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# Pentateuch Overview: Genesis

[#1] *God Has Spoken!* – Genesis 1:1-3

**Sermon Outline** – March 19, 2017

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## Children's Sermon: Oracle Soup <sup>1</sup>

1. Fill a large pot with oracle soup.
2. Cover the pot, and bring the soup to a boil.
3. Remove the pot from the heat, and let the soup cool.
4. Lift the lid to reveal complete instructions for building something new and useful, worthy of a patent— all spelled out in pasta letters.
5. Repeat from step 2 as often as desired.



### Romans 1:20

For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, *in the things that have been made*. So they are without excuse.

### Transition: Grappling with Evolution

University of Washington psychology professor David Barash brings the sanctioned message to two hundred undergraduates every year in his course on animal behavior. With professorial authority, he declares to his young captive audience, “The more we know of evolution, the more unavoidable is the conclusion that living things, including human beings, are produced by a natural, totally amoral process, with no indication of a benevolent, controlling creator.” (underlines mine) <sup>2</sup>

**What we believe about where we come from matters!**

To know where everything came from is to know where we came from, and where we came from has everything to do with who we are, and who we are has everything to do with how we ought to live. (underline mine)...

...Bricks don't get made until someone makes them (or today, until someone makes the machine that makes them), but somehow much more complex things, like dragonflies and horses, did get made without anyone making them, we are told. ... spend a moment contemplating a striking contrast of complexity. At the very low end

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<sup>1</sup> **Axe, Douglas** (2016-07-12). **Undeniable: How Biology Confirms Our Intuition That Life Is Designed** (Kindle Location 353). HarperCollins. Kindle Edition.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* (Kindle Locations 847-850). **He cites:** David P. Barash, “God, Darwin and My College Biology Class,” *New York Times*, September 27, 2014, [www.nytimes.com/2014/09/28/opinion/sunday/god-darwin-and-my-college-biology-class.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/28/opinion/sunday/god-darwin-and-my-college-biology-class.html?_r=0).

of the scale are the many simple, everyday tasks that require very little thought, like the making of a bed, but that we know from experience are never accomplished without someone working to accomplish them. These things are far too simple to fascinate us but evidently too complicated to be done by accident. This realization seems to justify our sense that nothing impressive ever does happen by accident. Far beyond such simple things are the pinnacles of human technology, like robots and communications satellites and smartphones, which we also know can't appear by accident. Finally, at the highest reaches of the complexity scale are the true masterpieces— things like hummingbirds and dolphins— all of them alive, all of them eluding our best efforts to understand them.<sup>3</sup>

We Should be incredulous!

### Romans 1:18–19

<sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who *by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.*

<sup>19</sup> For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.

#### Key Terms:

- ✓ **Science:** Seeks to understand the natural world through observation and experimentation.
- ✓ **Scientism:** “the belief that science is the only reliable source of truth” <sup>3</sup>
- ✓ **Materialism:** “the belief that physical stuff underlies everything real” <sup>3</sup>
- ✓ **Revelation:** God reveals information to humanity.
- ✓ **Natural/Supernatural:** The ordinary rules governing the material world./Going above or superseding the natural laws. (i.e. miracles)
- ✓ **Creationist vs. Intelligent Design** (Pride/Humility; e.g. Sunrise)

## Introduction to the Pentateuch

Notes:

### Who's Asking the Questions? (Israel...Us)

- Who is this God that has rescued us?
- What is the history of our relationship?

#### Today's Clear Biblical Bullet...

After rescuing Israel, God spoke in order to teach them more clearly who he is and why he had rescued them.



**Covenant:** A formal bond between two parties in which the relationship is defined and defended.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid. (Kindle Locations 279-280, 439-441, 442-449, 254).

Time Covered in the Pentateuch:

1. Genesis (2200 yrs.)
2. Exodus 1-3 (400 yrs.)
3. Ex. 4-40, Lev., Num. 1-14 (1 ½ yrs.)
4. Numbers 15-36 (40 yrs.)
5. Deuteronomy (Months before Entering the Promised Land)

## ***What is the History of Our Relationship?***

### **When Genesis was First Read...**

- It was about 1,000 years since Noah's flood

**Note:** In 1017 AD Henry III, the son of Conrad II (the emperor of the Holy Roman Empire) and Gisela of Swabia was born.

### **How did Israel know that the information they received in Genesis was true?**

- They knew his voice (Rom. 1:18-19)

#### **Exodus 20:18–19**

<sup>18</sup> Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off <sup>19</sup> and said to Moses, “You speak to us, and we will listen; but **do not let God speak to us, lest we die.**”

- They saw the signs and wonders

### **Why Go All the Way Back to Creation?**

- Who is this God that has rescued us?
- What is the history of our relationship?

#### **Genesis 1:1–3**

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning, **God created the heavens and the earth.** <sup>2</sup> The 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. <sup>3</sup> And **God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.**

## ***By Who's Authority?***

### **We Have Heard God's Voice**

## 2 Corinthians 4:6

<sup>6</sup> For God, who said, “*Let light shine out of darkness,*” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

## John 10:27

<sup>27</sup> *My sheep hear my voice,* and I know them, and they follow me.

## Why Go All the Way Back to Creation?

- Who is this God that has rescued us?
- What is the history of our relationship?

### *...Fired at our Life & Heart*

God's Word can be trusted in all things to which it speaks. Does it speak to the age of the earth?



## What has “Science” Proved?

- The speed of light...
- The half-life of certain materials found in rocks...
- You have to assume that only natural processes are real! (e.g. **Miracle Bread**)

## Why did God Give Us Names & Ages?

### Does it Matter?

- Millions and millions of years ago, God created the heavens and the earth... (He didn't tell Israel the truth because they did not have the capacity to understand it...)
- About 6 thousand years ago, God created the heavens and the earth... (You, Israel, along with your first parents have rebelled against your Creator, but because of his great mercy and grace he promised a savior...)