right then! What was necessary in finding a body of water big enough to baptize the jailor and his family, I do not know. What I know is that he did not use the lateness of the hour and inconvenience as an excuse for disobedience. Once he learned the truth (Acts 16:31-32), he responded "straightway", "immediately," "without delay" (v. 33).

Had this man waited or put off his salvation for a day, a year, or just when he felt it "convenient" (Acts 24:25), he might have never been saved from sin! The New Testament clearly states: "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (II Cor. 6:2). The reason for such urgency is because we do not have a lease on life (Prov. 27:1; Jas. 4:13-14). The jailor didn't know if or when another earthquake was coming, and we don't know what might happen in a day that would forever keep us from making our lives right with God. Friend, what is keeping you from being saved "straightway"??

new sister in Christ took action "straightway", "at once", "without delay" is because there is no greater concern in life than the concern for our soul. At one point in His preaching, Jesus asked two questions: "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matt. 16:26). If this does not tell us something about a soul's value, then what would? Jesus, by using these comparisons, shows us that one's soul is worth more than anything in this world. Since this is true, why wouldn't we respond to the gospel "straightway", "presently", "right away"? To put it off is to take a great risk by assuming we will have yet another week, or another day, even another minute! (Prov. 27:1)

Conclusion

To borrow a phrase, what is hindering you from obeying the gospel (Acts 8:36)? Your soul is your most valuable possession. It is eternal (II Cor. 4:16)! Therefore, prepare your soul for eternity, and do so now, today, "immediately," "straightway", before it is everlastingly too late (Jn. 9:4; Ps. 90:8-10)!

Credit: www.southside-churchofchrist.com ♦

Our Soul's Salvation Should Be Our Greatest Concern

The reason why folks like the Philippian jailor and our

When an archer misses the mark, he turns and looks for the fault within himself. Failure to hit the bull's-eye is never the fault of the target. To improve your aim – Improve yourself.

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

- Hear and Learn - Rom. 10:17 m. 10:9-10 ; 1 Pet. 3:21 ; John 6:45; 17:3
- Believe - Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24
- Repent - Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30
- Confess the Lord - Matt. 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:21
- Be Baptized - Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27
- Continue in the Apostles' Teaching - Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:14-17

About the Hillcrest church of Christ

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Our Address

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Schedule of Assembly

Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am
Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am
Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm*

*A song service is held on the last Wednesday of every month