

Bite Size Bible Study

Life Recycled #131

By Pastor Lee

I believe that Genesis 1 is not telling us how or when God created the universe but that He did, and it was a progression of events.

In Exodus 19:5 when God is talking to the new nation of Israel, He says; *“all the earth is mine”*. And again in Deuteronomy 10 Moses repeats: *“To the LORD your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it.”*

So often we think “fine” and go on to the next verse without letting that sink in to our consciences. If it really means “everything in it” that includes you, me; and anyone who has ever lived. That also includes every tree, animal, mountain and valley, etc. That includes the dinosaurs, ancient sea creatures that don’t exist today. It includes everything that has existed, exists now, and will exist in the future.

Sometimes to get a better understanding of God we need to take what the Bible tells us and take it into the world we live in. I personally like to see God in the things I see in the world. Let me take you on a little mind adventure I love to take from time to time.

Looking at the Universe, I have learned that stars are born from the debris of other stars that have reached their end of life and “exploded”, sending their remnants out into space. These eventually collect to make a new star, which lives a long time and then dies like others. God has designed that their death results in new life.

A little closer to home we have a star called the sun that is in approximately the middle of its assigned lifetime. It will eventually expand due to the reduced gravitational forces and expand to reach the earth’s orbit, at which time the earth will be burned up. (Don’t worry it will be millions of years before this happens.)

While we live on this earth we see, on a much smaller time scale, this recycling of things. We see the death of a tree or the death of an animal. We observe that it eventually decomposes and becomes nutrients for other life. We observe (with great distress sometimes) one animal killing and eating another animal. We see a plant; bud, flower and die.

Even in our own bodies we see this cycle. We are born, we live a certain number of years and we die and eventually decompose back into the elements we were made from.

By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for

dust you are and to dust you will return. Genesis 3:19

What is petroleum? It’s the recycled remains of the dinosaurs and other things that have died and are being recycled.

What is a tree or a plant but the recycled nutrients from other plants and trees that have died and decomposed and been brought together as a new plant or tree. From the smallest microbe to the largest animal or plant recycling is the norm.

What is the dust of the ground? It’s just the basic chemical elements. Basic elements are just the products of a star, and that by implication means that we are made of stardust. God has designed the physical world to recycle everything. The new creation is not necessarily the same as where the elements came from, but it is built of the materials from other things that have reached their end of life; all determined by God’s timeline.

As Solomon once said: *“Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher. “Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.” What do people gain from all their labors at which they toil under the sun? Ecclesiastes 1:2,3*

Was Solomon right? Or just depressed?

STOP READING AND THINK ABOUT WHAT SOLOMAN HAS SAID.

Is our life meaningless, just a wisp in the wind? Or does God recycle us into something more beautiful and with more capabilities than we have now? Some would say no, others hope so, and still others are convinced of it.

What is mankind that you are mindful of them, a son of man that you care for him? You made them for a little while lower than the angels; you crowned them with glory and honor and put everything under their feet. In putting everything under them, God left nothing that is not subject to them. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to them. Hebrews 2:6b-8 NIV

If God has given us this much authority in this physical life, it is difficult to imagine what He has in store for us after our physical bodies have been recycled. Our spirit will inhabit a new body for a new purpose, not a body that is destined to be recycled but destined to accomplish tasks that we have no clue as to what they could be.

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