



M G Grace Messenger

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

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GBC HOMEPAGES

<http://www.gbcmadison-al.com>
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"Preaching the free grace of God which brings a change of lifestyles, masters and destinies."

DEAN OLIVE, Pastor

— September 2018 Issue —

*"You have dealt well with your servant, O LORD, according to your word."
Psalm 119:65*



NURSERY SCHEDULE

September

02 Troy and Jessica Moseley
09 Amber Solan and Jan Fursdon
16 Linda Olive and Susan Gay
23 Melanie Myatt and Vicki Johnson
30 Peter and Jenny Lovassy

October

07 Troy and Jessica Moseley
14 Lori Hewlett and K. Scarborough
21 Amber Solon and Vicki Johnson
28 Susan Gay and Melanie Myatt

CHURCH CLEANING

September - Johnsons

October - Lovassys

LAWN CARE

September - Volunteers

October - Troy Moseley

BIBLICAL SCIENCE

INSTITUTE

CONFERENCE

Dr. Jason Lisle - October 19-21

Friday 7:00 PM – Ultimate Proof of Creation

Saturday 9:00 AM – Science Confirms the Bible

10:15 AM – Astronomy Reveals Creation

Sunday 9:30 AM – Understanding Genesis

11:00 AM – Dinosaurs and the Bible

5:00 PM – Creation Evangelism

A resource table with books by Dr. Lisle will be available before and after each session.

For more info see

<https://biblicalscienceinstitute.com/>



**... HE MADE
THE STARS
ALSO.**

GENESIS 1:16

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

NORMAL SUNDAY SERVICES

Morning Worship 9:30 AM
Sunday School 11:00 AM
Evening Worship 5:00 PM

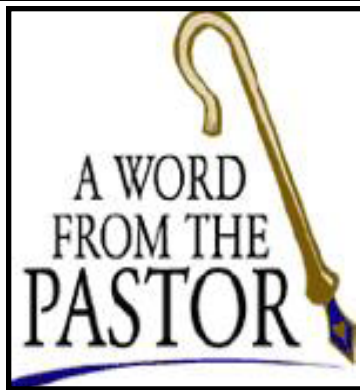
WEDNESDAY EVENING

Bible Study and Prayer Meeting
7:00 PM

FIRST SUNDAY SERVICES

Morning Worship 9:30 AM
Meal at the Church 11:00 AM
Afternoon Service 12:30 PM

*No Sunday School
or Evening Service*



Creation and the Book of Genesis

The greatest book ever penned by man is the Bible. It is the greatest of all books because men were not the only ones involved in its writing – it is more than a human composition. God is the

primary author of the Bible. Holy men were employed in its composition but they were moved to write by the Holy Spirit and were divinely inspired in their writing (2 Pet. 1:21; 2 Tim. 3:16).

The Bible is composed of 66 books. The first of these is Genesis. Some regard it as the most important book in the Bible because it is the foundation of all the others.

The first book of the Bible tells us the most rudimentary information that men want and need to know. This book is called Genesis, which means “the book of beginnings.” It is concerned with how things began, with the origin of all things. It tells us about the origin of matter, the origin of the world, the origin of man, the origin of sin, the origin of redemption, etc. Beyond informing us of the origin of all things, it also helps us to understand the meaning of all things.

Genesis is a foundational book. We should think of Genesis as the ground floor of the Bible. The rest of the Bible wouldn't make much sense to us without this book. The history of man has its foundation here as does the history of redemption. The basic doctrines that Christians hold dear and regard as essential to the faith have their roots here.

Sadly, Genesis, as much as any other book in the Bible, has been subject to undaunting attacks by those who do not believe it is the revelation of God. This is especially true of the first eleven chapters. Myth, fable, allegory, legend are just some of the words that have been used to describe the contents of these chapters. But to regard these chapters as inadequate and mythical is to rip the foundation away. Castigate Genesis and you censure the whole Bible; repudiate Genesis and you renounce the rest.

The New Testament writers certainly believed in the accuracy and historicity of Genesis. Henry Morris points out that there are over 100 quotations or direct references to Genesis 1-11 in the New Testament. Also, every one of these 11 chapters is quoted in the New Testament and every author refers somewhere in his writings to them. Jesus referred to something or someone in these chapters on at least six different occasions

In each of the quotations and references from Genesis in the New Testament, there is never the slightest hint

that any of it was considered allegorical or mythical. Every New Testament writer and the Lord Jesus himself, “viewed Genesis as absolutely historical, true, and authoritative” (Morris).

Paul speaks of the first Adam who brought sin and then speaks of Christ as the second Adam who brought righteousness (Romans 5 and 1 Corinthians 15). If we do not believe the account in Genesis about the creation of man, then Adam cannot be viewed as an actual historical person. That would disrupt the theological continuity Paul developed and throw out of kilter the entire Bible.

As the first book of the Bible is foundational to the rest of Holy Scripture, so the first chapter is foundational to Genesis and the first verse is foundational to the first chapter. Every book has to have a beginning and the beginning of Genesis, the very beginning of the Bible itself, tells us that God is the Creator of the world and all the things in it. It says, “*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*”

The cargo of moon-orbiting Apollo 8 contained a Gideon Bible. Actually, Gideons presented the astronauts, Frank Borman, James Lovell, and William Anders, with copies of Scripture that they took on their journey to the moon. Each edition was covered with noncombustible material. Commander Borman also took along his personal copy of the Bible. On Christmas Eve, the three astronauts read the first 10 verses of Genesis 1, as they passed (or floated) it from one man to the other.

These men saw the universe from a different perspective than any of us have ever witnessed it, and they had no problems believing it to be the product of the creative activity of God! The world did not evolve; it was created. The world did not come into existence of itself. It is impossible for nothing to produce something!

Does it make a difference what we believe regarding the origins of the earth? Yes. Truth matters. Truth has consequences. To believe something to be true that is false will lead us to live our lives based on a lie. A life established on a lie is built on a foundation that will crumble.

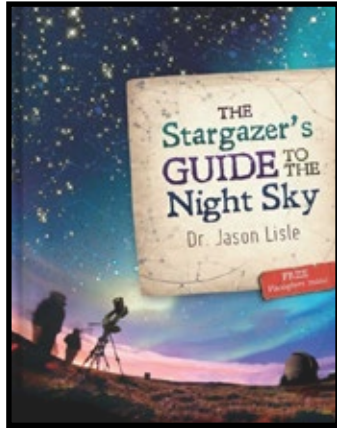
The God revealed in Genesis and throughout the rest of the Bible is a great and glorious God! What splendid power and greatness God displayed by His creation.

God is to be praised as Creator. When we behold the beauty and the intricate design of the universe, we ought to lift up our voices in praise to the One who created it! A sovereign, all-powerful God created the heavens and the earth from nothing, just as Genesis tells us.

THE BOOK THAT

The Stargazers Guide to the Night Sky,

by Dr. Jason Lisle, Master Books, 2012, 240 pages.



The Stargazers Guide to the Night Sky offers everything you need to explore the remarkable beauty of the stars, moon, and planets. Dr. Jason Lisle, a research scientist with a masters and Ph.D. in astrophysics provides a very thorough, practical and easy to read resource to fuel the curiosity of amateur astronomers

ages 10 to 100.

Understand how the eye works to enhance your views of the night sky. Study the 150 stunning, full-color star charts to learn the names and placement of constellations. Discover how to observe the galaxies with the naked eye. Learn how to choose and use a telescope. Investigate the celestial motions and events. Learn best practices for astrophotography.

These simple tips and tricks from Dr. Lisle will make your stargazing sessions go from mediocre to spectacular. *The Stargazers Guide to the Night Sky* is the size of a hardcover textbook, boasting 240 glossy pages of education for the hobby astronomer or science student. This resource is excellent for the family, couples, or individuals who like to learn and explore the beauty of God's creation.

Now includes the free Stargazer's Planisphere. This chart helps you locate the positions of stars on any night of the year so you can better enjoy God's amazing night sky.

Women's Conference with Margy Tripp



Some of the women from church will be attending a conference hosted by Grace Chapel Reformed Baptist Chapel, Argo, AL, on Saturday, September 29 (d.v.). Margy Tripp, wife of Ted Tripp, will be the speaker. The conference will be held from 8-2:30 at Ephesians Farm Barn in Oneonta. The cost is \$40 and includes lunch. Contact Vicki Johnson for more information.

Spurgeon's Catechism with Scripture Proofs



Question 46: What is forbidden in the second commandment (Exodus 20:4-6)?

Answer: The second commandment forbids the worshipping of God by images, or any other way not appointed in His Word.

Scripture: Deuteronomy 4:15-16; Colossians 2:18

Commentary: The second commandment forbids the making of images (Ex 20:4) and the bowing down to images (5). We are not to make any figure that represents God. There is to be no "carved image" of the divine likeness, resemblance, or form.

The reason for this commandment is because no image is appropriate in representing God. Besides, the figures and images made by their hands would themselves become objects of worship. There is a place for religious, illustrative material, but no image is to be made as a representation of God. "God is to be adored in the heart, not painted to the eye" (Thomas Watson).

Image worship is contrary to the spirituality and invisibility of God. What is God like? "God is a Spirit" (John 4:24). How then can a likeness of God even be conceived? "Every visible shape of Deity which man devises is diametrically opposed to the divine nature" (Calvin). A.W. Pink writes, "Since God is a spiritual, invisible, and omnipotent Being, to represent Him as being of a material and limited form is a falsehood and an insult to His Majesty."

It is an insult of the highest order to make an image representing God and then bow down before it. Let us remember that God sets down the way he is to be worshiped. His precepts are our rule. He must authorize what we do. We show contempt toward God if we despise his rule.



Thomas Brooks Puritan Quotes FOLLOW TRUTH

Where truth goes, I will go, and where truth is I will be, and nothing but death shall divide me and the truth.

Is Christianity Irrational?

Dr. Jason Lisle

Logic is the principles of correct reasoning. To be logical is to reason rightly. And God always reasons rightly because His mind determines truth. Therefore, to be logical is to think in a way that is consistent with the nature of God. Biblically, we are supposed to emulate God's character (Eph. 5:1). Therefore, we should be logical. We should turn away from thinking that is contrary to God's thinking, and align our thoughts with God's (Isa. 55:7-8, Rom. 12:2).

Since God is rigorously self-consistent, the basic pattern of His thoughts can be described at least partly by exception-less, unchanging, universal laws. We call these laws of logic. For example, God never denies or contradicts Himself (2 Tim. 2:13). Therefore, truth will never contradict truth. We call this the law of non-contradiction. In order for something to be true, it must correspond to the mind of God. Therefore, truthful things will never violate laws of logic. Truth always matches God's thinking, with no exceptions...

A common sentiment in today's world is summarized by Mark Twain, "Faith is believing what you know ain't so." By this dubious definition, faith is necessarily irrational. After all, it is unreasonable to believe in something you know to be false. However, Twain's comment is not the definition of faith. It is *not* the modern dictionary definition, and it certainly is not the biblical definition of faith.

Biblical faith is rational confidence in something that is not observed by the senses. Heb. 11:1 gives us essentially a definition of what faith is: a confidence, assurance, conviction, or evidence of things unseen. The Greek word translated as "evidence" or "conviction" in

English translations of this verse is *elegchos* and has the basic meaning of "proof." Biblical faith is *not contrary* to rational proof; rather, it *is* rational proof. It is the *opposite* of Twain's misconception. Faith is confidence in what *must* be true.

Faith in God is eminently logical. After all, God never lies (Titus 1:2, Num. 23:19) and knows everything (John 16:30, Col. 2:3, Isa. 46:9-10). What He says is absolutely true and certain. We therefore have a very good reason to trust God's Word. Wouldn't it be utterly absurd to *not* have faith in that which cannot be wrong?

But aren't we supposed to have "childlike faith?" And aren't children generally irrational in their thinking? So, shouldn't our faith be a blind leap in the dark, rather than based on good reasons? In general, children are not very rational; they often do not have good reasons for their beliefs. The point of education is to help them to become rational and to abandon beliefs that lack good reasons (like the monster in the closet). Are we supposed to be this way in our faith?

Actually, the Bible never tells us to have "childlike" faith. Rather, Jesus tell us that we must become as little children in order to enter the Kingdom of God (Matt. 18:3). However, the context of the passage deals with *humility* rather than faith (18:4). Christ's argument was that humility is required for pleasing God. Children often recognize their helpless, humble state; they depend on their parents for their very life and could not survive on their own. Likewise, if we are to be saved, we must recognize our helpless spiritual state; we must depend entirely on God's saving grace, realizing that we cannot save ourselves.

Now this is perfectly logical. It is rational for a child to trust in his or her parents; if they were not basically trustworthy in taking care of the child, he or she would not be alive. Likewise, it is rational for us to trust

in God. And how much more so because God knows everything, is fully good, and never mistaken. God is the one who designed our sensory organs. If, hypothetically, God were deceptive, then we would have no basis for trusting our own observations. Therefore, if our sensory organs are to be considered basically trustworthy, then how much more should God be trusted? Clearly, faith in God is very logical...

Far from promoting irrationality, the Bible commands us to think logically – in a way that is consistent with the character of God (Isa. 55:7-8). As one example, God does not contradict Himself (2 Tim. 2:13); therefore, neither should we (2 Cor. 1:18). Far from being anti-wisdom, the Bible commands us to get wisdom (Prov. 4:5,7, James 1:5). And genuine wisdom is always ultimately from God (Col. 2:3, James 3:13-18).

To be rational, one must have good, self-consistent reasons for his or her beliefs. The Bible provides us with such reasons for all those things that most people take for granted. Our mind has the capacity for rational thought because we are made in God's image (Gen. 1:26-27). Our senses are basically reliable because they have been designed by God (Prov. 20:12). The universe has order and consistency, having been designed and upheld by God (Heb. 1:3). And we know that the universe will continue to have predictable cycles because God has told us so (Gen. 8:22). These prerequisites for knowledge are justified in the Bible, but not apart from it. Therefore, it is entirely rational to be a Christian, and entirely irrational to be anything else.

Full article at <https://biblicalscienceinstitute.com/logic/is-christianity-irrational/>