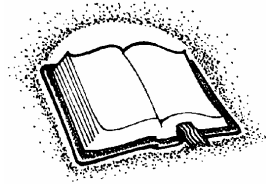


Unlocking the Bible (3)



THE BIBLE INTRODUCES ITSELF: God, Creator and Redeemer ?

The previous two articles in this series provided an overview of what the Bible is and how it came into being. They mentioned that the Bible is made up of two main parts: the Old and New Testaments, the one pointing forward to the coming of a Saviour and the other presenting that Saviour and the difference He makes.

We now go on to look at each book in the OT, starting with:

AN INTRODUCTION TO GOD.

Genesis is not only the first book of the Bible, outlining beginnings, but it is the introduction to God.

That introduction is significant.

God is introduced as Creator against a background of a chaotic earth, an earth created by Him, but is 'without form and void'. Not exactly a scene to be proud of!

But, significantly, God is presented as Someone who does something constructive to remedy that situation and bring order out of that chaos.

He does that through His word. God says, *Let there be light* and there is light.

And, with light, there is not only exposure but also hope. Through His creative Word, God actively moves in a systematic – and redemptive - way to bring order and to generate life.

Pattern

Each day is allocated a task, beginning with major areas, such as day and night or land and sea, and then the details that fit into these larger contexts.

Day and Night	Sun and Stars
Heaven and Earth	Birds and Fish
Land and Sea	Plants and Man

Process

Each day does not finish until that task is complete. The process is described as going from *evening to morning*, from darkness to light.

Pinnacle

The work culminates on the last day with God making man in his own image.

Our introduction to God in experience reflects almost in exact detail that presented in Genesis. We are introduced to God against a background of chaos, of life that seems to be 'without meaning.

By nature and culture, we are sinful and part of a world that is godless and 'without form and void'. Yet the Bible presents us with a God Who can –and will – do something redemptive about that condition.

It begins with His Spirit moving in conviction and creating an awareness of our need. Into that troubled situation His Word speaks: Let *there be light*. Jesus - and His Word - is the Light of the World. Accepting Him into our lives can be transformational. For example, the NT [the fulfilment of the OT promise] says that, "God, who said, '*let light shine out of darkness*' made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God in the face of Jesus Christ".

It is a new beginning, a new creation, and an ongoing process starting with a definite faith beginning. Just as God brought order out of that original chaos, so He works to make us His 'new creation'.