

In the Beginning God Created...

By Lynn Warner

The very first words of the Bible are: *“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness”* (Gen. 1:1-4 KJV). The first words of the Gospel of John both parallel and expand on Genesis: *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made. In Him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not”* (John 1:1-5).

God created, or brought forth, the creation. He is the Author: One who brings or causes to come forth. As the Author, God has authority over His creation: the legal power to rule. He testifies and bears witness of His creative power and has even put this witness in man. In Romans 1:18-20, we read that *“the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.”*

We human beings are creatures, created by God. Creatures are designed by God for purposes. In Romans, we see that God’s wrath is revealed against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who hold the truth in unrighteousness. Continuing in Romans 1:21, we read, *“That, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.”* So the wrath of God is revealed because men are ungodly, unrighteous, hold the truth in unrighteousness, know God but don’t glorify Him as God, and are unthankful. Note that they hold the truth but in a habitual course of wickedness depart from the truth. We are designed to be godly, to be righteous, and to hold the truth in righteousness. We are to be like God in character and in obedience to His right ways; we are to believe God – what He says about Himself, about man, and about His creation – and we are to act in accordance with that knowledge.

If we don’t believe the truth of God, His authorship, and His authority over the creation, we are then living in unrighteousness and are ungodly sinners. Like Eve, we may be deceived by believing insinuating lies, or like Adam, we may willfully rebel against God’s authority. As we read in Romans 1:21, God’s wrath was revealed by His action of causing their foolish hearts to be darkened, and they became vain in their imaginations. Let’s see what follows by reading Romans 1:23-25, 26a, and 28-29a – men *“changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections... And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness.”*

We understand by this passage that God shows His wrath by letting men have their own way – God reduces or removes His constraints and lets man exercise his self-will to act like a “free

agent” in creation. But we need God’s constraints, which assist in keeping us from harm and bring us to salvation in Jesus Christ.

The New Testament testifies that Jesus is God, and we are to believe His claims and testimony concerning Himself. As shown in the beginning of this article, Genesis 1:1-6 and John 1:1-5 are accounts of creation, *“in the beginning.”* After the Fall, God showed man his need for a Savior and that a Savior would come to redeem mankind. Jesus testified that He Himself is God and our Savior. In John 3:36, He discloses that, *“he that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him”* (John 3:36).

In Revelation 4:11, we read of the 24 Elders worshipping God, saying, *“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are and were created.”*

In chapter 5, following the Heavenly worship scene, the Lamb is given the book with the 7 seals of God’s judgments. A new Heavenly Song was sung: *“Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for Thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by Thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation”* (Rev. 5:9b).

God created the world and has the legal right, power, and authority to judge, rule, and reign over His creation.

The enemy attacks the foundational truth that God created the world, thus denying God’s authority over His creation. In my lifetime, the philosophy of Evolution was the tool used to deny, discredit, minimize, and attack God – His authorship and rule. Now, we are even hearing that “aliens” created the world and human beings. We see the wrath of God revealed against these types of philosophies – darkened, depraved minds with vain imaginations, people filled with all unrighteousness, and given over to their sin. Yet, He saves all to whom He reveals Himself!

The foundational truth of God’s creation of the world and His authority and power has been openly and heavily attacked in our lifetimes. And yet, it remains true that *“in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”* All of His creation has purpose and function. We have the witness of God’s eternal power and Godhead within us and are without excuse. We are to believe God – He is the Truth, the Life, and the true Light. We are to be godly, righteous, and to hold the truth in righteousness. All who don’t believe are under God’s wrath, have departed from the truth, and are in darkness. Romans 1 gives the consequences of God giving men up to their sin.

Only Jesus can save us from our sin and the wrath of God. Only God has the authority, power, and legal right as the Author, to rule and reign over His creation. The seals of judgment will be opened by the only One who has the authority to open them! When He does, we who belong to Him will join in the Heavenly songs of praise and worship for our Creator and Redeemer! Amen!