

“In The Beginning...”

**“The Power of God’s Word”
Gen. 1-2**

Eric Patterson

I. THE POWER OF GOD'S WORD – CREATION

- A. Let's begin by looking at the historical account of creation in Genesis 1.
- B. There are two distinct impressions this text leaves.
 - 1) God created the world by the power of His word; God literally spoke the universe into existence.
 - 2) God created the world in six days.
- C. Genesis is a literal account. (Heb. 11:3; 2 Pet. 3:4-7; Ps. 33:6-9; Matt. 19:4-5; Ex. 20:11)
- D. Once we compromise the obvious meaning of Scripture because it doesn't fit prevailing ideas, we undermine the power of God's word.
 - 1) We must mold our ideas to fit Scripture, not adjust Scripture to fit our ideas.
 - 2) God's word has enduring power. (Ps. 119:89-96; 1 Pet. 1:23-25)

II. THE POWER OF GOD'S WORD – SALVATION

- A. The Gospel, the message of the cross, is God's power to save. (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 1:16)
- B. God created us as new creatures with His word; if we receive that word, it is able to save our souls. (Jas. 1:18-21)
- C. If we ignore God's word, it doesn't lose its power; but we do not get the advantage of its saving power. (2 Chron. 33:10; 2 Kin. 23:6-16)

III. THE POWER OF GOD'S WORD – PRODUCING FAITH

- A. God's word is what produces faith in those who are saved. (Rom. 10:17)
- B. Rahab was saved because she heard God's word, the mighty works of God, and believed. (Josh. 2:9-11)
- C. As Jesus taught, many believed and were made free. (John 8:30-36)

IV. THE POWER OF GOD'S WORD – COMPLETE, UNFAILING AND EFFECTIVE POWER

- A. No word of God will be void of power (Luke 1:37)
- B. God's word will accomplish His purpose (Is. 55:10-11)
- C. God's word will not fail. (Josh 21:45; 1 Kin. 8:56; 1 Kin. 13:1-2, 31-31 -> 2 Kin. 23:15-18, etc.)

V. THE POWER OF GOD'S WORD – PRESERVATION HEB. 1:3 MATT 4:4

- A. God's word is able to sustain our very lives. (Matt. 4:4)
 - 1) Jesus viewed Scripture as essential for life, quoting Scripture at His temptation and throughout His life. (John 6:45, etc.)
 - 2) Jesus suggested that the way to avoid error was to know Scripture; over and over He says, "Have you not read?" Matt. 9:13; 21:15-16; 22:29)
- B. God's word, by producing faith, has the power to keep one saved. (1 Pet. 1:5)
 - 1) This is accomplished by the power to reveal the heart. (Heb. 4:12)
 - 2) The word reveals the type of person we are. (James 1:22-25)
- C. God's word holds the creation together until the end. (Heb. 1:3; 2 Pet. 3:5-7, 10)

VI. THE POWER OF GOD'S WORD – RESURRECTION JOHN 11; JOHN 5:28-29

- A. Jesus simply says, "Lazarus, come forth." (John 11:43)
- B. Jesus resurrection was brought about by the word of God. (1 Cor. 15:4; Ps. 16:9-10; Acts 2:25)
- C. The time is coming when all who are in the grave will hear God's voice and rise from the dead. (John 5:28-29)

VII. THE POWER OF GOD'S WORD – WHAT IS GOD'S WORD?

- A. God's word is spoken by God, e.g. creation, the Ten Commandments, etc.
- B. God's word is revealed to prophets who speak. (2 Chron. 33:10; 2 Kin. 21:9-10; 2 Sam. 23:2; Num 22-24)
- C. God's word is written as Scripture for us. (Rom. 9:17 -> Ex. 9:16; Gal. 3:8 -> Gen. 12:1-3; Matt. 19:4 -> Gen. 2:24)
- D. We are expected to heed that which is written; to reject that is to reject the power of God. (Luke 16:29-31)