

Revisiting the Documents of the Old Testament (I)

Lesson #9

Scripture: Hebrews 11:1-3 *“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. 2 For by it the men of old gained approval. 3 By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.”*

Introduction:

Have you ever been to Ripley’s believe it or not in Branson Missouri? It is a museum of sorts for truly odd things. When you first walk in the door your greeted by a hologram.

The second stop is one of those weird mirrors that makes you look funky. We all played in front of that mirror for the longest time making all kind of weird faces and movements.

At the very end of our museum tour we came down this long dark corridor and were surprised to find ourselves behind that same mirror looking at the people on the other side acting crazy.

When Scripture tells us God's eyes are upon us, we know that God see us even though we cannot see Him. Yet we often act as if we are behind reflective windows and God is unable to notice us.

We should know, however, that God is always observing us and that nothing escapes His attention. He sees and hears us. He is patiently waiting for us to come to him with our prayers and petitions. As David says, "The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their cries." Psalms 34:15

Transitional Statement:

Brethren, God has a great interest in each one of us. He desires a deep relationship with us on His terms, after all He is our creator and if we are willing He will lead us in the paths of righteousness.

Lesson:

I. Spirituality in many ways begins with understanding that God is the Creator

A. For ages man has sought to understand his origins.

1. Evolution is a grandand exceedingly ignorant idea, conjured up by the foolish of heart

a. Grown out of the Big Bang theory

1) Men by into the idea that we are a matter of happenstance

b. The story is told of a manufacturing plant for watch parts. They did not assemble the parts there but shipped them to a different sight for assembly. One day there was a great explosion and in the midst of the rubble they found a perfectly assemble watch that was a result of the parts exploding at just the right moment and place to blast together into a fully function perfect watch.

3. Sadly enough these are simply a rejection of God.

a. Romans 1:20 *“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.”*

B. God tells us about creation in the book of Genesis.

1. He created all things
2. Set into motion the universe.
3. And breathed the breath of life into humans

C. Jesus was there creating with God the Father

1. Colossians 1:16-17 *“For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things have been created through Him and for Him. 17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.”*
2. Revelation 4:11 says *“Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.”*

D. The creation account gives us certain foundations .

1. For faith in God
2. For faith in scripture
3. For origin questions
4. For moral accountability
5. For trust in Jesus
6. For the worship of God
7. For Evangelism and Service

8. For hope of eternal life

II. And one of the very corner stones of spirituality is understanding the sovereignty of God.

A. Isaiah 40:12-31

*12 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand,
And marked off the heavens by the span,
And calculated the dust of the earth by the measure,
And weighed the mountains in a balance
And the hills in a pair of scales?
13 Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD,
Or as His counselor has informed Him?
14 With whom did He consult and who gave Him understanding?
And who taught Him in the path of justice and taught Him knowledge
And informed Him of the way of understanding?
15 Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket,
And are regarded as a speck of dust on the scales;
Behold, He lifts up the islands like fine dust.
16 Even Lebanon is not enough to burn,
Nor its beasts enough for a burnt offering.
17 All the nations are as nothing before Him,
They are regarded by Him as less than nothing and meaningless.
18 To whom then will you liken God?
Or what likeness will you compare with Him?
19 As for the idol, a craftsman casts it,
A goldsmith plates it with gold,
And a silversmith fashions chains of silver.
20 He who is too impoverished for such an offering
Selects a tree that does not rot;
He seeks out for himself a skillful craftsman
To prepare an idol that will not totter.
21 Do you not know? Have you not heard?
Has it not been declared to you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
22 It is He who sits above the circle of the earth,
And its inhabitants are like grasshoppers,
Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain
And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.
23 He it is who reduces rulers to nothing,
Who makes the judges of the earth meaningless.
24 Scarcely have they been planted,
Scarcely have they been sown,
Scarcely has their stock taken root in the earth,
But He merely blows on them, and they wither,
And the storm carries them away like stubble.
25 "To whom then will you liken Me
That I would be his equal?" says the Holy One.
26 Lift up your eyes on high
And see who has created these stars,
The One who leads forth their host by number,
He calls them all by name;
Because of the greatness of His might and the strength of His power,
Not one of them is missing.*

27 *Why do you say, O Jacob, and assert, O Israel,
 "My way is hidden from the LORD,
 And the justice due me escapes the notice of my God"?*
 28 *Do you not know? Have you not heard?
 The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth
 Does not become weary or tired.
 His understanding is inscrutable.*
 29 *He gives strength to the weary,
 And to him who lacks might He increases power.*
 30 *Though youths grow weary and tired,
 And vigorous young men stumble badly,
 31 Yet those who wait for the LORD
 Will gain new strength;
 They will mount up with wings like eagles,
 They will run and not get tired,
 They will walk and not become weary*

B. God is referred to as sovereign 303 times throughout scripture

1. Make no mistake, ...He gets things right every time !

C. In relation to sovereignty

1. Acts 17:26-28 says:

*"...and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the
 face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the
 boundaries of their habitation, 27 that they would seek God, if perhaps
 they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each
 one of us; 28 for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your
 own poets have said, 'For we also are His children.'"*

III. Spirituality also launches forth in an understanding of the roll of the created

A. It is not enough to know God created everything

B. We must also know how to exist as the created.

1. Isaiah 64:8 give us insight

*"But now, O LORD, You are our Father,
 We are the clay, and You our potter;
 And all of us are the work of Your hand."*

C. In short we should be moldable

1. Not allowing ourselves to become hardened in any area of our lives.

2. Not resisting, but trusting the desired shape of the Potter (God).

IV. We also find spirituality encapsulated in the 10 Commandments

A. We all understand that the Law was nailed to the cross Col 2:14

1. But any inherent truths are still true today.

B. The 10 Commandments represents a continuous fundamental understanding of God's direction for us

1. The 1st four are between us and God.....Vertical

a. Don't have other God's before Me

b. Don't have idols

c. Don't use my name in Vain

d. Remember the Sabbath

2. Then the last 6 are between us.....Horizontal

a. Honor Father and mother

b. Don't Kill

c. Don't commit Adultery

d. Don't steal

e. Don't bear false witness

f. Don't covet neighbor

C. These are basics that are still important to God today.

D. These were given on the heels of redemption from Egypt

C. These were given as basic parameters for the acceptance of God's people

D. These commandments were a covenant between God and man.

Conclusion:

We must understand our origin.

We must also understand our responsibility as the created to the Creator !

It is paramount to know that God is sovereign and treat Him as such !

And how great it is to see fundamental truths outlined in the 10 Commandments.