

Beginnings pt. 2
January 16 2022
Genesis 1:1-31

Ask if there are any questions people have about the sermon, or the scripture we covered. Feel free to discuss as a group, but please let me know if there are any that no one can seem to answer!

Discussion questions:

1. Drew taught us how scripture itself points to two ways that God speaks to us, nature and the Bible. We probably don't think about God speaking through nature as much as he speaks through the Bible.

Read Psalm 19:1-6. Take special note of the verse that talks about God creating a place for the sun. Think back to Drew's explanation of the Egyptian creation story¹ (see the footnote below for more information)

****How does this verse speak against the Egyptian view of creation?**

To spur further discussion: If God made the home for the sun he is explaining how he is the God who is above all other gods.

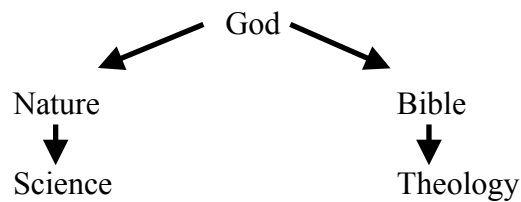
****Did the Israelites think there were really other gods?**

****Do you think there are other gods?**

For more discussion: Read Romans 1:18-20. These verses further explain how God is revealed through nature, especially verse 20.

****Do you think someone can come to faith in God without having the Bible and just observing nature?**

2. Review the following flow chart:



Drew said that there is “perceived conflict” between Science and the Bible, but the real conflict is between the imperfect people that are studying the two topics.

****What is your experience with this conflict?**

¹ Atum is the chief Egyptian god. He spoke himself into existence, created other gods, then became the sun god. He gets into his chariot every day and makes a trip across the sky.

Over the past two weeks, Drew's has explained that Genesis 1 was written to explain who and why, not how and when.

**Has this been helpful and satisfactory?

**What other questions do you still have?

3. Drew mentioned that there is no Hebrew word for brain. Instead, decisions were thought to be made in the heart. In our culture, the heart is the seat of emotions where we feel things.

Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9. This is called the *Shema*, which is one of the most important scriptures for the nation of Israel.

**If "heart" in this context doesn't mean love or emotions, but instead means our choices, how does that change your understanding of this passage?

4. The main point of Drew's sermon was that "God speaks to redirect our perspective." He explained that God created everything, but then gave it purpose so that everything has meaning. For example, God created light on day 1, then bodies of light to shine with that light on day 4.

**Have you ever felt that you were not created for a purpose or that you didn't know what your purpose is?

**If so, would you feel comfortable sharing, and if it has been resolved or not.