Sunday School Lesson

For Sunday July 1

By Dr. Paul Caudill

Topic: "God's Joy In Creation"
Bible Material: Genesis 1 and 2

For the next three months the general theme of our lessons will be "Studies in Genesis." During that time one will have excellent opportunity to become better acquainted with many of the basic truths that are vital to our faith.

The book of Genesis logically falls into two divisions. In the first (chapters 1 to 11) we have a picturesque account of creation and of God's dealings with man from Adam to Abraham. In the latter (chapters 12 to 50) we behold the call of Abraham, who is to become, through his family and through those who are to come after him, a blessing to all mankind, for it is of his lineage there is to come eventually a Saviour, Jesus Christ the Lord.

Let those who anticipate following this lesson series begin now to read afresh the entire book of Genesis. Some portion of it should be read each day in private devotion, giving special emphasis of course to the portions included in each lesson.

The First Cause

What ever else the book of Genesis teaches, it makes one thing crystal clear: namely, that back of creation is a great First Cause, a holy, sovereign God. "In the beginning God . . . ." we read in the very first line of the Scriptures (Gen. 1:1). And then repeatedly one reads, as he views the vast panorama of divine creative activity, "And God said . . . . And God said . . . . And God said . . . . And God said . . . . And God said" until, lo, all the mighty works of creation have found their place on the earth.

God Almighty, by his own words flung our world into existence and peopled it with the beings of his choice. It was not an accident, our world. It came into being for the simple reason that back of it all there was a supreme Power who had residing in himself the powers of creation. It was his creative mind, and will, and power, that brought order and beauty out of the chaotic waste and void that existed before "the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters."

The Scriptures tell us that God created "the heaven and the earth." He was the great First Cause, the Originating Force. The word "create" as here used implies that God brought into being elements without the use of preexisting materials (see vv.1,21, 27). He is not merely reshaping materials that already existed in other forms—it is not a matter of merely remolding. He is represented as "creating" the world of matter, the world of life on the animal level, and life on the human or spiritual level.

In the words of the writer to the Hebrews we are to understand "that the words were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear" (Heb. 11:3). The world has drifted far away from this basic conception of the origin of things. We have all but forgotten how the world came into being, and for that matter whose it is. If people as a whole, and thereby nations, could but understand that our world is God's by virtue of creation, and that it is thereby sacred—every inch of soil, and every inhabitant among the sons of men—surely we would not find it so difficult to get along together as we now find it.

The Beauties Of Nature

In the creation of the natural world, God flooded the earth with a galaxy of radiant beauty. Who is there that has walked out into the cool woodlands in early spring and beheld the glory of the wild flowers that appear in riotous profusion, or sauntered alongside the waving fields of golden grain at harvest time, or stood and looked upon the variegated hues of autumn without thanking God for the hallowed beauty of nature? The story of his creative activity as he brought into being the beauties of nature will ever challenge the appreciation of the believer's heart.

First, there came at his word—light. "And God said, Let there be light: and there was light." It was fitting that light should come first, for we are told that in the beginning "darkness was upon the face of the deep." This took place on the first day.

How long this day was we shall not attempt to say. As Dr. Sampey has well stated, "The earth, on which we live, is probably much older than we ever imagined it was in our childhood. God takes time to accomplish His work. One day is with the Lord as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day. God is not in a hurry . . . . In the language of the Bible the word day often refers to a period of indefinite length."

Next came the creation of air and water. "And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." One needs only to think of his daily needs to realize the goodness of God in giving us the "air" (firmament) and water." This took place on the second day and made possible the habitation of the earth.

On the third day, God gathered together the waters "unto one place" and caused "dry land" to appear. He resolved the land and the sea into form and brought into being plants: "herbs yielding seed after their kind, and trees bearing fruit, wherein is the seed thereof, after their kind." Hence, the delicate pink of the apple blossoms, and the sweet-scented blossoms of the plum tree all come from him. They are the words of his creation—all of them!

On the fourth day we have the creation of lights. "And God said, Let there be lights in the firmaments of heaven to divide the day from the night: and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days and years." Here we have the sun and the moon,precious emblems of his love, and set forever in the heavens to bless us with light. With the psalmist let us proclaim, "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament showeth his handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, And night unto night showeth knowledge" (Psalm 19:-1,f).

The Animal World

Following the creation of lights we have the creation of the animal world. God brings into being fish and fowls and land animals. First God creates the lower animals, those inhabiting the water: "And God said, Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven." Following this, God created the land animals, "living creatures after their kind, cattle and creeping things, and beasts of the earth."

The Creation Of Man

It is in the creation of man, however, that God reaches the climax of his creative activity, for in man he left the stamp of his own image: "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 birds of the heavens, and over the cattle, and over all the earth. and over every creeping thing that creepeth up on the earth." What a heritage—dominion over all the rest of God's created beings on the earth! Hence, in the creation of man, God gave to the world an intelligent, rational being, one capable of feeling, and possessing the glorious faculties of thought—verily "a living soul." To man, along with his companion and helpmate, God gave the solemn command to "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth," and reminded him that he had been endowed with a stewardship which gave him dominion over all other creatures that God had made.

A "Good" Work

One expression that occurs over and again in the opening chapter of Genesis ought not to be overlooked in the study of this lesson. It is the expression, "And God saw that it was good" (See vv. 4,10,12,18,21,25,31). God's handiwork in every phase of his creative activity was good. That is to say, it was "choice," pleasing," "delightful." The word "good" as used here stands for the old Hebrew word tov which always implies excellency. There was nothing half-way about the handiwork of God. His work was good.

—V—

Northern Ireland farmers have raised over $400,000 for the Red Cross.

—V—

North Carolina farmers are losing 60 million dollars a year because of plant diseases, many of which can be prevented.

WE LIGHTEN YOUR TASK

FUNERAL SERVICES

Reins-Sturdivant
North Wilkesboro, N. C.

Ration By Mail To Save Much Time

Housewives who apply for their gasoline, fuel oil, sugar, and other rations by mail will receive prompt service from the War Price and Rationing Board, Rationing Officials said today.

It is estimated that ten applications received through the mail can be processed in the time it takes to process one application made in person, they point out.

By sending a penny postcard to the War Price and Rationing Board, applicants will save time, effort, shoe leather, and tires.

Jap's Wrist Watch Taken As Souvenir

Guam.—This is the story of a veteran American battleship and the wrist watch of a Jap suicide flier.

The ancient battlewagon, whose name cannot be revealed, is one of those war vessels which were renovated after Pearl Harbor—one of those weatherbeaten oldtimers which are doing such an excellent job against the enemy.

The wrist watch is a souvenir of battle. It landed on the deck of the warship along with other small pieces of Japanese property plane and persons, which showered down in a violent storm of battle smoke and spray.

That shower was just an incident in four terrific minutes in which the oldtimer shot down five Kamikaze planes.

The wearer of the wrist watch piloted the fifth enemy plane. Four other suicide aircraft already had been brought down by antiaircraft fire—the fourth plane disintergrating in flame and smoke.

Then the fifth plane—the one whose pilot wore the wrist watch—came tearing through the smoke, guns blazing.

When the suicide craft was only two hundred and fifty or three hundred yards away, every twenty-millimeter gun on the old battlewagon cut loose against it. As one of the gunners later told Associated Press correspondent Robbin Coons, "We kept firing, all the way in—and it crashed."

But it was a close call for the aged warship. The crash and explosion of the falling plane sent water flying all over the vessel, over its superstructure. It shook the old wagon. It knocked men around. It sent the enemy pilot's wrist watch flying on deck. But the battleship and all its crew were intact.

The crew won the praise of the ship's air defense officer, Lieutenant commander Jack Bishop, whose mother lives in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Says Bishop, "Those boys learned their stuff and they carried it out under fire."

That's the story of the Jap wrist watch—just an incident in the day of an old battlewagon that still fights with the zest of youth.

—V—

Processing to Protect Vehicles From Spray

The 14th U. S. Army Port, Southampton, England.—A processing area for making trucks and other Army vehicles immune to the corrosion caused by sea air has been set up at this port by a group of U. S. Army Ordnancemen.

Among the men who laid out and built the processing area is Carl A. Shumate.

Large ramps have been built to accomodate the vehicles as they go through the various steps in the process on a production-line basis. The process begins with steam cleaning and when the vehicles leave the final ramp they are ready to withstand the rigors of a long ocean voyage.

Second Lieutenant Stephen S. Craig in charge of the Ordnance crew, pointed out the process is "like sealing a vehicle in a waterproof package and still leaving it mobile."

The vehicles can be de-processed aboard ship in only a fraction of the time it requires to process them, and can be driven from the vessel under their own power.

Sam P. Mitchell
Civil Engineer
CITY AND FARM SURVEYS
PROPERTY PLATS
Office 2nd Floor Bank of North Wilkesboro Building
Office Phone 227
Residence 566

Buy More Bonds!

Feels Better Than In Years; Thanks Retonga

Noted Medicine Gave Her One of Happiest Surprises of Her Life, States Mrs. Williamson. Enjoys Every Meal Now; Sleeps Fine.

"If everyone knew the true merit of Retonga, the Company could not make it fast enough", declares Mrs. Zillia Williamson of Route 2, Box 221, Wilson, N. C., in praising this noted herbal stomachic and Bitamin B-1 medicine.

"For about two years I felt so rundown and weak that I could take little interest in anything else", continued Mrs. Williamson. I suffered so much distress from indigestion that I did not dare eat anything rich or heavy and I got to where I did not want to eat anything at all. I felt restless, I found it hard to concentrate on my business affairs, and I had little energy. Sluggish elimination kept me taking laxatives all the time. I just seemed to be in a rut and could find nothing to help me out of it.

"Retonga gave me such grand relief that I now eat three good meals a day, that exhausted, restless feeling is relieved, and I now feel good every day. The sluggish elimination is relieved. I sleep soundly and I feel stronger than in ten years. Retonga is the grandest medicine I ever used in all my life".

Such grateful evidence can leave no doubt of the great worth Mrs. Williamson found in Retonga.

Retonga is intended to relieve distress due to Vitamin B-1 deficiency, constipation, insufficient flow of digestive juices in the stomach, and loss of appetite. Retonga may be obtained in North Wilkesboro at HORTON'S Drug Store.—Adv.

Oscar Palmer Service Station
LOCATED ON
Highway 16
SELLS
Dependable
ESSO
Products
Stop In to See Us the Next Time You're Traveling Between North Wilkesboro and Jefferson.

You Are Cordially Invited TO DRIVE INTO THE TEXTILE SERVICE STATION FOR Dependable Esso Service
LOCATED NEAR
WILKES HOSIERY MILLS

• ALLEN •
MONDAY and TUESDAY

Now Showing—

• LAST-MINUTE WAR NEWS DAILY •

WILLIAMS
• MOTOR CO. •
T. H. Williams, Manager
BEAR
Frame Service
GOOD USED CARS, TRUCKS, AND TRACTORS
Easy Terms
• Complete •
Body Rebuilding
Electric and Acetylene Welding
Will Pay Cash for Late Model Wrecked Cars and Trucks
'Phone 334-J

Malaria
CHECKED IN 7 DAYS WITH
666
Liquid For MALARIAL SYMPTOMS
Take Only As Directed

LOVELIER Permanents
For a softer, more beautiful COLD WAVE make your next appointment with
IDEAL
Over Jean's Dress Shop
TELEPHONE 46

WILL U. WORRY SAYS...

"You'd better get scared!"

"That's right... scared about whether your car will *really see* you through. Already, it's probably the *oldest* car you ever owned... with a long way *still* to go...

"*And summer's extra hard on cars.* Heat increases friction wear on moving parts. Batteries often run dry. Tires take a terrible beating...

"So get a little scared... and see your Esso Dealer right now. Let him put in fresh summer-grade Esso Motor Oil. Let him give you correct *summer-protective* lubrication. Let him check your battery and tires. *Don't risk wear that needn't happen.* Protect yourself today..."

Be safe, not sorry... see your Esso Dealer and SAVE THAT CAR!

Esso DEALER
care saves wear

STANDARD OIL COMPANY OF NEW JERSEY

Get Complete Esso Service At Our Station!
MINTON'S ESSO SERVICE
Near Postoffice Wilkesboro, N. C.
Washing • Polishing • Lubrication
TIRE REPAIRING TIRE RECAPPING

Drive In For a Complete Spring Check-Up
LOVETTE - WALKER ESSO SERVICE
Opposite City Hall North Wilkesboro, N. C.
Washing • Polishing • Lubrication
TIRE REPAIRING ATLAS BATTERIES