

A Study of the Christian Worldview by Looking At Its Origins: A Study of Genesis 1-11
Lesson 1: “What is a *Worldview* and do I have one?”

- I. Open-ended question: What comes to mind when you hear “worldview”?
- A. Field the answers
 - Shape them to something like “A descriptive model of the world”
 - B. What does it consist of?
 - 1. Answers to overarching, metaphysical questions
 - a. An explanation of the world
 - b. Answers to our origins
 - c. Answers to our history
 - d. Answers to our future
 - e. Answers to our current ethical questions
 - f. Answers to epistemology- how we know things
 - 2. It shapes our...
 - a. Methodology: How do we attain our goals?
 - b. Relationships- how do we interact with others?
 - c. Identity- Who are you, and what do you think about yourself?
 - d. Virtues/goodness in life
 - 3. Its Impact in a Society
 - a. Knowledge
 - b. Politics
 - c. Economics
 - d. Religion
 - e. Culture
 - f. Science
 - g. Ethics
 - 4. A beginning, which defines it
 - C. Both Social and Individual
 - 1. Social:
 - a. You live in a society and share its values (America=freedom)
 - b. Generally logically consistent, though individuals may not be (i.e. Catholics and conception, Orthodox Jews and pork)
 - c. You often belong to more than one (political, religious, etc.)
 - d. They all share facts, but may interpret them differently
 - 2. Individual
 - a. Your worldview is yours- it’s been constructed by your own unique life
 - b. It’s also influenced by global worldviews
 - c. You may hold two or more inconsistent worldviews
 - c1. You don’t always judge the worldview that one hears
 - c2. Mixing and matching, with better or worse results
- II. The Christian Worldview
- A. What does it encompass? (Why do we consider it a worldview?)
(see I.B.1-2)

- B. What about the Christian denominations?
- C. Is it just a religious worldview?
 - 1. Is any religious, political, or scientific worldview simply that?
 - 2. Introduce the evolutionary/atheistic worldview vs Christian worldview (really the topic for the next lesson)
- D. What it's all about: Jesus Christ
 - 1. "the only-begotten Son of God...was made man"- Nicene Creed
 - 2. Real person, in real history, with a real death and resurrection
 - 3. The worldview focuses around him, because he claims to be the "Way, the Truth, and the Life" (John 14:6). This answers much of I.B.1 (origin, future, epistemology, explanation, and somewhat with ethics).
 - 4. And yet it's easy to forget this- trying to start with Truth, or morality, and then move to Jesus acts as if he's the goal to get to, not the One who has come to us
 - 5. We Christians believe that Jesus is the "the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end" (Rev 22:13) of our salvation, history, and worldview.
- E. Scriptures
 - 1. How do we read them? (Christologically)
 - 2. Why do we trust them? (They are about Christ, simply. They are also faithful to the facts, inerrant, and meant for teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness (2 Tim 3:16). Also apostolicity- this faith is what has been handed down to us from the church fathers who actually saw Jesus and were eye-witnesses.
 - 3. Even the OT? (yes!)
 - 4. Other questions about it. (manuscripts, targums, etc.)
- E. As with any worldview, it's heavily shaped by its origin, and that takes place in Genesis, chapters 1-11. But those chapters are also supported by later authors, which we'll reference in support of Genesis and painting a fuller view of the worldview
- F. Future studies- an outline
 - 1. Presentation of the Scripture passage, short exegesis
 - 2. Explanation of Christian Worldview and its effect on our world
 - 3. Talk about Opposing Worldviews and their effects

III. Genesis 1:1-3 (if we have time)

A. Isagogics

- 1. Meaning of "genesis"
- 2. Author
- 3. Date written
- 4. Purpose
- 5. Etc., as needed

B. Gen 1:1-3

- 1. Three circles of creation
 - a. Gen 1:1-2- everything in one verse ("Uni-verse")
 - b. Gen 1:3-2:3- ordering of creation by day, explained next week
 - c. Gen 2:4-25- Man (Male and Female), explained the week after
- 2. Why is 'Elohim plural? (see v 26)
 - a. God the Father spoke and created

b. God the Spirit hovered over the waters

c. God the Son was the Word of God that proceeded and formed

3. Comprehending God apart from His Word

Luther, “Whoever desires to be saved and to be safe when he deals with such great matters, let him simply hold to the form, the signs, and the coverings of the Godhead, such as His Word and His works. For in His Word and in His works He shows Himself to us” (LW 1:13). Prov. 8:27; John 8:58.

4. Creation *ex nihilo*

a. *bara-* to create (from nothing)- only used for God’s creation

b. *tohu vbohu-* emptiness/chaos- not a part of God

c. God is the *αρχη*, not matter or energy

C. This beginning defines the Christian Worldview