

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

Forming & Filling

Speaker:

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Date:

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Scriptures:

Genesis 1:3-23

Theme: No matter the chaos, look to Christ and he will bring order to life.

Introduction: Chaos is the enemy of life and flourishing. Where chaos rules, well-being does not. In the first chapter of Genesis, we see God bring order to chaos. He brings life and flourishing, right from the very beginning.

These verses show us 2 aspects of God's chaos-defeating work, after we address potential distractions:

1. Dealing with distractions

Much modern emphasis around Gen 1 has to do with the nature of the days of creation. Did God create in 6, 24-hour days, or over a much longer period? While a valid question, answering it is not the focus of this text.

Modern science pretends to have incredible accuracy and insight into how all things came into being, over multiple millions (or billions) of years; but they do not. We cannot let the world and its priorities shape our reading of God's word.

This text is about who God is and who we are in relation to him. It directly assaults paganism, showing its emptiness. The Lord is the Creator and Sustainer of all things. We also see how the Lord *forms* things (light; sea and sky; dry land and vegetation) and then *fills* those things (sun, moon, and stars; fish and birds; land animals and mankind).

Genesis 1 is a very skillfully structured account that magnifies the power and goodness of God.

2. God formed the earth (3-13)

Like a skilled potter, God *forms* the earth in the first 3 days (vv. 1-13).

The entire universe is shaped according to his design. He knows all things perfectly and intimately.

He creates light on Day 1 without a discernible source, a la Rev 21:23-24.

He separates many things: light from dark; day from night; evening from morning; waters below from above; water from dry land.

Similarly, Jesus overcomes the chaos of our lives and sinful hearts in order to save us.

3. God filled the earth (14-23)

God next *fills* his creation with his creatures over days 4-6; and when he does, his creation is abundant. The sky and waters swarm with his creatures.

Similarly, Jesus was and is the fullness of deity, reflecting God's order as full, not empty.

Questions:

1. What chaos are you facing?
2. How are you turning to the Lord for help?
3. What would it mean for Christ to dispel your chaos?