

Series: Throwback
Date: January 6, 2016
Text: Genesis 1
Title: The Creator of Creation

Scripture Reading: Genesis 1:1-3

Introduction

Me and Erik in New York City for New Years. *(Show "1 - New Years Eve NYC" image)*

I went to Times Square in NYC for New Years in 1999. There were hundreds of thousands of people filling the street. You absolutely could not move for 12 hours. You basically just met the people right around you. I ended up talking to a girl. She introduced me to her boyfriend who was transferring to the exact same small Bible college I was that semester. Erik and I became best friends through college. *God is far more personal, powerful, and purposeful than we realize! One of the greatest reminders of all this is what we're going to learn more about tonight.*

Need

We're beginning this new series called Throwback. Everyone loves a good Throwback Thursday post, Throwback Mountain Dew, a Throwback jersey, or even a Throwback movie like the original Star Wars trilogy. Next week we're going to party Throwback style with GLOW NIGHT.

In our series, we're going to Throwback all the way to the very beginning of all creation. This epic throwback will show us *God's Person, God's Power, and God's Purpose.*

Bible

God's Person: God exists in Trinity.

Genesis 1:1-2 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

2The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

We see that God pre-eternally exists. “The beginning” doesn’t mean His beginning, but it means the beginning of all creation. We also see that God is revealing something very important about Himself: that He is Trinity. We see God the Father creating, and we see God the Holy Spirit present. We even read down to Genesis 1:26 where God says, “Let Us make man in Our image.” God is revealing to us Who He truly is. To understand what God does, we must first understand Who God is. God is Trinity which means He is one God in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God reveals Himself to us because He wants us to know Him. God created you to know Him, not for Him to be hidden from you. So, where is Jesus in Genesis 1? Where is Jesus in the beginning of creation? We’ll find out. Read on.

God’s Power: God created everything.

Genesis 1:1 (show the passage) says that God created all of the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:2-31 tells us how we did it. This would be one of the most miraculous, unbelievable, and worshipful events to watch!

Job 38:7 When the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

Job 38:4-7 says that the angels did watch. It seems like God created the angels first so that they could watch and worship Him when He created everything else. Let’s watch this video just to get a glimpse of what it may have been like. (Show the Creation video.)

Understanding all of this absolutely kills the evolution argument. Evolution is scientifically impossible!

3 Questions to Ask an Evolutionist

1. How can everything come from nothing?
2. How can order come from chaos?
3. How can personal come from impersonal?

Evolution breaks its own scientific method. Evolution is also depressing. Evolution means you don’t matter, you aren’t significant, you have no

purpose, and all of life is meaningless. Creation means that you were created by God on purpose, that makes you significant, and that your life has meaning because God created you with a purpose! If evolution were true, we wouldn't even care about being loved. But love is everyone's deepest desire. We're not evolved from some random chance Big Bang, but we're created by a Glorious God! We don't believe in evolution, but we believe ex nihilo.

But why? Why did God create us? **Colossians 1:16** tells us why.

Colossians 1:16 All things were created through Jesus and for Jesus. God created both through and for Jesus. God didn't create us because He was lonely. God didn't create you to leave you alone. God didn't create you to ignore you. Instead, God personally created you on purpose and with a purpose. He even tells us what that purpose is...for Jesus!

God's Purpose: God creates by speaking, then filling.

Let's look deeper into God's purpose for our lives. Genesis 1:2 says that God first created the heavens, and He created the earth without form, void, and dark. God loves to create and then fill what He created. Let me explain.

Genesis 1:3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. 4And God saw that the light was good.

(Show the six days of creation image)

Day 1 - God created light.

Day 2 - God created the sky and separated the waters.

Day 3 - God created dry land, vegetation, and seas.

Day 4 - God created the sun, moon, and stars to fill the sky (from day 2).

Day 5 - God created birds and fish to fill the sky and waters (from day 2).

Day 6 - God created land animals and humans to fill the land (from day 3).

God seems to create space, and then fill that space with His purpose. He creates with a very intentional purpose in mind. He did the same thing with us. He created us with space. Its almost like we're the earth in Genesis 1:2 as we have a void, an emptiness in our lives. Its like we're missing something.

They asked Tom Brady (show video) once what it felt like to win all these Super Bowls, to be making these millions of dollars, and to be one of the most popular men on the earth. Tom Brady answered in front of millions of viewers, "I feel like there's something else." His interviewer asked, "What else could their possibly be?" Tom said, "I wish I knew." Tom was created with a void in his life that Super Bowls, money, and popularity can't fill. But what can? Ephesians 1:23 says that Jesus is the only One who can "fill all in all."

Ephesians 1:23 The church is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

How do we get full of Jesus? Here is where we see Jesus all over Genesis 1. From Genesis 1:3 to Genesis 1:31, the phrase "And God said" appears 10 times. Why is this so important?

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:1-3 says that Jesus is the Word of God. Which means, God is creating everything through Jesus so that everything is created for Jesus (Col 1:16 again).

God intentionally speaks not only all of creation into existence, but also you in existence. If God spoke you into existence, then God also speaks into your life! How does God speak into our life? We just said it. Jesus is the Word of God! God speaks Jesus who fills our lives into our lives from His Word.

Gospel

When you read His Word, you will find over and over and over again God is telling us one thing, "I love you." You'll find in God's Word that He loves His creation so much, that He dies for it. People try to fill the empty void in their life with anything other than Jesus. That is sin. So, Jesus comes and dies for all of our sin so that He can fill our lives with His love, with His power, and with His purpose. No more darkness, no more void, no more emptiness, but now Jesus!

Story

2 years ago, Michelle and I got engaged. We got engaged at her basketball game, then I we spent Christmas together with her family at her home in TN and with my family for a few days in Gatlinburg. Then the worst thing happened. She had to leave for a week to coach a basketball tournament. It was terrible! My heart was filled with so much love for my new fiancé that I had to remind her how I felt while she was gone. While we were still in Gatlinburg, I stayed up late the last few nights and wrote her 7 letters for the 7 days she was gone. The 7 letters were the 7 reasons why I loved her. Could you imagine her coming back home and I asked her about reading the letters? What if she told me, "Yeah, well, I read them when I had time, but I was really busy." Or what if she told me, "I read the 3rd one, but I really didn't get to the others." Or what if she said, "I don't have to read your letters to know that you love me." Thankfully she came back and said, "I read every word of every letter every day and I loved them!"

As we go through the Bible together from beginning to end on Wednesdays and Sundays, we have to remember His Word is His love letters written to us. When we read His Word every day, its His way of reminding us His love for us so that we can live from His love and not for His love.

Application

Only Jesus is the fulness of God who can fill all in all! There are two ways to get full of Jesus:

1. **Personally read God's Word.** Remember John 1:1 that said that Jesus is the Word? Jesus is called the Word of God because the Word of God is all about Jesus. Everyone has made all kinds of New Years Resolutions this year, but instead, I want you to make a Life Long Difference by being in God's Word every single day this year. People are terrible about keeping New Years Resolutions because they don't deliver what they promise. But God's Word does what nothing else can do. God's Word brings you closer to God, makes you more like Jesus, changes your mind to think right thoughts, helps you overcome sin, gives you hope, brings you joy, and fills you with love. Nothing else in

the universe can do that! How are you to be in God's Word every day? Simply pray, read, then pray. Every single week we will release new devotions for you to read in our weekly newsletter. This way you can read with us, and have conversations about what you read with others reading the same thing. This way you can hear us preach on what you're reading, and you can come to Connect Groups to discuss deeper what you've read, ask questions, etc. Lastly...

2. **Personally be in God's church.** Did you notice what **Ephesians 1:23 (show passage)** said? Paul said here that the church is the fulness of Jesus. The second way to get your emptiness filled with Jesus is to be in His church. This is where you learn about Him, worship Him, be with His people, and learn how He lives through you.

Conclusion

God may not have had you in NYC for New Years to meet your new best friend, but He brought you here tonight on purpose and for a purpose to fill your life with Jesus. To be honest, I don't even keep in touch with Erik any more. But God has given me more than a friendship, He's given me a relationship with Jesus that will never end!