

Today we begin a series on the importance of faith.

I don't just mean faith in God but faith in what God does and the faith of people who responded to God.



The best place to begin is with how it all began; the creation of the world.

He 11:3 *By faith...*

Okay, let's define faith.

v.1 *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*

"faith" *pistis* - reliance upon

"assurance" compound word

Hupo - under; *histemi* - to stand, place

To place under; a building, contract, promise

In ancient business, it was the basis of a guarantee.

So, (Greek Scholar Kenneth Wuest)

"Faith apprehends as a real fact that which is not revealed to the senses. It rests on that fact, acts upon it, and is upheld by it in the face of all that seems to contradict it.

Faith is real seeing." (seeing the invisible)

"conviction" evidence, proof (even of invisible things)

Therefore,

Faith is the title deed or contract of things hoped for (expected) even of those not seen.

Ie.

Faith is evidence within itself.

This is where we begin.

Either you are on the bus or you are not.

The bus of faith will take you somewhere. If not, it leaves you standing.

v.3 *By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.*

"understand" *noieo* - exercise the mind, comprehend; to perceive with reflective intelligence

WHY FAITH

This is where many people who don't get on the bus fail to comprehend. They rather think with their human opinion or emotions. Faith is foreign to them. To them, seeing is believing.

Yet,

To believe in evolution is contradictory because no one has ever seen it.

To the redeemed, believing leads to seeing.

v.3 *the worlds (aion), were prepared by the word of God*

not just the world but worlds, which include the created universe, (time, space and matter), which did not exist independently from God.

All are the works of His hands.

"prepared" to complete thoroughly

Fitted out for a purpose

God always has a purpose in mind.

I would say,

Not only for the creation but for each individual in the creation.

"by the word of God" *rhema* – utterance

God spoke it and it happened.

This we believe by faith, by seeing with the eyes of the soul, not the physical eyes.

So,

Let's now look through the eyes of faith at how the world was made.

Gen 1:1 *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

This sentence is arguably by the most widely read sentence of the Bible of all those who ever opened one up.

It is also the first thing God wants us to know in His Word as it is the opening line.

Think about it;

If a person really believes Genesis 1:1, this first sentence in the Bible, he or she will not find it difficult to believe anything else recorded there.

Let's look at this one, opening verse.

"In the beginning" first in place

Ie.

First of all!

"God" *Elohim* – signifies God's omnipotence

"created" *bara* – to create from nothing

Rom 4:17 ... (He) *calls into being that which does not exist.*

WHY FAITH

Man can make things and form things from existing material but only God can create from nothing.

God is eternal and self-existent or matter is eternal and self-existent; but it can't be both.

If the scientific law of "cause and effect" is valid, particles of matter cannot generate themselves into a complex, intelligible and orderly universe.

Therefore;

A personal God is the only adequate Cause to produce such effects.

Gen 1:1 *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

"heavens" heaven, to be lofty – plural form,

Shamayim – heavens

Our understanding would be "space," including the galaxies.

"earth" to be firm, land, ground,

Earth is singled out from all the other celestial bodies. That tells me there is something special going on down here.

v.2 *The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.*

Now;

Some say when God made the earth, it was in the condition of being "formless and void."

As a matter of fact,

A word they use to describe it is "chaos."

But I see it differently;

I see a perfect creation according to :

Is 45:18 *For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens (He is the God who formed the earth and made it, He established it and did not create it a waste place, but formed it to be inhabited), "I am the LORD, and there is none else.*

So,

How did it become formless, void and dark?

The rebellion of Lucifer sent him to planet earth to be imprisoned there.

v.2 *The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.*

"darkness" only can contain angels

WHY FAITH

Jude 1:6 *And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day,*

v.2 *and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.*

"moving" hover, flutter, (as a hen incubates her eggs)

Signifies a rapid back and forth motion.

A modern word would be "vibrate".

The water was either frozen or tumultuous.

Used in:

Deu 32:11 *Like an eagle that stirs up its nest, That hovers over its young,*

v.3 *Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.*

Literally; "Light"

"Let there be light" is not in the original

v.4 *God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.*

v.5 *God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.*

God had not yet brought in the sun. How could there be evening and morning?

Ans.

When the Holy Spirit moved over the earth, it began to rotate, thereby causing the earth to tilt and turn.

There must have been some type of light source on one side of the sun to separate the light from the darkness. **v.4**

v.5 *God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.*

The point of this message is not to review the creation story but to emphasize the faith that is needed to accept it.

Remember,

Faith is seeing with the eyes of the soul.

Heb 11:3 *By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.*

By believing the story of creation, you will find it easier to believe everything else God has said about life and about you.