

Foundations 04

God who speaks

Creation, calm the storm, Lazarus - new life, free from demons, sins forgiven.

"For **he spake**, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast." (Psalms 33:9)

Introduction

Although we are going to spend a while in the early verses and chapters of Genesis, we are not going to be doing a verse by verse commentary.

But we are going to pick out some of the important foundations of the book of Genesis.

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. v2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. v3 And **God said**, Let there be light: and there was light. (Gen 1:1-3)

As I believe I said in our last study, we do not really know what it means that "God said".

Before the incarnation as Jesus, he was not a man in the way we understand men to be.

"God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." (John 4:24)

"Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." (2 Corinthians 3:17)

We are not sure what it means for a spirit to speak

With no... mouth, as we know one.

No... lungs, as we know them

The Hebrew here can mean - to say, to command, to express the will, to publish, to report, to tell...

We do not know that it looked like,

But we know **God expressed his will.**

"And **God said, Let there be light:** and there was light." (Genesis 1:3)

"**And God said, Let there be a firmament** in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." (Genesis 1:6)

"And **God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear:** and it was so." (Genesis 1:9)

"And **God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth:** and it was so." (Genesis 1:11)

"And **God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: v15** And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so." (Genesis 1:14-15)

"And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven." (Genesis 1:20)

"And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so." (Genesis 1:24)

"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth." (Genesis 1:26)

8 times the Bible records that God created by speaking out His will.

There are more "And God said's" in Genesis one, but these are the creating statements of God.

In fact the last one want not have been a creative statement, but a statement of intention, for he appears to have fashioned man in a different way.

But that is not todays study.

God who speaks.

Our God.

The one true God.

Not the "created gods" but the creator God...

But the Father, Son and Holy Spirit

SPEAKS!

“... our God *is* in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased. v4 Their idols *are* silver and gold, the work of men's hands. v5 **They have mouths, but they speak not:** eyes have they, but they see not: v6 They have ears, but they hear not: noses have they, but they smell not: v7 They have hands, but they handle not: feet have they, but they walk not: neither speak they through their throat. v8 They that make them are like unto them; so is every one that trusteth in them. v9 **O Israel, trust thou in the LORD: he is their help and their shield.**” (Psa 115:3-9)

We need to be careful not to assume that other gods are nothing. For often there is demonic involvement...

"And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that **they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:**" (Revelation 9:20)

God speaks and history takes shape!

God does his will.

“Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, ^{v10} **Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done,** saying, **My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:** ^{v11} Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, **I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it.**” (Isa 46:9-11)

Again, we do not really know what it means for God, a spirit, to “Declare” or “Call” or “Speak.”

But we know that a God somehow expresses his will.

He declares what he wants, and it happens.

This can be very difficult for those who would like to take God out of every bad thing that happens and say that man is responsible for all the evil, and God for all the good.

In many ways that is true.

But God is not passive in the evil that happens in this world. Yes...

He never - does wrong

He never - evil

He never - sins

He never - is unrighteous

He is always - holly

But that does not mean that He is not involved in everything that happens on Earth.

“The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations.” (Psalms 33:11)

God will have His way!

“There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless **the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand.**” (Proverbs 19:21)

Men may plan.

(I have just been watching Sacrificing Liberty (<https://www.sacrificingliberty.com/watch>) the US and Israeli government planed to sink a US navy ship to start a US Arab conflict.

But it would not sink.

God would not let them do this.

Isaiah tells us...

"The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and **as I have purposed, so shall it stand.**" (Isaiah 14:24)

And

"For the LORD of hosts **hath purposed**, and who shall disannul it? and his **hand is stretched out**, and who shall turn it back?" (Isaiah 14:27)

God will have His way, and no one can stop it.

“And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and **he doeth according to his will** in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and **none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?**” (Daniel 4:35)

God speaks throughout history.

Adam and Eve

"And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?" (Gen 3:9, KJV)

Cain

"And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?" (Gen 4:6, KJV)

Noah

"And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth." (Genesis 6:13)

Abraham

"Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:" (Genesis 12:1)

Jacob

"And God said unto Jacob, Arise, go up to Bethel, and dwell there: and make there an altar unto God, that appeared unto thee when thou fleddest from the face of Esau thy brother." (Genesis 35:1)

The prophets

Even to Balaam by an ass...

OK, the Ass spoke to Balaam and then God spoke, but God enabled a donkey to speak and that is pretty amazing and I had to add it here.

Then...

"And the angel of the LORD said unto him, Wherefore hast thou smitten thine ass these three times? behold, I went out to withstand thee, because thy way is perverse before me:" (Numbers 22:32)

Then by Jesus.

God walking among us.

Authority in the words of Jesus

We see throughout the Bible that there is POWER in the worlds of God!

Or in the examples we are going to look at... Jesus the 2nd person of the trinity - God become a man.

Calming of the storm

Jesus has been teaching a large crowd or multitude...

“And when they [Jesus’ disciples] had sent away the multitude, they took him [Jesus] even as he was in the ship. [not a big steam ship, a small wooden fishing boat.] And there were also with him other little ships. v37 And there **arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full.** v38 And he [Jesus] was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish? v39 And **he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.** v40 And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith? v41 And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, **What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?**” (Mark 4 36-41)

It would be an interesting study to look at what Jesus meant by “Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?”

Some say that, the boat could not sink because Jesus has not yet fulfilled his mission, therefore he can not drown at sea.

More likely I believe that they could have told the wind and the waves to stop it and behave.

"Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done. " (Matthew 21:21)

And

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, [have faith] the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.” (John 14:12)

This is another study, but it appears that Jesus delegates His power to His servants.

But getting back to this study.

There is a storm, powerful enough to put experienced fishermen, (many of Jesus' disciples were experienced fishermen), in fear of their lives.

“carest thou not that we perish?”

KJV for “WERE DOING TO DIE!”

The storm is raging and Jesus is asleep.

“When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet.” (Proverbs 3:24)

“I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety.” (Psalms 4:8)

Jesus had no fear to keep him from sleep.

The storm is raging and Jesus is asleep.

His disciples, full of fear wake Him up

They do not yet fully understand just who Jesus is or the extent of His power.

Jesus rebuke the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace, be still.”

And “the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.”

His disciples exclaim...

“What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?” (Mark 4:41)

Well we know what manner of man this is.

We have the privilege of that 20/20 vision that is looking back on the whole story.

They have not yet grasped that the manner of man He is, non less than...

God Himself

God in human form, in fact become a human

Not just one the the three persons of the Triune Godhead, but the person from the Godhead that was the creator.

Jesus himself.

Not only creates, but He is the very sustainer, too...

“[Jesus] ...**upholding all things by the word of His power**, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,” (Hebrews 1:3)

The very universe is sustained in existence, by Jesus.

Calming the storm is nothing.

The decibels have yet to truly grasp just who Jesus is and how much is in His power.

We too have this still to learn.

Free from demons

There are a great many other places we could turn to to look at the power and authority that Jesus has...

Today in our family Bible time we were reading from Mark chapter one.

“And they went into Capernaum; and straightway on the sabbath day he entered into the synagogue, and taught. v22And they were astonished at his doctrine: for **he taught them as one that had authority**, and not as the scribes. (Mark 1:21-22)

This is not the part I want to get to, but already we see that Jesus had something about the way he spoke.

“he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes”

There are two words in the greek that the KJV often translate as power..

ἐξουσία (ex-oo-see'-ah) Authority or the power that a policeman has to stand in front of a lorry and hold up his hand an stop the lorry.

δύναμις (doo'-nam-is) Strength or the power the lorry had to run over the policeman.

Jesus here teaches with ex-oo-see'-ah the authority of.... Well being God.

His words have power behind them.

But this is not our study today.

“And there was in their synagogue **a man with an unclean spirit**; and he cried out, v24 Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God. v25 And Jesus rebuked him, saying, **Hold thy peace, and come out of him.** v26 And when the unclean spirit had torn him, and cried with a loud voice, **he came out of him.** v27 And they were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, **What thing is this? what new doctrine is this? for with authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him.** v28 And immediately his fame spread abroad throughout all the region round about Galilee.” (Mark 1:23-28)

With ex-oo-see'-ah, with the authority of being God.

Lord of all...

Jesus commends and the unclean spirits (fallen angels or the gods with a small G that are spirit beings) must obey Him.

- Nature obeys Jesus
- The gods, the fallen angels, demons, (not devils, there is one devil, many demons) - They must obey Him.

Even death must obey Him.

Lazarus - new life

Lazarus was a friend of Jesus who had been dead for 4 days. And in the hot climate there, his sister said of him “he stinketh”

He was not sick, he was dead and rotting.

We will skip the prelude, but it is great and you should read it at some time.

“Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days. v40 Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God? v41 Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, **Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. v42 And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.** v43 And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, **Lazarus, come forth.** v44 And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.” (John 11:39-44)

Some had suggested that, Jesus standing in a graveyard and calling out “come forth” all the dead would have come out... that is why he said “Lazarus, come forth.”

There will indeed, come a day when all the dead will rise.

Some to eternal life and other to judgment and eternal punishment.

“Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, v29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.” (John 5:28-29)

This could sound like we can earn eternal life.

We are all of those who “have done evil” and deserve damnation.

But some have sort Jesus for forgives.

But back to todays study...

- Nature obeys Jesus
- The gods, the fallen angels, demons, (not devils, there is one devil, many demons) - They must obey Him.
- Death must obey Jesus.

Jesus even has the power to forgive sins, by his word

Sins forgiven.

This story, (record of what actually happened, not a made up tale), is in many way about the healing of a sick man. But he had much bigger needs than physical health.

As do we all.

“And, behold, they [the mans friends] brought to him [Jesus] a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; **thy sins be forgiven thee.** v3 And, behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This man blasphemeth. v4 And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, **Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts? v5 For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk? v6 But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house. v7 And he arose, and departed to his house. v8** But when the multitudes saw it, they marvelled, and glorified God, which had given such power unto men. (Matthew 9:2-8)

Power in this passage is the greek ex-oo-see'-ah, Authority.

- Nature obeys Jesus
- The gods, the fallen angels, demons, (not devils, there is one devil, many demons) - They must obey Him.
- Death must obey Jesus.

Jesus can even forgive sins.

Sin is braking the laws of God.

"Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: **for sin is the transgression of the law.**" (1 John 3:4)

We are all there.

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" (Romans 3:23)

We are all in need of forgiveness.

Jesus can forgive us our sins.

We can not today go into now can Jesus forgive sins and still be just.

But in brief it is because he paid the price for you and my sins.

Our offences against God.

Conclusion

We have a God who speaks!

He has Power and Authority in what he says.

- God spoke and creation came into being and took shape.
- He speaks and nature obeys Him
- The gods, the fallen angels, demons, (not devils, there is one devil, many demons) - They must obey Him.
- Even Death must obey Jesus.
- And He has the authority to forgive sins, by His word!

God is not a silent observer.

God speaks and things happen.

At some point we must also cover the fact that God has spoken to us through the written word of God.

“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, v2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;” (Heb 1:1-2)

The words of the Patriarchs and Prophests are in our Bibles.

The words and actions of Jesus are recorded for us in the Bible

And the teachings of the Apostles, the founding fathers of the church who learned personally form Jesus are recorded for us in the Bible.

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:" (2 Timothy 3:16)
