

Chapter 3: In the Beginning, God's Eternal Power and Godhead.

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath showed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse..." (Romans 1:18-20)

At first, it may seem to start a chapter off about the 7th Christian Doctrine of the "One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all" (Ephesians 4:6) with a quote from Romans 1, a chapter of so much darkness, unrighteousness, and booze and homosexuality. However, we need by way of Christian Doctrine on the Eternal Power and Godhead of the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ, Our Father which art in power in heaven, to be reminded that God has under control all that darkness, unrighteousness, booze and homosexuality. It did not and continues to have not slipped under His radar of power, though with all the victories today of civil rights and in a few of our churches, the gay and lesbians seem to prevail in a trend of future control of the world, especially when you throw in the intellectual idolaters and pagans that rush to their defense, maligning the Church for its much greater majority of Bible stance against homosexuality.

You know, of course, that gays and lesbians are only 7% of the population, it is only that they are a very loud and aggressive 7 percent. It was amazing for this preacher of SunGrist to read and hear in one week, the same two main arguments against the Church and Bible from first a famous pagan witch in Ireland and then Dr. Elaine Pagels of Princeton University, one of those intellectual idolaters, as being (1) all the interpretations of the Bible and the many denominations, and (2) the treatment by the Church of the gays and lesbians. We have two well known and large Baptists churches in the DFW Metroplex, Broadway Baptist Church where we appreciate their yearly presentation of the Messiah and the Royal Lane Baptist Church, once pastored by a famous Baylor alumni and high school friend, both kicked out of Texas Baptist. This serves as a reminder that homosexuals as all the unrighteous and supporters of the unrighteous that concludes Romans 1 lose more battles in American society than they win. Also, a reminder that the unrighteous darkness of those last words of Romans 1, Romans 1:29-32:

"Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.” (Romans 1:29-32)

NOTE: If you were not blinded by all this evil and darkness, you noticed in the very last words that the supporters of the gays and other unrighteous are equally worthy of death as the gays.

Where are we going with this in the second chapter on the 7 essentials of Christian doctrine, and specifically on the Eternal Power and Godhead of God the Father. The main point here in the truth and truths of Romans 1 is that God works unseen in those gays, drunkards, and intellectual idolaters in far more ways than we realize; and far from demonstrating any power or control over God the Father, they become victims of themselves and His inward power working inside of them, for the beginning of the moment like in Romans 1:20 they become in the sight of God without excuse for failure to acknowledge the eternal power and Godhead of the Heavenly Father, the God of all Creation.

2-1: The Intellectual Idolaters like Dr. Pagels and the pagans start to feel the internal judgment of God from the very beginning of accountability of their unbelief, one of their first judgments of God being a “reprobate mind” which initially incapacitates them from using human wisdom against the truth and wisdom of God.

“And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient...” Romans 1:28

1. And did you notice in the progression of darkness downward in Romans 1 that happens to them as they become victims: (1) In Romans 1:21 their imagination and heart suffered as their imaginations became vain imaginations and as their foolish hearts were darkened; (2) in Romans 1:22 they became fools in the sight of God and in the sight of believers; (3) in Romans 1:24—“Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves”—becoming victims of their own craftiness, receive uncleanness because of the lusts of their own hearts and dishonor their own bodies among that group of evil people; (4) in Romans 1:26 they become victims of vile affections as even the holiness of womanhood is violated with lesbians; (5) in Romans 1:27 they justly received sexual diseases; and lastly (6) at the end of 1:28 God gives them up to a reprobate mind.

2. You will notice with careful reading of Romans 1, that in all six of this inward darkness of the victims that GOD IS IN CONTROL: (1) God darkened their foolish heart as He witnessed a lack of glorification and thankfulness that He made them in 1:21; (2)

God Himself identified themselves as fools in 1:22; (3) God Himself gave them up to uncleanness in 1:24; (4) of verse 25 and 26 for the Cause of 3 great abominations of (a) changing the truth of God, (b) calling God a liar, and (c) worship and service of the Created more than the Creator, it states—"Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen."

3. It may not be apparent but Romans 1 is really a chapter to honor God as the Creator as you notice in the last quote of 1:26 that Paul breaks out in praise of the eternal power and Godhead of the Creator with the words, "...than the Creator (with a capital C) who is blessed for ever, Amen!

You notice the whole Christian doctrinal arguments of Romans 1 started with the Creation by God:

"For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse..."

Hear that, pagan and intellectual idolater, you are "without excuse". That is truth, truth of the Word of God and truth seen in the things God has made of the physical world, and seen in the human conscience—

"... for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, ¹⁵ who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves *their* thoughts accusing or else excusing *them*) ¹⁶ in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel." (Romans 2:14-16)

2-2: Would that we could do the almost impossible by summarizing the Eternal Power and Godhead of the oldest book in the Bible, the book of Job.

While intellectuals desire itching ears teachings of Gnosticism, would that they might discover the book of Job, much older than the Gnostics, and comprehend something of Our God the Father's Eternal Power and Godhead. God says directly in the book of Job, "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?" In other words, in all your august wisdom based on personal experience, you were not there at Creation.

1. God Challenges Job as recorded in the 38th Chapter.

...Now brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall inform Me! Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have

understanding. Who fixed its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched a measuring line across it?" (Job 38:3-5 Berean Study Bible)

Job 38 New King James Version (NKJV)

The LORD Reveals His Omnipotence to Job

38 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said:

²“Who *is* this who darkens counsel

By words without knowledge?

³Now ^[a]prepare yourself like a man;

I will question you, and you shall answer Me.

⁴“Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?

Tell *Me*, if you have understanding.

⁵Who determined its measurements?

Surely you know!

Or who stretched the ^[b]line upon it?

⁶To what were its foundations fastened?

Or who laid its cornerstone,

⁷When the morning stars sang together,

And all the sons of God shouted for joy?

⁸“Or *who* shut in the sea with doors,

When it burst forth *and* issued from the womb;

⁹When I made the clouds its garment,

And thick darkness its swaddling band;

¹⁰When I fixed My limit for it,

And set bars and doors;

¹¹When I said,

‘This far you may come, but no farther,

And here your proud waves must stop!’

¹²“Have you commanded the morning since your days *began*,

And caused the dawn to know its place,

¹³That it might take hold of the ends of the earth,

And the wicked be shaken out of it?

¹⁴It takes on form like clay *under* a seal,

And stands out like a garment.

15 From the wicked their light is withheld,
And the ^[c]upraised arm is broken.

16 "Have you entered the springs of the sea?
Or have you walked in search of the depths?

17 Have the gates of death been ^[d]revealed to you?
Or have you seen the doors of the shadow of death?

18 Have you comprehended the breadth of the earth?
Tell *Me*, if you know all this.

19 "Where *is* the way *to* the dwelling of light?
And darkness, where *is* its place,

20 That you may take it to its territory,
That you may know the paths *to* its home?

21 Do you know *it*, because you were born then,
Or *because* the number of your days *is* great?

22 "Have you entered the treasury of snow,
Or have you seen the treasury of hail,

23 Which I have reserved for the time of trouble,
For the day of battle and war?

24 By what way is light ^[e]diffused,
Or the east wind scattered over the earth?

25 "Who has divided a channel for the overflowing *water*,
Or a path for the thunderbolt,

26 To cause it to rain on a land *where there is* no one,
A wilderness in which *there is* no man;

27 To satisfy the desolate waste,
And cause to spring forth the growth of tender grass?

28 Has the rain a father?
Or who has begotten the drops of dew?

29 From whose womb comes the ice?
And the frost of heaven, who gives it birth?

30 The waters harden like stone,
And the surface of the deep is frozen.^[f]

31 “Can you bind the cluster of the Pleiades,^[g]

Or loose the belt of Orion?

32 Can you bring out ^[h]Mazzaroth in its season?

Or can you guide ^[i]the Great Bear with its cubs?

33 Do you know the ordinances of the heavens?

Can you set their dominion over the earth?

34 “Can you lift up your voice to the clouds,

That an abundance of water may cover you?

35 Can you send out lightnings, that they may go,

And say to you, ‘Here we *are!*’?

36 Who has put wisdom in ^[i]the mind?

Or who has given understanding to the heart?

37 Who can number the clouds by wisdom?

Or who can pour out the bottles of heaven,

38 When the dust hardens in clumps,

And the clods cling together?

39 “Can you hunt the prey for the lion,

Or satisfy the appetite of the young lions,

40 When they crouch in *their* dens,

Or lurk in their lairs to lie in wait?

41 Who provides food for the raven,

When its young ones cry to God,

And wander about for lack of food?

Footnotes:

- a. Job 38:3 Lit. *gird up your loins like*
- b. Job 38:5 *measuring line*
- c. Job 38:15 Lit. *high*
- d. Job 38:17 Lit. *opened*
- e. Job 38:24 Lit. *divided*
- f. Job 38:30 Lit. *imprisoned*
- g. Job 38:31 Or *the Seven Stars*
- h. Job 38:32 Lit. *Constellations*
- i. Job 38:32 Or *Arcturus*
- j. Job 38:36 Lit. *the inward parts*

2. The Enduring Word commentary on Job 38.

"God questions Job regarding what he doesn't know.

1. (4-7) *Do you know the secrets of the creation of the world?*

"Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?

Tell Me, if you have understanding.

Who determined its measurements?

Surely you know!

Or who stretched the line upon it?

To what were its foundations fastened?

Or who laid its cornerstone,

When the morning stars sang together,

And all the sons of God shouted for joy?"

a. *Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth:* The intention of this question is obvious. Job was nowhere to be found when God **laid the foundations of the earth**. God was ancient in His power, wisdom, and might and Job could never be considered to be on the same level as God.

i. God is essentially saying, "Job, if you can answer these things, then you are fit to question Me. If you cannot answer these things, then you do not have a place to demand answers from Me."

ii. "Job was simply overwhelmed with mysteries and paradoxes for which he had no answers; but in the midst of it all he came to understand what was too good to be told, that God knows what he is doing in his universe." (Smick)

iii. These questions also served the purpose of reminding Job that there were many things that he did not know. "Is this difficulty, against which his soul is beating itself so fiercely, the one dark spot in a universe radiant elsewhere and transparent to his view? Or is he surrounded on all sides with cloud which his eye cannot penetrate?" (Bradley)

iv. This statement also reminds us that God indeed did lay **the foundations of the earth**; He is the creator of heaven and earth just as the Genesis record states (Genesis 1).

{<https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/job-38/> }

3. The Online Matthew Henry Commentary on Job 38 writes:

"The Lord, in this discourse, humbles Job, and brings him to repent of his passionate expressions concerning God's providential dealings with him; and this he does, by calling upon Job to compare God's being from everlasting to everlasting, with his own time; God's knowledge of all things, with his own ignorance; and God's almighty power, with his own weakness. Our darkening the counsels of God's wisdom with our folly, is a great provocation to God. Humble faith and sincere obedience see farthest and best into the will of the Lord."

4. Also online is the Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Bible Commentary on Job 38 which is an excellent summary of the chapter and of the Eternal Power of our God the Father of all.

"Jehovah appears unexpectedly in a whirlwind (already gathering Job 37:1, 2), the symbol of "judgment" (Ps 50:3, 4, &c.), to which Job had challenged Him. He asks him now to get himself ready for the contest. Can he explain the phenomena of God's natural government? How can he, then, hope to understand the principles of His moral government? God thus confirms Elihu's sentiment, that submission to, not reasonings on, God's ways is man's part. This and the disciplinary design of trial to the godly is the great lesson of this book. He does not solve the difficulty by reference to future retribution: for this was not the immediate question; glimpses of that truth were already given in the fourteenth and nineteenth chapters, the full revelation of it being reserved for Gospel times. Yet even now we need to learn the lesson taught by Elihu and God in Job. The Lord answers Job, Job 38:1-3: declareth his works of creation; the foundation and the measures of the earth, Job 38:4-6; the stars; the sea, and its bounds, Job 38:7-11; the morning, and its light, Job 38:12-15; the depth of the sea; the gates and shadow of death; the breadth of the earth, Job 38:16-18; the place of light and darkness; the treasures of snow and hail for battle, Job 38:19-23; the east wind, springs, and rain for the earth, Job 38:24-30; the planets, ordinances of heaven, and their dominion on the earth; clouds and lightning, Job 38:31-35. Wisdom and understanding in the heart of man, and in his works more than we can understand: he feedeth the lion and the raven, Job 38:36-41.

2-3: Paul in Romans mentions more about the One God and Father of all, other than of His Eternal Power, it is "His Godhead" as head God over the Lord Jesus Christ and over God the Holy Spirit, Paul is assuming the Christian doctrine of the Trinity.

1. One good description of the Trinity from Christian Doctrine books of the past.

"God the Father is the originating Cause, God the Son is the mediating Cause, and God the Holy Spirit is the effecting Cause."

(1) In Bible: You see the validity of this in Bible facts of Creation in Genesis. *"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth..." is the originating Cause of God the Father, "One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."* (Ephesians 4:6)

a. Our God the Heavenly Father is the Father of all. Anything you can see, or name God is the Father of it as the Father of Creation. God created in the beginning something out of almost nothing, actually the Genesis story tells of how God took some kind of formless mass in the vast ocean of where the world into being and made of it solid elements of the Periodic Table. Yet more than this in Ephesians 4:6, as God of all He is the God of all Christian doctrine that is mentioned in the 6 chapters of Ephesians; yea the God over all doctrine in the whole faith once for all delivered to the saints and of the whole Bible of 66 books. Recall that Ephesians is a summary of the first 10 books

for the Apostle Paul, and in a very real season a summary of the whole Bible and the Purpose of God for the Universe.

“Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.” (Ephesians 1:9-12)

b. God the Father is above all. It is so simple in Scripture if the Scofield mites and others would admit to this Christian doctrine of God the Father over all as for example recorded in the all settling of I Corinthians 15:24-28.

“Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.” (I Corinthians 15:24-28)

(1). This passage about the END, on eschatology as it is called in Christian doctrine will certainly find itself in these chapters of essential doctrines, being that last things are much of the “One Hope of the Christian Calling.” Oh, if only the Scofield mites and others – sometimes they flinch and squirm on preaching of this passage about the ultimate fate of the kingdom of God, but also about the relationship between God the Father and the Son given here, that – “ But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.”

(2). It is jumping a little ahead although germane to the “God may be all in all” which Paul echoed and summarized again in Ephesians 4:6, but the eternity of eschatology and the end of this world begins with the victory of Jesus, the Word of righteousness putting all enemies, yea all things enemies or not, under the Lordship of His rule in heaven and in earth, then according to God’s immutable Word above when all that is subdued, the Son will Himself be subjected to God the Father. God the Father was in turn He that put all things under the Lordship of Christ in the first place.

(3). Peace and Unity among the churches of the One Body, the Church, is never, ever to be obtained by ignoring anyone of the 7 essentials of Christian doctrine in Ephesians,

nor in anyway can it be promoted by getting together all the churches in a universal visible on earth One Church. Ephesians makes it clear that it is an inherent unity that can not be produced by one great Assembly, only by the One God the Holy Spirit. Both the standard Ecumenical organizations by men and the over zealous Scofield's with their only the visible local church, above all, are at fault in these failures to promote an inherent unity. Of course, the Scofield mites with their theology of rapture, dispensationalism, and millennium can not see it because they are so enamored with the promoting of these three words and theology not even found once in the Bible; and if this does not slay the giant of Scofield mites, in one of the last chapters of this book, we will with the proof of how one thousand year second kingdom is prohibited by the first resurrection of the dead!

NOTE: You noticed we have left some dangling of the number system on the subject of the Trinity which will continue with Chapter 3 on the Trinity of the One God. This fact of Bible and Christian doctrine is much of the uniqueness among the religions of the world and helps to identify the false religions like Islam.