

## “God Ain’t Kidding!”

Well, we continue with our sermon series on The Seven C’s of the Christian faith, or Christian doctrine. Really, it's an attempt to have an exceptional apology or defense for what we believe and why we believe it. And we've seen that we start with scripture, Sola scriptura, scripture alone. People want to talk about scripture that isn't alone, they want to talk more about science today. Last week we saw that when Paul was in Athens that's where he started. He started with creation. Jesus, when confronted about marriage and divorce looks at the Pharisees and says, “have you not read God created man and woman he created them for each other?” He went to creation and so it would be good for us to follow in their footsteps and take the creation account seriously and use it as a foundation for the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Today we go to the second “C”, or the second block, which is corruption. Whereas St. Paul was sowing the seeds of the gospel, in our Old Testament reading today, we see Satan sowing the seeds of dissension or discord, or lack of trust. He comes to Eve and asks a question and listen carefully because words matter. “Did God actually say, “you shall not eat of any tree in the garden?” Well, it was an invitation for Eve to speak, after all, God hadn’t said you can't eat of any tree in the garden. So, Eve comes right back with “we may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said you shall not eat of the tree that is in the midst of the garden neither shall you touch it lest you die.”

Now some would contend that that's the first sin. I don't really think so. We don't see that God said, ‘don't touch that tree otherwise you're going to die,’ it was just don't eat of it. But I have a funny feeling Adam and Eve looked at that tree after God said that and said, ‘hey let's just not even touch that tree. Let’s just stay away.’ But the thing is, Satan got her to talk, he got her to respond by intentionally misquoting God. And when she responded, then that allowed him to open up and speak his native language, lies. ‘You will not surely die,’ direct opposition to God. Now do what? Point the finger at God, God knows that if you eat it, your eyes will be open, you'll be like God and you'll know the difference between good and evil. And she looked at the fruit she saw that it was enticing and had potential benefits, and she ate. Then, she gave it to Adam, and he said, ‘of Eve, I’ll do whatever you say,’ and he ate. Which led to God coming to them in the garden and confronting them as we talked about last week a little bit. And He cursed man, Adam was now going to be cursed. He would die, but he was created to work and now work would be hard.

There'd be lots of weeds and there be toil ,and snares. It wasn't going to be easy. Likewise, for Eve, she was going to die, but childbirth would no longer be easy, it would be painful, and she would always be jealous of her husband, for having the position of husband. And meanwhile Satan; Satan heard that the seed of the woman the Messiah would come and crush his head. That leads to our sermon title: "God Ain't Kidding!" He wasn't kidding when he said, the day you eat of a death is coming. He followed through.

And guess what? God isn't kidding! It's what leads to the third "C" catastrophe. Some of you maybe have already jumped ahead and said, 'oh I know what that one's all about!' When we go to Genesis 6, verse 2, it immediately follows the genealogy of Seth who was the next son after Cain and Abel. And Seth is the lineage up to Noah and the from Noah we move on to Jesus later in the Bible. So, when we read the sons of God, it's referring to the sons of Seth, the ones in that lineage. When the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were attractive (which are probably offspring of Cain) when they saw that they were attractive they took as their wives any they chose. When you look at that, boy is that an aggressive move and a change from the way things are supposed to be. Not asking someone to marry, just take them.

And it's in there that we also read about the Nephilim that were mighty men of valor, of renown. Some people want to say they were fallen angels. There's really no biblical foundation for that. But if we actually put it into the context and we look at what Nephilim means, which means fallen ones, or those who fall on others, or to fall. I think we get an idea of what's going on. It ties in with those children of Seth, the children of God taking. The Nephilim were mighty men, strong men, some would translate it into giants. They took what they wanted and if they needed to use violence they did. It's much like Lamech, who we read about in chapter 4 boasted about murdering people. These Nephilim we're indicative of what mankind had become like. Might makes right and might takes advantage. And we see that man is taking that which is good and using it for sinful rebellion.

And so, we read God's saying, "my spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh or sinful. His days will be 120 years." Now since Noah was 600 years old when he built the ark, he died at 950. Abraham lived to be 175. Isaac was 180. We know that that's not God's saying there's a cap on man, he's not going to live past 120. No, it's from the time of His speaking, seeing all that was happening there, man had 120 years before there was going to be a reckoning. And then goes into by the reckoning, why the judgment. Genesis 6, verse 5. "every inclination of the thoughts of man's heart was only evil, all the time." It was really bad. Notice, it's only evil all the time. It gets defined a little bit more in 6:12, using the word corrupt.

Which means to take that which is good and turn it to bad. And then one verse later, we read that man was “filled with violence.” So, it all lines up with Lamech was bad boasting about murdering now you have the nephew of these mighty men and they're falling on others, taking advantage of them and then there's Noah.

Noah one was a righteous man blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God. Noah was righteous, he did what was right. Noah was blameless, doesn't mean he didn't have any sin. We know he did, but what it does say is that he didn't pursue the evil that everyone else was pursuing. No one could blame him for taking advantage of others because he was looking to do what was right. Because he walked with God, or the ways of God, much like Enoch who was in that lineage, who didn't die, but walked with God. It's a description of a pattern of life, and God came to him and said, “make yourself an ark.” God provided the dimensions and by the way, the dimensions are to give us the ability to get a concept of how big the ark really was. Using the dimensions given, the ark would have had 101,250 square feet, and a volume of 1.5 million cubic feet. That's a big boat!

Now the interesting thing is this. I just have to go on this little scientific sideline because of the principles of buoyancy. The dimensions given for the ark create a structure that is perfectly buoyant. Those measurements in the ratio that's given, you know length, the width and the height are the same ratio that modern shipbuilders use for everything from an aircraft carrier to a Carnival cruise line. But the minute we start talking about them, we run into what Saint Paul referred to, you know, back in Athens. Some mocked. The mocking starts the minute you say I believe in a flood; I believe in creation. When it comes to the flood people will say they are it wasn't big enough, not for two of every animal, and there's not enough water in this world to bring about that flood. And even if there was a flood, where did all the water go?

First of all, let's just deal with the whole animal thing. Because it puts everything into context. What is written, two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal, and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive. Noah didn't have to go out and get the animals. God brought the animals, and He brought two of every kind, and notice you've got birds, that's a kind; everything that creeps on the ground, a kind. If we use the taxonomy that we use today in science, you've got kingdom, phylum, class, order, family. These are families of animals like the cats, the dogs, the lizards, God brought two of every kind. Because if you have one animal from within that kind, you have all the genetics for the kind, and God is the master geneticist, so He brought exactly the right ones.

And when you think of it from that way and the family of animals, suddenly the ark was plenty big, and it needed to be big because God also told Noah; 'also take with you every sort of food that is eaten, store it up, it shall serve as food for them. You have got to pack the food because there's going to be a big flood. And then the flood comes, what do we read? "On that day all the fountains of the deep burst forth and the windows heavens are opened. The water that comes out of the ground, the water table collapsed, water came gushing out. Now it should be noted if we go back to Genesis chapter two, in the retelling of creation. We read that streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the earth. So, there was a quite a bit of water underground in these streams where gushing water out but there was no rain it was all water by springs. There was no rain? Oh yeah, yeah, because we read in the first part of creation in Genesis one, verse six. God said, "let there be an expanse and an area between the waters to separate water from water. So, you had the waters on the surface of the earth, you know the oceans and streams and lakes etc. But there was water in the sky above the expanse that we call the sky, that God called the sky, a layer of vapor out there. Now an interesting thing with that, if you had a layer of water at the outermost reaches of our atmosphere, one thing is water has mass that mass that far up would exert additional pressure on us. And did you know that our human bodies work most efficiently when they're under pressure? If people get terrible burns, you'll hear they were, they are, in the hyperbaric ward or hyperbaric unit. That is where they increased the pressure on them to two atmospheres or so and the body becomes extremely efficient at carrying oxygen. It's a 100% increase! People tend to heal very well. This would be the ultimate in healthiness, you'd be living in a hyperbaric chamber all the time and so people would be living longer.

But at this time God caused that to collapse. All that water vapor coming down in the form of rain, the water table collapsing and all the water coming up and as Peter writes. "The world that existed was deluged with water and perished." Now Peter uses that to compare to judgment day when it's going to happen by fire again. But here's the big thing, the earth was changed. In the Hebrew its cataclysm. It was totally changed; it didn't look anything like it did before. I would contend and there are many in Christian scientists who would contend that it's during this time that God used plate tectonics to break the land apart move it into continents and in so doing, create trenches in the ocean for the water to go downhill into. Is there any sort of evidence for this? Yes, here in North America, we have this great water basin known as the Mississippi River. If you go to where the Mississippi River empties into the Gulf of Mexico, the delta region, and you look at the sediment that has been coming down and has been accumulating on the floor of the Gulf of Mexico; guess what there's enough sediment there for about 5000 years which is when the flood

occurred, about 5000 years ago. By the way it's not just the Mississippi River delta. You can do this with the Amazon. You can do this with the Nile, with the Congo. It's consistent around the world. The deltas only have enough deposition for about 5000 years.

Now of course, people will say, 'Oh well things could change and this and that. But this is where we get back to again, let's embrace the science. Let's look at the global flood and its effects on fossils and on sedimentary rock, what's often time referred to as the geological time scale. Sedimentary rock is caused when there is sedimentation from rain, from wind, whatever; and it breaks things up and it deposits layers. If it's done with water, and you get sediment in, that will help it adhere. And if there's a lot of water, it will apply pressure, it will turn it into rock. If this were happening while there's plate tectonics going on, there's a lot of movement, earthquakes, etcetera; you would find in places where there'd be a lot of pressure as the land moves and if it's compressing, the rocks wouldn't buckle, they would break. But if they're wet and under water, they would be moldable. That is exactly what we find. And it is in these sedimentary rocks, that are on top of the crust of the earth, that we find all the fossils.

Now if there was a flood, and the flood caused this, you would expect to find that the densest organisms, those that have shells and things like that they would be the ones that would be at the bottom. They would sink the fastest, because they'd be the slowest moving. That's exactly what we find with a few exceptions. Likewise, you put man who's not mass wise, extremely dense, and has a mind and can think. He's going to go for higher ground to try to survive. He'd be the last to get buried. Which is what we find with a few exceptions. Because it's a cataclysm and things are going crazy. Some people died early but some, the majority lasted longer. Some or the most heavy, dense objects, you know camels, they were buried quickly, but of course there were those that got churned up and mixed around. This is what we find exactly what you would expect in a flood.

Think about what we are told in science. A dinosaur died laying on the ground and was slowly covered over millions of years with dirt, and that dirt after time, you know packed up layer upon layer upon layer created sediments, turned into rock and fossilized the dinosaur. That does not happen in nature! An animal dies, it is immediately begun to be eaten by scavengers, as well as decomposed by those sorts of organisms that are in the ground that do that. Within three months at the very most, you're left with just bones. At the very most, usually within a month. After a year, the bones are pretty well gone unless they are quickly covered and pressurized and saved. That's what we find. So, we find dinosaur fossils. They died out, why? They got killed in the flood. Well, weren't they on the ark? Their cousins were. I'm

sure God brought a blue belly or two; or maybe some you know of the alligator lizards that carry all the genes of the lizards. So that after the flood there would be the correct lizards to live.

When it comes to the dinosaurs themselves, just quick two little interesting points, the fossils are imprints. There are places where we have the bones, petrified bones, or partially petrified bones and it's led to movies like Jurassic Park because we have found some DNA in those bones. What is unique is this: outside of an environment in a laboratory with refrigeration DNA primer last more than 10,000 years so for those bones to be in existence with DNA they have to be less than 10,000 years old. And likewise, the same thing with carbon 14 dating. You can only do it with pre-existing life. You can't do it on the imprint. No, you have to do it with something that was once alive. And for us to be able to carbon date, which you can't go past 20,000 years with. The dinosaurs were young. They were here a relatively short time ago. And when we take a look at it, one more thing. Let's be honest, how do they come up with the date for dinosaurs as being 20 million years old? I asked the geologist this, who was a professor down UOP. His answer, "we found them in 20-million-year-old rock." Really? How did you know that rock was 20 million years old? Because it had to be sedimentary Rock. You couldn't use any of the radio isotope methods of dating them. Oh well that's absolutely correct, but you have to understand, we date those rocks by using index fossils. OK, like what? Well dinosaurs. Dinosaurs are 20 million years old, so the rocks are 20 million years old. It's really quite simple. To which I pointed out, that is circular reasoning. The dinosaurs are 20 million years old, because it's in 20-million-year-old rock, that he knows is 20 million years old because there in a 20-million-year-old dinosaur. And that's when they called me names and walked away.

When we start to look at the flood, the fossil record, and what's written in scripture, it lines up beautifully with what we observe today. I could go on about coal seams, about oil, and the pressure it's under, but what it boils down to is this. God said it, that settles it. His deposition is beyond contestation.

But at the same time, back to the title of the sermon. "God's not kidding!" He doesn't wink at sin. And just as He flooded the earth once, He's going to destroy it another time, this time with fire. He sent an ark already. The ark is Jesus. And if we put our faith, hope, and trust in Him, we will be carried to a new life with our LORD and Savior in heaven. If we reject that ark, well, then it truly is catastrophe. In our Saviors' Name, Amen.