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Sermon Notes

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The Special Creation of Man Genesis 2

I. The Evolution Debate

A. Darwin's Theory

On December 27, 1831, a young British naturalist named Charles Darwin stepped on board a ship called the "Beagle." What he saw on this voyage gave rise to the modern scientific theory of evolution

1. Charles Darwin studied to be an Anglican clergyman, but soon came to reject Christianity

Darwin in *Autobiography*: "Thus disbelief crept over me at a very slow rate, but was at last complete. . . . I can hardly see how anyone could wish Christianity to be true, for if so . . . my father, brother, almost all my best friends, will be everlastingly punished. And this is a damnable doctrine."

2. Because of his rejection of Christian faith, he was searching for some other explanation for human origins... thus came his voyage as a naturalist on the "Beagle"... he went to the Cape Verde Islands near Africa, and the Galapagos Islands near South America... he observed subtle differences in the animals of these islands compared with species found on the nearby continents, and began to develop his theory of evolution
3. In November of 1859, he published the *Origin of Species*, which forever changed people's concept of human origin, & gave skeptics of the Bible ammunition to fire against believers

B. Fundamentalist-Modernist Debate

1. The Scopes Monkey Trial

- a. Dayton, Tennessee... July, 1925
- b. John Scopes, biology teacher, defied state law and taught Darwinism
- c. ACLU hired Clarence Darrow, best trial attorney in America, for the defense
- d. William Jennings Bryan, spokesman for fundamentalism, handled the prosecution

- e. result was overwhelming victory for modernism and Darwinism
- 2. Time Magazine
 - a. some new bone fragments have been found
 - b. Time put out a cover article, August 23, 1999: "How Man Evolved"
 - c. Time also responded to the recent decision by the Kansas Board of Education to remove evolution from the state's public school science curriculum
 - d. Stephen Jay Gould, professor of geology at Harvard & the leading spokesman for evolution wrote a scathing opinion article: "Dorothy, It's Really Oz."

Gould writes: "*[Teaching biology without evolution] is like teaching chemistry without the periodic table or American history without Lincoln.*" He also says that the struggle between evolution and religion is completely unnecessary: "*No scientific theory, including evolution, can pose any threat to religion—for these two great tools of human understanding operate in complementary (not contrary) fashion in their totally separate realms: science as an inquiry about the factual state of the natural world, religion as a search for spiritual meaning and ethical values.*"

- 3. Gould's two basic arguments:
 - a. Evolution is an indisputable fact of science, not merely a theory
 - b. Evolution and Christianity can peacefully coexist

Both must be rejected by Bible-believing Christians...

- C. Evolution is more a faith than a science
 - 1. Time article lays out no evidence for the truth of evolution... merely writes arrogantly in such a way that if you reject evolution, you're an ignoramus... the lay-reader is merely to take the experts' word for it
 - 2. Huge problems with atheistic evolution: how can chaos assemble itself into incredible order?
 - 3. More pointedly, how can inanimate chemicals assemble themselves into living cells
 - 4. What is the mechanism of natural selection?
- D. Belief in the Bible as the inerrant word of God and evolution are utterly irreconcilable

1. Genesis 1:1 “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”
 - But what about “theistic evolution?” The idea that God created the universe by using evolution?
 - Genesis 2 rules that out forever
2. Genesis 2 is one of the hottest debate points on Biblical authority
 - a. clearly, Genesis 2 teaches that Adam was created first, then Eve was formed from Adam
 - b. therefore, there was a time when Adam existed and Eve did not... this is utterly irreconcilable with evolution, which must have male and female evolving together

Was Genesis 2 merely some kind of parable or allegory?

- c. Jesus quoted Genesis 2 literally in Matthew 19, to support his teaching against divorce

Matthew 19:4-6 “Haven’t you read,” he said, “that at the beginning the Creator made them male and female, and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife and the two will become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.”

- d. Paul twice referred to the fact that Adam was formed first, then Eve

1 Timothy 2:13 “For Adam was formed first, then Eve.”

1 Corinthians 11:8 “For man did not come from woman, but woman from man.”

Both Jesus’ and Paul’s arguments completely fall apart if Genesis 2 is just a myth or an allegory. If our attitude about Scripture is different than Jesus’ and different than Paul’s, we have wandered away from the faith

II. The Special Creation of Man

A. Genesis 1 & Genesis 2: A Contradiction?

1. Genesis 1:26-28

- a. vs. 26 “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule...”

- b. vs. 27 “So God created man in his own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”
 - c. vs. 28 God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.”

Seems that male and female were created together at the same time

2. Genesis 2: Male created first, the female...
 3. How to reconcile? Not too difficult

Illus.: Rand McNally Road Map: Gen.1, God's overall purpose spelled out; Genesis 2, a look in greater detail at how God's plan was worked out

4. Also, different name for God... “Elohim” in Genesis 1; “Yahweh Elohim” in Genesis 2
 - a. Graf-Welhausen determined that this meant these accounts were written by different authors and were contradictory
 - b. But God uses many names in the Bible... Elohim in ch.1 emphasizes God as the powerful Creator, Yahweh Elohim is the name of God as He reveals Himself to His covenant people

1. “These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created”
 - a. this repeated phrase, “These are the generations” means “These are the offspring”; it divides Genesis into sections...

2:4 (heaven and earth); 5:1 (Adam); 6:9 (Noah); 10:1 (Shem, Ham, Japheth); 11:10 (Shem); 11:27 (Terah); 25:12 (Ishmael); 25:19 (Isaac); 36:1 (Esau); 36:9 (Esau); 37:2 (Jacob).
 - b. ancient writing used repeated phrases like this to connect one document to another

vs. 4-6 “When the Lord God made the earth and the heavens—and no shrub had yet appeared on the earth and no plant of the field had yet sprung up, for the Lord God had not yet sent rain on the earth and there was no man to work the ground, but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground...”

2. Earth not fully developed
 - a. these plants required human agency, human agriculture to cause them to grow

- b. no rain yet... under the expanses created over the earth, there was a mist that covered the earth
- c. it would seem like a foreign planet to you... the earth radically changed after the flood
- d. everything waiting for human beings to be created

C. Special Creation of Man

- 1. Combination... spiritual + earthy
 - a. body formed from earthy compounds

Illus. Boston Museum of Science... outline of human body: 1% carbohydrates, 2% intermediate nucleic acids (DNA), 5% minerals (Zinc, Sodium, Calcium, Phosphorus, Sulfur, Iron... etc.); 15% lipids, 60% water.

- b. spirit breathed in... in image of God
 - i) Godlike capabilities
 - ii) moral perfection
 - iii) royal authority
- 2. Angels & beasts... angels = spirit only; beasts = body only
- 3. Ultimate destiny: Sabbath rest
 - a. First Adam of the earth
 - b. Second Adam spiritual & eternal

1 Corinthians 15:50 “I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.”

- 4. Adam formed first, alone

III. The Earth: Adam's Workshop & Throne-Room

A. Image of God = Father & son to work together

- 1. “Like father, like son...”

John 5:17 “My Father is working to this very day, and I too am working.”

2. Imitation... Adam set to work in the world
3. The Father set to instruct and guide

John 5:19 “I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can only do what he sees his father doing, because whatever the Father does, the Son also does.”

Isaiah 28:23-29 “His God instructs him and teaches him the right way.”

4. Work a gracious gift from God
- B. The Provision of the World: Eden (vs. 8-14)

1. Food
2. Natural resources
 - a. rivers... unknown geography
 - b. minerals
 - c. spices
 - d. rich soil

- C. Adam's workshop (vs. 15)
 1. serve the ground, cultivate it, take care of it
 2. nurture & name the animals
 - intelligence, observation, creativity
 3. discover & marvel at what God has placed in the world

Habakkuk 2:14 “The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.”

- D. Adam's throne room (under God)
 1. subdue the earth
 2. rule over it

Not "in harmony" with earth as though there were no distinction

IV. Adam's Probation: The Sacred Trees (vs. 16-17)

A. On probation

1. ultimate outcome not yet clear
2. Adam's choice to be upheld

B. Covenant Blessings and Curses

1. Knowledge of Good & Evil... covenant curse
 - a. Adam already knew good
 - b. yielding to temptation gave a thorough education in evil
 - c. threatened curse: death... first spiritual, then physical
 - d. all creation hung in balance... creation now subjected to futility
2. Tree of life... covenant blessing: eternal life!!

Genesis 3:22 “He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever.”

Revelation 22:1-2 “Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.”

C. The Sacred Trees

1. Not magic
2. God's commitment to the covenant

V. Woman: Man's Indispensable Co-Laborer (vs. 18-25)

A. Adam "alone"

1. First thing in universe declared "not good"
2. Rich fellowship in Trinity... Adam has no such fellowship

3. God's plan was for a world full of His image-bearers

a. God's deepest desire... godly offspring (Malachi 2:15)

Malachi 2:15 “Has not the Lord made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his. And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring.”

b. first and pre-eminent foundation of society... marriage

c. goal: "Earth will be full of the knowledge of the glory of the Lord"

d. means: "Be fruitful & multiply"

B. Woman indispensable to God's plan

1. Indispensable biologically... human bodies formed through marriage union

2. Indispensable relationally: "It's not good to be alone"

a. Adam's task: cover the entire earth with work and worship

b. tiring, exhausting... Adam had needs only the woman could meet

3. Creative counterpart: woman, with special unique abilities

4. God's plan can't be achieved by male alone, or by female alone

1 Corinthians 11:11 “In the Lord, however, woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent from woman.”

C. So, why was Adam ever alone?

1. Adam federal head of the human race... represented all humans

2. Though woman equally image-bearer, equally vital to God's plan, equally beloved by God, ultimately equally an inheritor of the gracious gift of life in Christ... YET, Adam was created first

3. Though Adam's prior creation may mean nothing to the modern mind, it was very significant to God

1 Timothy 2:13 “Adam was formed first, then Eve.”

- If Adam's prior creation means something to God & the Apostle Paul, it should mean something to us

- God created an authority structure on earth

4. God also desired to create a deep desire in Adam for a helper suitable for him

D. Naming of the animals

1. Creative extension of Adam's intelligence and authority

2. Naming shows authority

3. Yet, "no suitable helper found"... certainly it was Adam who was looking... God already knew what He was going to do

E. Eve's creation

1. Formerly ridiculed, now supported by science

a. "deep sleep" basis for general anesthesia

b. "part" (traditionally "rib") contains all DNA necessary to replicate woman

Illu. Jurassic Park, blood from dinosaurs in mosquitos in amber

2. God fully capable of doing this... man's body given to production of woman's body

3. Now, reverse is true through birth process

1 Corinthians 11:12 "For as woman came from man, so also man is born of woman."

E. God Brings them Together

1. Divine Matchmaker

Illus. "Fiddler on the Roof"... matchmaker; "I think they had the same matchmaker"

God must have told Adam where she came from ("Bone of my bone")

2. ALL marriages have the same matchmaker!

Matthew 19:6 "What God has joined together, let man not separate."

F. Adam's Joyful Response

1. "This at last is..."

2. Physical kinship... taken from his very body

- 3. Adam named her: marriage covenant, headship in marriage
- 4. Servant leadership... like sun, moon, Adam's rel. with ground & animals, God's leadership
- G. God's intention: co-laborers for His glory
- H. God's statement about marriage
 - 1. Made by God, not Moses

Matthew 19:4-5 “Haven’t you read that at the beginning, the Creator made them male and female, and said ‘For this reason, a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.’”

- 2. First human institution
- 3. Building block of all other institutions: church, government, society
- 4. “One flesh”: sexual union, part of sacred marriage covenant
- I. “Naked and unashamed”: total freedom apart from sin

VI. Application:

- A. The gift of life
 - 1. God alone could have breathed life into a pile of clay
 - 2. God's gift of life is remarkable, one to be treasured
 - 3. We are created in the image of God, and also have physical bodies
- B. The gift of work
 - 1. Work not a curse from the fall
 - 2. Work was cursed, but beforehand, it was a gift from God
 - 3. We were to have worked side by side with God... now we can do so again

John 5:17, 19 “My Father is always at His work to this

Colossians 3:23 “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.”

- C. The gift of marriage

1. Often a battleground