

Out of Darkness

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

A. Text: Genesis 1:1-5.

B. This verse begins with the greatest fact of the universe and the greatest fact of revelation: creation and God.

C. We have here the two great sources of knowledge: nature and revelation.

1. Both are from God.

2. Both are means of knowing something about God.

3. They are complementary, not contradictory.

D. It is wrong to read Genesis 1 like a science book—it must be read with its own purpose in mind.

E. It is equally as wrong to limit its teaching to religious truth only.

F. The theory of evolution.

1. Christians point out that there are many gaps here.

2. Many scientists feel uneasy about this theory.

II. However, there are many theories on revelation too.

A. The gap theory—there is a gap of time between creation and the re-creation found in Genesis 1:2.

1. This is perhaps connected to the fall of Satan.

2. Genesis 1 is the record of the calling out from chaos.

3. The Scofield Bible argued that this explained both the biblical data and the long geological record, but this goes too far creating a cosmic “garbage dump.”

B. We must not treat these theories as final and true facts.

III. The explanation for change.

A. There is purpose behind the universe—it is not merely a great machine.

B. It is under the control of God. God intends an end and moves to accomplish it.

C. One cannot detect meaning in nature, so science does not answer these questions.

IV. God's purpose.

A. He sought to bring light—that which is critical to the universe—out of darkness.

1. Light is from God and is a symbol from God.
2. Light is good because it is from Him—it depicts His nature. (I John)

B. Truth is found at various levels but it is equally true at all levels.

1. The material level.
2. The moral level.
3. The spiritual level. (II Corinthians 4)

C. God separated the light from the darkness.

1. This refers to the revolution of bodies in the universe when they experience moments of light and moments of darkness.
2. Scientists are perplexed by the phenomenon—it appears that this phenomenon occurs wherever two bodies approach each other.
3. On a psychological level, this points to the cycle of dark and light that a person goes through. (Romans 14)
4. On the spiritual level, this points to the distinction between what is good being from God and what is not from God.

D. The meaning of the term “days.”

1. It can mean a 24-hour day, including an evening and a morning, an age of time or the ultimate reality of heaven and hell.
2. The 24-hour day was a picture of the great reality of heaven and hell. Therefore, the days should not be viewed as 24-hour days in Genesis 1.
3. We all began our lives in darkness and have passed into a period of light increasing more and more unto the perfect day. (I Corinthians 15)
4. Those that cling to the darkness become wandering stars that have eternal darkness reserved for them. (Jude)

Application questions:

1. What does the speaker say a day means in this passage? Is his argument persuasive? Explain.

2. What can the light out of the darkness in the creation account symbolize?

3. Are science and the Bible reconcilable with regard to the creation of the world? Defend your answer.
