

NORTHEAST HOUSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sermon – The Inerrancy of The Bible, Pt 2

The First Apologist

Scripture: Genesis 1:1–10

03-04-2012

Genesis 1:1–10 (NKJV) ¹ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. ³ Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. ⁴ And God saw the light, that *it was* good; and God divided the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day. ⁶ Then God said, “Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.” ⁷ Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which *were* under the firmament from the waters which *were* above the firmament; and it was so. ⁸ And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day. ⁹ Then God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry *land* appear”; and it was so. ¹⁰ And God called the dry *land* Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that *it was* good.

This series began with the intent of addressing some of the supposedly contradictions, or tough questions in the Bible according to non-believers. For a short time, I hope to cover some contradictions we all may have heard, some tough or questionable passages and some apologetics.

From the beginning this church has had, and still has, the Bible as its foundation of existence for years our program cover unashamedly said that. I decided to put it back in as the focus for this year.

What you lay first in building anything is the foundation of all to come.

The Word of God is the foundation for our faith and our practice.

1 Peter 1:15–16 (NKJV) 15 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.”

It is very important for us as believers to have confidence and faith in the written word of God largely represented by the Bible. In limited researching for this series I found one website that posted 200 supposedly "contradictions". I read many of them and I am glad I did because it has caused a limiting effect on this series. I have no desire to address every one of those postings. I will cover, as the Lord leads me, and address the questions you may have.

I heard it said that when a bank hires a new employee, they train them in how to detect counterfeit money. The interesting thing is that they don't spend hardly any time on examining counterfeit money but intense training is on the characteristics of real money.

Stay away from "rabbit trails", no matter how many contradictions you answer unless the person's heart is prepared, they will think of another. This is not to say we should ignore them all. Sometimes there may be a sincere person wanting to know.

Today I want to introduce you to a form of theology, teaching and preaching. The term is known as Christian Apologetics.

CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS ("speaking in defense") is a field of Christian theology that aims to present a **rational basis for the Christian faith, defend the faith against objections, and expose the perceived flaws of other world views.**^[1]

Christian apologetics has taken many forms over the centuries, including writers such as Paul the Apostle, Origen and Augustine of Hippo, and continuing currently with the modern Christian community through the efforts of many authors in various Christian traditions such as G.K.Chesterton and C. S. Lewis who is known for both his fictional work, especially *The Screwtape Letters*, *The Chronicles of Narnia* and *The Space Trilogy* and his nonfiction, such as *Mere Christianity*, *Miracles* and *The Problem of Pain*.

The first apologist is God Himself.

Our focus passage I am sure is quite familiar to us all. As mature Christian's we have to do the best we can to study the Bible, attend a Bible believing, teaching and preaching church and Bible Study. We should broaden our knowledge through Christian faith books, CD's, video and independent study.

Let's see what God wants to teach us. When we study the bible, there is a method.

Observation, Interpretation, Correlation, Application

The Bible provides rational basis to believe in God

It is easy to forget that this passage was written nearly 2,000 years after the events it is speaking about. It is a passage written by God by the hand of Moses who was not born at that time. The apologetic message is timely because Israel was coming out of pagan captivity. It was necessary to create a **rational basis** for Israel to believe that their God was the one true God because they were introduced to the pagan gods of Egypt. To understand that their God created the world was reason enough to worship Him alone.

About the Bible - the inerrancy of the Bible should be a rational basis for us to believe it, therefore in God and therefore in Christ. Just because we do not understand something that does not mean it is untrue.

The Bible is used to defend the faith against objections

Apologists have based their defense of Christianity on **historical evidence, philosophical arguments, scientific investigation, and arguments from other disciplines.**

The historical evidence

The stories were inspired by ancient observations of seashells and fish fossils inland and on mountains. The ancient Greeks, Egyptians, Romans, and Chinese all wrote about finding such remains in these locations, and the Greeks hypothesized that Earth had been covered by water several times, noting seashells and fish fossils found on mountain tops as evidence. Native Americans also expressed this belief in their early encounters with Europeans. The great flood is also mentioned in the Quran.

At the time of this writing there were many deities to worship, theories on the beginning of earth and mankind. the Book of Genesis not only gives a rational reason to believe in Him but it also, by **their very existence, proves God's claim.** Genesis records the formation of Israel, the Children of Israel from Adam to Noah to Abraham and to Jacob.

Now the children of Israel were in Egypt for over 500 years. They needed to be reminded from whence they came and whose they were. Their history was not completely lost because on their Exodus from Egypt they took the bones of Joseph. I believe that Moses told them or at least reminded them of their past back to Jacob the father of Joseph

The Historical evidence from other peoples and places mentioned are proven to have or do exist and are confirmed today. This should strengthen our faith in the Bible. When we read the Bible and believe the inerrancy of the Bible, we make a connection with the God of the Bible back then with that same God today.

The philosophical arguments

Every faith has a theory on the creation story. Even the evolution story. If man evolved from an ameba then where did the ameba come from? History shows that nothing evolves to a greater level. There are many adaption's but not evolutions.

Then there is the "Big Bang" theory" if that is to be believed then who or what caused the "Big Bang". Some may say, "well space planets crashed into one another Then who made the planets that crashed. As evolution, does not take place to create a higher form nor does any explosion create a better state.

The only theory that make sense is the creation story.

The scientific investigation

Years ago, a group of scientists in their specialized fields determined that science indicated that the order of creation in Genesis was the only way creation could have taken place.

Their findings are over my head but take a look at this logic.

Day 1 - God created Daylight and night

Genesis 1:3–4 (NKJV) ³ Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴ And God saw the light, that *it was good*; and God divided the light from the darkness.

Question: "How could there be light on the first day of Creation if the sun was not created until the fourth day?"

God does not need the sun, moon, and stars to provide light. *God is light!* [First John 1:5](#)
Revelation 22:5 (ESV) 5 And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Jesus is the creator at the direction of God and He is referred to as Light

John 1:6–8 (NKJV) ⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. ⁸ He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

Darkness occurs with the absent of light.

Day 2 - God created the land to divide the waters

Genesis 1:6 (NKJV) ⁶ Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters."

This had to be created at this time for where would the animals and plants live. They all were not meant to be fish.

Day 3 - God created grass, vegetation trees and because the land was there, they had a place to walk on. Plus, this provided food for the land creatures.

Genesis 1:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb *that* yields seed, *and* the fruit tree *that* yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed *is* in itself, on the earth"; and it was so.

Day 4 - Now God had already created day and night. lights in the firmament (lower heavens) to divide Day and Night. For the reason not only for light in both day and night but for signs and seasons. That was not said to be the purpose of the light created on Day 1.

Genesis 1:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years;

Day 5 - God then created life to be in the waters and the air.

Genesis 1:21 (NKJV) ²¹ So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that *it was good*.

Day 6 - On this day God spoke for the earth to bring forth living creatures according to its kind. This tells me that the land animals like us came from the dust of the earth in multiples in order to be like something that came before them. A food source was already there

Genesis 1:24 (NKJV) ²⁴ Then God said, "**Let the earth bring forth** the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, *each* according to its kind"; and it was so.

On this day God also made man from the dust. The sequence of man is right. If not what would he drink, stand on, eat or how would he see?

This is just part of the scientific evidence of the inerrancy of the Bible.

The arguments from other disciplines

Other disciplines include:

Medicine - the Bible long ago taught that life was in the blood.

Leviticus 17:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ for it is the life of all flesh. Its blood sustains its life. Therefore I said to the children of Israel, 'You shall not eat the blood of any flesh, for the life of all flesh is its blood... (Eat Kosher)

Astronomy - We use the moon to tell the tides, the sun to tell the seasons and the stars to navigate and see at night. (Gen 1:16)

Agriculture - let's look at a tangerine. I was always under the impression that a tangerine was a cross between an orange and some other fruit. I thought this cross breed was hard to explain the command of God for everything to be produced after its own kind. But I learned something.

- Tangerines are technically mandarin oranges -- small, easily peeled oranges with sweet fruit
- Some tangerine hybrids are self-sterile and cannot pollinate themselves. These trees require cross-pollination by another compatible citrus tree to produce fruit.

Animal Husbandry - A mule is a cross between a donkey and a horse not being of the same kind. No male mule has ever sired a foal. So, if you cross a mule to a mule - you get nothing!

The Bible is inerrant. There may be some differences that have been attributed to copying and translation errors. We can put our complete trust in God's Holy word.

We have nothing to apologize for;

Apology - A written or spoken expression of one's regret, remorse, or sorrow for having insulted, failed, or wronged another

but we must be ready to be an;
apologists. - a [person](#) who makes a defense in speech or writing of a belief, idea, etc.

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