



July 27, 2014

Vacation Bible School Sermon Series – Who Is Like the LORD?

## **Day 1. CREATION – God creates us to inhabit a living world**

Genesis 1:31–2:2

Every “thing” has to come from something and everyone has some sort of story about how this world came into being. Whether its evolution or ancient mythology, mankind has always been trying to explain how this world got here.

The ancient Mesopotamians had their own story. A tablet drawn from the ruins of ancient Babylon (modern day Iraq) recounts their own creation account. They call it “Enuma Elish” (e-nu-ma ey-lish). Enuma Elish tells the story of Marduke – the ancient god of Babylon – and His rise to supremacy.

In the beginning there is chaos. This ancient near east account describes a single undifferentiated substance, a sort of matter from which all things come into being, including the gods. From this substance arise the gods Apsu and Tiamat who are known as the father and mother of all other gods. But Apsu and Tiamat are unhappy with their children and plot to destroy them.

When one of their children, Marduke, learns of this plot, he overthrows them. Marduke slays Tiamat and from her remains he forms the material world into which he places mankind. The gods create man as slaves to their pleasure. In Babylon, they construct the great Temple at Babylon and dedicate it to the praises of Marduke, the great god of Mesopotamia.

We have our own stories too. One such story goes by the name “evolution.” Similar to Enuma Elish, evolution science assumes that in the beginning was only matter and chaos. It assumes that the things which now exist come from other things which used to exist and all evidence today is to be interpreted on this basis. The origin of matter is simply left unexplained. If we first assuming that the existence of a Creator God is unreasonable, then we must come up with another story. This one goes by the name evolution.

However, the account of Genesis depicts a story of origins quite different. No “Enuma Elish” we might invent can compare. The LORD is a God unlike any other and He reveals Himself by revealing His mighty works; that is, He reveals who He is by interacting with creation, intervening in history, and intending something good for his creatures.

He is a God who creates something out of nothing. He speaks and it is so. The LORD shows Himself to be the origin of all things. There is no such thing as a substance that exists “before God.” He is eternal and independent of all time, space, and matter. This

means that His act of creation is perfectly free. That is to say, His act of speaking this world into existence is an act of grace. This most fundamental idea is expressed in the very first expression of the Bible: “In the beginning God.”

The LORD is a God unlike any other. He is a God who creates something “good.” He does not emerge from chaos, but governs all things and orders all things by His word. He brings forth plants and animals who reproduce “each according to its kind.” And it is complete and perfect, a living world which is at harmony with its God. So He calls it “very good.”

The LORD is a God unlike any other, for He is a God whose intended goal for his creation is rest. On the seventh day, God rested. The Hebrew calls it “Sabbath” and it was this day which was supposed to characterize the experience of all creation. He created man in His image and placed Him into the world – not as a slave; not as a random biological product of billions of years; but as a steward: a free being placed into God’s calling to represent Him as caretaker of His creation. The goal of God's mighty work was to bring His creation into His rest so that we might live in a righteous, harmonious relationship with Him forever.

As we will learn in upcoming lessons, something unrested God’s plans. Man rebelled against His intention and by an act of unbelief, brought a curse upon this world. Our lessons this week depict God’s work of restoring a fallen creation to its original design in Christ Jesus and making us part of His new creation.

*And the heavens will praise Your wonders, O LORD; Your faithfulness also in the assembly of the saints. For who in the heavens can be compared to the LORD? Who among the sons of the mighty can be likened to the LORD? (Psalm 89:5–6)*

