

SUNDAY 7TH JANUARY 2024

God's Great Mystery revealed.

Scripture: Genesis 1:1-5 & 27-31

John 1:1-5



Now I wonder if you are someone who picks up a novel and chooses to sneak at look at the final few pages, just to know how it ends or do you journey along with the author, through the ups and downs, till you reach the final page?

Can you recall a book you have read where it contained many twists and turns, and, sometimes you struggle to put it down as you want to know what happens next.

Now if you re-read the book, knowing the full picture, would it be so enjoyable? Of course not. There is a reason we respond to stories like that.

God's great mystery concealed. The Bible forms one great drama – the drama of redemption. Genesis is vital because it introduces us to the stage, the cast and the plot of this great drama.

The Hebrew title is simply: “In the beginning” When translated into Greek in 250BC the name was changed to “Genesis” which means “origins” or “beginnings.”

Every plot, character and event of His story, points God's people in some way to the coming incarnation of His Son, Jesus. We discover the twist in the New Testament, which helps make sense of the whole Old Testament story. The Bible contains 66 books;

however, it is one story. Each book flows on from the previous one and moves you on a journey.

Let's look deeper at how the twist is unveiled.

All the Genesis events took place long before Moses was born, so he can be viewed as an editor/historian in addition to receiving God's direct and supernatural communication. Genesis was written during the Israelites exodus between 1440 and 1400 BC.

Genesis records the birth and early history of humankind, forming man and woman in God's own image and giving them the gift of freewill. Sadly, humanity's fall into sin caused a great flood.

There is no specific indication as to how long-ago matter was created, when the first day of creation began or when the 6th day ended. The question to answer is: Why? What was the reason that God created the universe? When we understand why, we will understand the other questions regarding creation even better.

The biblical view of creation is not in conflict with science, it conflicts with any worldview that starts without a creator. Science is based on steps of faith – a hypothesis is produced and then tested to see if it fits the facts. Science progresses with a series of leaps of faith and action taken based on the theories.

To read Genesis properly, we must take a step of faith before we even open the book. We must assume that it is a book of divine inspiration and then see if the answer it gives fit the fact of life and the universe as we see it.

When reading all of Genesis 1, one phrase repeated is: “and God said.” God reminds us 9 times in this chapter that He didn’t blink, nod, or merely think creation into existence. Rather, God spoke His creation into existence. This is a huge truth to understand.

Note also that we see God the Father speaking specifically and we find God the Spirit, but where is God the Son in this passage. Here is where it all comes together. God the Son is very present in this picture of creation, but He is God’s mystery concealed for centuries.

Do you ever get caught up in arguments, debates and conversations that aren’t essential to the gospel? We can often focus on matters that may be truthful but are not as important as essential gospel elements.

Is Jesus, His life, death, resurrection, and lordship your ultimate agenda when in discussion with others? Or do you tend to focus on other matters merely to win a debate?

So, let’s assume you have read through the Old Testament books and have come to the last book, Malachi & the epilogue as it points to that great final day of judgement. God says – to help the people prepare for that day of judgement, He would send a prophet, like Elijah – John the Baptist, who would prepare the way for Jesus, the Messiah.

Now it is great that we have access to the New Testament immediately. Imagine if you only had the Old Testament and had to wait until God had completed the next cluster of books so we can fully understand His story.

I am not sure about you, but I have had to wait until my favourite author has written the next book in a series and it can be frustrating.

We are told that God was silent for around 400 years before continuing sharing His story where the great mystery is revealed.

John was the cousin of Jesus, and his gospel gives us a portrait of Jesus' inner life and self-identity. John uses the Logos translated as the Word., He chose it because it expresses so well who Jesus was, in a way which made sense to the readers.

We generally think of “a word” as an expressed thought that comes out of the mouth and into the ear. A word is expressed by one person and affects another. In this sense, Jesus is a communication – a word from God to us.

John reflects the wording of Genesis 1:1 when he writes, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God.

In Hebrew Scripture, the Word as an agent of creation. In Greek philosophy, the Word was the principle of reason that governed the world or the thought still in the mind.

To Jewish readers, to say Jesus “was God” was blasphemous.

To Greek readers, the Word became human, was unthinkable.

In the New Testament, God's great mystery for 1000s of years is now proclaimed publicly, written down for all to know. God created the universe through and for Jesus. Everything in the Old

Testament points to Jesus, because God planned that Jesus would receive the glory as all things find their fulfillment in Him.

Jesus is not merely the reason God created, nor is He merely how He created. Jesus is in every way the God who created, who was fully present in the creation of the world the Father designed for Him.

Wow, what an exciting journey and we continue through the New Testament, also with its twists and turns, changing plots to finally reach the final ending.

The Bible tells us who God is – it reveals His personality, character, and plan for His creation. It reveals God's deepest desire, to relate to and fellowship with the people He created.

God took the ultimate step forward to fellowship with us through His historic visit to this planet in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Conclusion:

When God created, He made something from nothing.

Because we are created beings, we have no basis for pride.

We exist only because God made us.

We have special gifts only because God gave them to us.

With God we are someone valuable and unique.

Apart from God, we are nothing and if we try to live without Him, we will be abandoning the purpose for which we were made.