

In the Beginning

*preached by Rev Paul Akazue
of August 06, 2000*



In the beginning! In the beginning! Gen. 1:1-" In the beginning, God created the Heaven and the Earth". In the beginning is the caption of the camp-meeting, this millennium camp-meeting. Why did God give us such a caption? God wants us to know that He is God and there is none else. A terrible thing is sweeping through the earth. When I got on my knees to ask God what caption He wanted us to use for the camp-meeting, He said my son Paul, "In the beginning." Go and tell the world that in the beginning I created the Heaven and the earth. To God be the glory; this word is settled in Heaven and it is Yes and Amen. You saw the little ones this morning. I did not rehearse with them; the Spirit of the Lord is moving. The Lord who put it in my heart, put it in their teachers' heart. You have seen the choristers, they sang even with the very portion of the Bible Reading.

A cankerworm is eating the world today. God does not want it to attack you, so have the truth. The wise son of David told us to have the truth and sell it not. This morning, I am telling you to know the truth and do not let it go. It is a terrible thing for anybody to believe any other thing. If you are curious about how the earth came about, how you came into being, you go into the Book of the beginning. It will give you the genesis of all things and in Genesis 1:1 it is recorded that "In the beginning God created the Heaven and the Earth."

Nehemiah 9:6 - " Thou, even Thou art Lord alone. Thou hast made Heaven, the Heaven of Heavens, with all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of Heaven worshippeth thee."

Job 26:7 declares a mystery there that "He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing."

It is only God that can do such a thing. He took the earth and hung it on nothing. He just put it there and it stood. I was reading about science, about the sun and the planets and the great speed with which they move. It is terrific and surprising that there is no collision because the Lord is the author of it all.

Psalms 102:25-"Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands."

It is God that laid the foundation of the earth. It is the hand of the Lord that did it. Nothing else. Why do you believe the Evolutionist theories?

Acts 14:15-" And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and the earth, the sea, and all things that are therein."

It is folly to believe in any other being other than the living God. It is the living God that created the Heaven and the Earth and all that are therein. It is God that created your very self. Some people may tell you that man evolved from lower animals. That man evolved from something like a frog and became a primate, something like a monkey; he then developed and became a human being; but if you may ask that same person if his great-grandfather was an ape, he would say no. If any evolutionist is a man of integrity and he believes in what he is teaching, let him declare to the whole world that his grandfather was a monkey. I know that my father is my father. My father is not a monkey and I did not evolve from a monkey. You did not evolve from a monkey. God made our parents in the image of Himself. In His own image He made man. We are made in the image of God. That is a fact. Any other thing is a fallacy.

Heb. 11:3-"Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear."

It is the word of God that made the world. God spoke the world and things happened. That word is Jesus Christ.

John 1:1,14-" In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."

God spoke. What did He speak? He spoke the word and things happened.

Col 1:16,17-" For by Him were all things created, that are in Heaven, and that in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist."

The "Him" being referred to is our Saviour Jesus Christ. The Son of God. The second person in the Trinity and the Word of God. He created the world. He is one with God the Father.

Gen 1:3-" And God said, let there be light and there was light."

God the Father spoke and said, "Let there be light and there was light." When God speaks, things happen. Do you want God to speak today? Do you want something to happen today? Then you will tell God to speak the word. You are hearing even the word now. When you hear, just obey and things will happen in your life and you will be blessed, and your name will be written in the Lamb's Book of Life. You will praise God forever and ever. And God said, "Let there be light and there was light." Wonderful! We saw the Sunday School Children trying to demonstrate it to us this morning. Why will there not be light when Jesus is the light of the world? And God spoke the word and Jesus Himself made the light. Jesus the word of God made the light. He is inseparable from God the Father. God the Holy Spirit, the third person in the Trinity was also there. They are one and the same thing and are inseparable and always work in one accord with no disagreement. We are made in the image of God. If God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are in one accord, we God's children must be in one accord.

Gen 1:6-7- "And God said, let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so."

Glory be to God. There is power in the word! Verse 9 says

"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."

God commanded, let the waters be gathered together and let the dry land appear; it happened. Verses 14,15 says

" 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: and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so."

God decided to create creatures in the waters and He spoke in verses 20,24-28:

" 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: 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, and God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good. 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. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him: male and female created he them. And God blessed

them, and said be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth."

If any man will not honour God, that man will be dishonoured because honour is reciprocal. God so honoured man. When God created every other thing, He just spoke and it happened, but in the case of man, he invited God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. The three God-head held a council and said, "Let us make man in our image." **In our image.** Can you not see how much God esteemed man? He made man in His own likeness so that man can be like God. It is marvelous! That is why God gave man dominion over everything He created. Man has dominion. Man has power and authority. Man has the power to oversee all God's creation. He did not make man a slave. He did not make him like a servant. He made man to be somebody with dignity, somebody with integrity, somebody who is respectable and He gave man a free will. He made man a free moral agent so that He could come and have fellowship with man. In other words, God made man to be His friend. I do not know how you feel about it. God made you to be His friend. An intimate and bosom friend. May the soul of Enoch be blessed wherever he is; may the soul of Noah be blessed wherever he is; so also the soul of Abraham. These were men who walked with God. They had fellowship with God. They held caucus with God because they were the friends of God. My friend, do you not like to be the friend of God? When you are a friend to somebody, not just a friend, but, an intimate friend, a friend indeed, I tell you, provided the friend is not telling you to commit sin, no matter your decision, when that friend comes and says: my friend why have you done this? I tell you that you will change your mind or else that friend is no friend. I cannot go to my friend and tell my friend to stop doing something which is not sinful and he disregards me, and I say he is my friend, No. If you are my friend, you will listen to me and if I am your friend I will listen to you. I tell you that the man that God made was a real friend to God, because, in the cool of the day, God would just come down into the garden where He placed man and He would visit man and they would have fellowship. Oh! may God restore the Garden of Eden. That veritable paradise on earth which we lost, may God restore it. If the kingdom of God begins in your heart today you will know what it is to be a friend of God.

In Gen 1:31-" And God saw everything that he had made, and , behold, it was good."

God made everything good. For the Lord doeth all things well. As for God, He doeth all things well. You can surrender everything. You can leave everything to God. You can let your will be lost and let God's will be done because He doeth all things well. God is the best Quality Controller. He is the best Artist, He is the best Manufacturer. He is the creator. After all He did, He carried out a quality test and He certified His product good, perfect, not a factory second. Why? Because God loves man. He decided to give man the best. Not an inferior quality. That is what God gave man because man was God's friend, because man should be of a reasonable status to be able to fellowship with God. You know if you say you have a friend and that your friend is very wretched, and you are very rich; if that your friend remains wretched, you are not a good man. If that person is your friend really, you will lift him up definitely because, you, being a rich man cannot go into too humble a place. You will lift him up so that your relationship will be good and suitable. You cannot just leave him on the ground. You have to lift him up. That is exactly what God did for man. God made man out of the dust of the earth. After He made man, man was just like that, lifeless but only made in the image of God. Then God condescended and breathed the breath of life into man. He gave part of His life. God is the life giver. He gave part of His life into man and man became a living soul, and became honourable. Glory be to God; just because God wanted to lift man up to a standard so that he can fellowship with God. To whom much is given, much is expected.

Gen 2:9,16,17-"And out the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."

There was the tree of life in the Garden of Eden and there was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God did not command Adam not to eat of the tree of life, but He told him not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Satan came.

Gen 3:1-"Now the Serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?"

It is a terrible thing to enter into discussion with Satan. People say that if you want to eat with Satan you should have a long spoon, but, I advise you my brothers and sisters, do not eat with Satan at all. Satan is too clever. He is too clever, so we must listen only to God. We must listen only to God. Say no to Satan. Do not listen to Satan. Do not believe him. He is a liar and the father of lies. Look at what he did to our first parents.

Gen 3:4-6" And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat and gave also to her husband and he did eat."

Satan is too clever. He beguiled our first parents and they obeyed. The knowledge that our mother Eve wanted to get, she lost it. She only knew evil through the loss of good. We lost a good thing in the garden of Eden and a bad thing became our lot.

Gen 3:7-9-" And the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked: and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. And the Lord called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?"

If you have lost your first love, I hope you can hear the voice of God calling you saying where art thou? It is not that God did not know where they were, but God was only trying to turn their eyes to their very hearts. He was only giving them a chance to repent. Well, they made excuses instead of repenting and judgement was pronounced. But even in judgement, God showed mercy. It is not a woeful story throughout. There is a beam of light in that judgement.

In Gen 3:15 God declared that "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman and between thy seed and her seed; he shall bruise thy head and thou shalt bruise his heel."

Jer 2:9-13-" Wherefore I will yet plead with you, saith the Lord, and with your children's children will I plead. For pass over the isles of Chittim and see; and send unto Kedar, and consider diligently, and see if there be such a thing. Hath any nation changed their gods, which are yet no gods? But my people have changed their glory for that which doth not profit. Be astonished, o ye heavens, at this, and be horribly afraid, be ye very desolate, saith the Lord. For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water."

We have considered how God honoured man. And I tell you that it is not different from what God has done for us in our day. God saw us in the wilderness as it were. In the wilderness of woe. He saw us in the miry clay and He put out His hand, that is our Saviour Jesus Christ, and said, my friend take my hand, and He pulled us out. He washed us clean and gave us new life. Old things passed away and all things became new. Oh, we were bubbling with joy and see how zealous we were. How enthusiastic we prosecuted the job of God. But today where is that enthusiasm, where is that zeal? Where is that first love? Can you not remember how it was with you when you first met the Lord? Was God not walking with you virtually as He was walking with our first parents in the Garden of Eden? But when you decided to take the love of God, the mercy of God and the grace of God for granted and you did that which God hated, did He not turn His back to you? And instead of going back to the first love you now go to make broken cisterns that can hold no water. What a terrible evil. It is only Jesus that can give you the spring of living waters. And He will make it to spring from deep within you unto life eternal. My friend, remember how it used to be with you. I tell you camp-meeting will be no camp-meeting if the noise of prayers cannot be heard as the sound of many waters. Camp-meeting will be no camp-meeting if our joy will not bubble with the joy of Heaven; if that heavenly orchestra will not be playing the heavenly symphony in our hearts. Camp-meeting will be no camp-meeting. It is a time of spiritual revival. It is a time of spiritual rejuvenation. But I tell you that because you turned your back against God and you made for yourself cisterns, broken cisterns that can hold no water, God has turned His back against you and it seems as if He is not hearing your prayers. God has not changed. His ears are not blocked.

Isaiah 59-1-4 " Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that he cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated between you

and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear. For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness. None calleth for justice, nor any pleadeth for truth: they trust in vanity, and speak lies; they conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity."

Matthew 3:1,2-"In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, And saying (you can put there instead of "in those days", put, in this new millenium camp-meeting came Paul Akazue preaching in the great Tabernacle and saying), **Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."**

Repent. And God is calling on you. He said "Come now and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If you be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land." Come in repentance. He will give you your heritage again. Receive your heritage again. God has given you another chance. Repent! Repent for the kingdom of God is at hand.