

**Outline of
the Messages for the Full-time Training
in the Fall Term of 2017**

**GENERAL SUBJECT:
THE CRUCIAL REVELATION OF LIFE IN THE SCRIPTURES**

Message One

Life as Seen in Genesis 1

Scripture Reading: Gen. 1:2-19

I. Apparently, Genesis 1 and 2 are merely a record of creation; actually, nearly every item recorded in these two chapters is a revelation of Christ, who is life to God's people for the producing and building up of the church—John 1:1, 4; 11:25; 14:6; Matt. 16:18:

- A. Strictly speaking, Genesis 1 is not a record of creation; it is a record of life.
- B. Verse 1 is a record of God's original creation; verse 2a refers to God's judgment on the preadamite universe; and the entire section from verse 2b through 2:3 refers not to God's original creation but to God's restoration of the damaged universe, plus His further creation.
- C. God created the earth in good order (1:1; Job 38:4-7; Isa. 45:18), but due to Satan's rebellion, the whole universe was judged by God, and through that judgment "the earth became waste and emptiness, and darkness was on the surface of the deep"; this is a picture of death—Gen. 1:2a.
- D. With this background of death, verse 2b says, "The Spirit of God was brooding upon the surface of the waters":
 - 1. The Spirit of God, as the Spirit of life, came to brood over the waters of death in order to generate life, especially man, for God's purpose—Rom. 8:2; Gen. 1:26; Eph. 3:11.
 - 2. In spiritual experience the Spirit's coming is the first requirement for generating life—John 6:63.
 - 3. The brooding of the Spirit of God in Genesis 1:2b indicates that Genesis 1 is not merely a record of God's creation but a record of life.

II. After the Spirit's brooding, the word of God came to bring in the light—v. 3; cf. Psa. 119:105, 130:

- A. In spiritual experience the coming of the word is the second requirement for generating life, and the coming of the light is the third requirement—John 5:24; 6:63; 1:13; Matt. 4:13-16.
- B. The Spirit, the word, and the light were the instruments used by God to generate life for the fulfillment of His purpose:
 - 1. The Spirit, the word, and the light are all of life—Rom. 8:2; Phil. 2:16; John 8:12.

2. Christ as the Spirit is the reality of God (Rom. 8:9-10; 2 Cor. 3:17; John 16:13-15), Christ as the Word is the speaking of God (1:1; Heb. 1:2), and Christ as the light is the shining of God (John 8:12; 9:5).

III. The separation of the light from the darkness for the purpose of discerning day from night is the fourth requirement for generating life (Gen. 1:4-5; cf. 2 Cor. 6:14), and the separation of the waters by producing an expanse between them (Gen. 1:6-8), signifying, spiritually, the dividing of the heavenly things from the earthly things through the work of the cross (Col. 3:1-3; Heb. 4:12), is the fifth requirement for generating life.

IV. The appearing of the dry land is the sixth requirement for generating life—Gen. 1:9-13:

- A. This took place on the third day, corresponding to the day of resurrection—1 Cor. 15:4.
- B. In the Bible the sea represents death, and the land represents Christ as the generating source of life:
 1. After the land appeared, every kind of life—the plant life, the animal life, and even the human life—was produced out of the land—Gen. 1:11-12, 24-27; 2:7.
 2. This typifies that the divine life with all its riches comes out of Christ.
 3. On the third day Christ came out of death in resurrection to generate life for the constituting of the church—John 11:25; 1 Pet. 1:3.
 4. Dividing the land from the waters signifies separating life from death—Gen. 1:9-10.

V. Because there was the need of some higher life with consciousness, the higher light was needed—vv. 14-19:

- A. Without the higher light, there cannot be the higher life; thus, on the fourth day the light became more solid, more substantial—vv. 14, 16.
- B. According to the revelation of the whole Bible, light is for life; life and light always go together—Psa. 36:9; Matt. 4:16; John 1:4; 8:12; 1 John 1:1-7:
 1. The higher the light, the higher the life.
 2. The indefinite light of the first day was sufficient for generating the lowest forms of life—Gen. 1:3.
 3. The more solid and more definite light from the light-bearers—the sun, the moon, and the stars—on the fourth day was necessary for producing the higher forms of life, including the human life—v. 16; Psa. 136:7-9.
 4. This signifies that for our spiritual rebirth, the light of the “first day” is sufficient, but for the growth in the divine life unto maturity, more and stronger light, the light of the “fourth day,” is needed.
- C. The sun (“the greater light-bearer”) signifies Christ; the overcoming saints were also likened to the sun by the Lord Jesus—Luke 1:78-79; Mal. 4:2; Matt. 13:43; Eph. 5:14.
- D. The moon (“the lesser light-bearer”) can be considered a figure of the church, and the stars signify Christ (Num. 24:17; 2 Pet. 1:19; Rev. 22:16) and also signify the overcoming saints (Dan. 12:3; cf. Rev. 1:20).