

Intro.

- A. What is the most **God-centered** chpt. in the Bible? → *Gen. 1*
1. God's name mentioned 32 times in 31 vs.
 2. If creation >< supernatural, why is 1st chpt. of *Gen.* so God-centered?
 3. Many refuse to accept God's leading role in creation, knowing that w/o Divine involvement, our lives = subj. to direction or authority → self-rule!!!
- B. It is interesting to note the activity of God in **Gen. 1.** [*study the verbs*]
1. He *created*. (**vs. 1**), *moved*(**vs. 2**), *said*(**vs. 3**), *saw*(**vs. 4**), *divided*(**vs. 4**), *called*(**vs. 5**), *made* (**vs. 7**), *set* (**vs. 17**), & He *blessed* (**vs. 22**).
 2. These show God's actions in relation to every phase of creation.
- C. Note, too: **after its kind** (found 10 x's) --- vegetables, birds, fish, all beasts & creeping things.
1. If notice in **vs. 25ff**, **after its kind** is replaced by **in our likeness & in the image of God**
 2. This = an indication that man >< evolve f/ lower life forms. **Life of man = f/ above!!!**
- D. **Gen. 1** sets stage for **manner & method** of the teaching of the Bible.
1. Marked by simplicity, children learn of the days of creation
 2. Broad enough to cover ALL science will ever learn re: universe & man.
- D. Purpose: *To study significant implications of God's role in creation & in ALL TIME by keying on the phrase → and GOD SAID...*

Discuss.I. GOD SAID = BASIS OF INSPIRATION.

- A. Script. have a real value because they are f/ God. **2 Tim. 3:16f** (...doct, reproof, correct, instru.)
1. If God hasn't given us *all things pertaining to life & godliness*, **then** we do not have all we need
 2. Inspiration assures us that Bible >< man's words, but GOD'S.
 3. To reject inspiration = to be like a ship on stormy sea w/o --- star, compass or rudder.
- B. Whenever you speak of **inspiration** you are also speaking about **revelation!**
1. Revelation = what God has said. (See **Deut. 18:9-11.**)
 2. Men seek the unknown many different ways:
 - a. Soothsayers (*physics*) prey on man's desire for hidden knowledge, pretending to reveal future, unseen
 - b. Significant that **Deut. 18:18ff** places God's revelation in contrast w/ such deceit.
- C. Knowledge of future (unseen/invisible) depends entirely upon revelation! prophecy
1. God said: *I will put my words in his mouth; & he shall speak. all I commanded him.* → That's ↑
 2. It was **ALL** that God had to say, not **some** or **part**, therefore **it = AUTHORITATIVE.**
- E. If reject revelation of what God has said, we will be **cut off** (stated 194 X's in 189 vs.).
1. Revelation = the expression of God's commands – expresses His authority.
 2. Rejection of God's authoritative revelation = **to reject God Himself !!!**

II. GOD SAID = BASIS OF OUR KNOWLEDGE OF GOD.

- A. Athenians (**Ac. 17**) = ample proof of man's inability to know God apart f/ revelation.
1. They worshipped *many gods*, yet – were ignorant of the true & living God.
 2. Paul had to reveal & declare the Almighty Creator to these superstitious folks. **Ac 17:22**
 - a. Limited knowledge comes by observation (**Rm. 1:20**); revela. gives detailed knowledge, ↑
 - b. When we learn about our Creator, our attention (& affection) should become riveted!
- B. *Prophecy made more sure* (ASV **2 Pet. 1:19-21**) becomes factual -----Knowledge.
1. Moses declared (**Deut. 18:21f**) failed prophecy proved 2 things:
 - a. so-called "*prophet*" was not speaking for God.
 - b. also est. validity of a true prophet's message being *of God* --- *when it came to pass.* (453 Xs)
 3. Reason some modernists (liberal students of relig.) want to re-date all the prophets – they don't believe in inspiration / revela. as the Scriptures teach.

- a. If God **could** announce promised seed (**Gen. 3**), then no prob. Announcing a virgin birth 700 yrs. In advance (**Isa. 7:14**).
- b. **Isa. 7:14** = what God said! Doesn't need changed or adjusted, just BELIEVED!

III. GOD SAID = BASIS OF ALL ACCEPTABLE FAITH!

- A. The absence of Biblical mention of our contemporary religious scene >< accidental.
 - 1. God doesn't recogn. a plurality of religious bodies (diff. churches).
 - 2. Even in Judaism, there was only **1** true religion (**John 4** = case in point)
 - a. W/o **true** knowledge of God, there can be **no acceptable religion**.
 - b. Samaritans & Jews = monotheistic (**S** != true, not acknowledging all God said. **J** = true)
 - 3. Relig. based on divine revela. need not improvement (nothing false to remove, nothing new)
- B. Therefore \Rightarrow **God said** = basis of ALL faith.
 - 1. Faith **must** rest upon testimony – that's what God has said \Rightarrow TRUTH.
 - a. **1 Cor. 2:1**, Paul declared that he presented God's testimony (*things God said*) to Corinth.
 - b. Same emphasis needed today since **only God's word** can produce obedient faith. **Rm. 1**
 - 2. In every area of your life, *the strength of your faith depends upon credibility of the testimony*.
 - a. Sp. weakness = reflection of ignorance of truth & following after babbling of men.
 - b. Scriptures = credible, & *able to make us wise unto salvation*, **2 Tm. 3:15**

Concl.

- A. How seriously have you taken \Rightarrow **what God has said**?
- B. If you desire to do what God has said **must be done** in order to be saved, then we are ready....
 - 1. to encourage you to **repent** of your sins, **Luk. 13:5**
 - 2. listen to your **confession** of your faith – that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God (**Jn. 8:24**)
 - 3. to baptize you into Christ **for** to *wash away your sins*, (**Gal. 3:27; Ac. 22:16**)
- C. If you have strayed away f/ **what God has said** in your life as a Christian, then come back w/ a humble heart and a renewed determination to do what God has said, & we will pray for God's forgiveness.
- D. Will you do what God said even now as we stand.....?