

IN THE BEGINNING GOD...

Text: Genesis 1:1

INTRO: The first 4 words of the Bible supply the key which opens a door of understanding to the entire message of the book. They tell us that the religion of the Bible is one in which God takes the initiative, the first step.

- A. Obviously, He took the first step in creation.
- B. God took the first step in revelation
- C. He also took the first step in salvation.

I. IN REVELATION, GOD HAS SPOKEN.

Psa. 50:1, The mighty God, even the Lord has spoken & called the earth from the rising of the sun to its going down

- A. A part of God's revelation of Himself to man is in nature, Psalm 19:1

Rom 1:20, For since the creation of the world, His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power & Godhead...

Rom 2:14-15, For when Gentiles who do not have the law, by nature do the things contained in the law, these, altho not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts...

- C. He has more fully revealed Himself thru Scripture.

Heb 1:1-2, God, who at various times & in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has

in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

2 Pet 1:21, Prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

II. IN SALVATION, GOD HAS TAKEN ACTION.

A. Both the Jews with their written law & the Gentiles with what they knew naturally about right & wrong violated law & sinned against God, Rom. 3:10, 23.

B. The wages of sin is death, Rom 6:23. Every sinner needs a Savior.

C. God has not only revealed His existence & His will to man, but He also took action to fill man's need for a Savior.

1. He took the first step in love,
1 JN 44:19
2. He acted in mercy, Titus 3:5
3. He manifested His grace, Titus 2:11-12
4. He did all these things by sending His Son to die in our place,
John 3:16; Rom 5:8

III. KNOWLEDGE OF THESE FACTS IS USELESS UNLESS WE AVAIL OURSELVES OF THE BENEFITS OF GOD'S REVELATION AND HIS GRACE.

- A. He has spoken--but do we listen?
- B. He has acted, but have properly responded?

- C. He is seeking us, but do we seek Him?
1. We must seek diligently, Heb 11:6
Jer 29:13, And you will seek Me
& find Me when you search for
Me with all your heart.
 2. We must seek with humility, MT
18:1-4
 3. We must seek obediently. Unwill-
ingness to obey is the greatest
obstacle to our learning, Heb
5:9; MT 7:21.
 5. Plan of salvation: H,B,R,C,B

Cox Springs, TX, October 28, 1967

Jonestown, TX, February 22, 1970

Springhill, LA, March 4, 1973

La Porte, TX, September 2, 1979

Exton, PA, September 6, 1987

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, September 29, 1996

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, October 17, 2004