

Title

Genesis: Key to Evangelism Today

Dr. Terry Mortenson, Answers in Genesis
Used and Adapted with Permission

Topic: Evangelism
Subject: How do you share Christ to those who are not like you?
Complement: Go back to Genesis when you share the gospel.
Purpose: The listeners will share the gospel based on Genesis.
Meditation: Romans 1:16-17
Reading: Acts 17:16-34
Song: Behold the Lamb

Introduction

1. Interest: We wrongly assume people understand us when we talk.

- a) Afternoon tea means different things to British and Americans.
- b) We also can seek to fulfill Christ's Great Commission but not understand our times.
- c) The gospel is Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.
- d) Michael Denton notes that people are skeptical of this message.

(1) He wrote in 1985, "Today it is perhaps the Darwinian view of nature more than any other that is responsible for the agnostic and skeptical outlook of the twentieth century."

(2) Denton is medical doctor and PhD molecular biologist.

(3) At the time of his book, he was an agnostic regarding the existence of God.

(4) He raises an interesting question...

2. Need: How are you doing at sharing the gospel with others?

- a) Do you understand your times?
- b) Do you know how to communicate to people unlike you?

3. Subject: How do you share Christ to those who are not like you? How do you give the gospel to people with different assumptions than you?

4. Background: Dr. Terry Mortenson of Answers in Genesis has graciously allowed me to adapt and share his talk today.

5. Preview: Today we will see how to talk to different types of people about Christ. It relates to their foundations. We will see these three truths:

- a) The gospel foundation
- b) How unbelievers in the NT era viewed the gospel
- c) How we can learn from them to share the message today

(First, what is the ultimate foundation of the gospel?)

MP I.

The foundation of the gospel is Genesis.

| |
|---------------------------|
| Tea (4 slides) |
| Mt 28/1 Chr (2 slides) |
| Gospel (2 slides) |
| Denton |

• Subject

AiG

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| MP Restated | [Christ's death, burial, and resurrection is based on the first three chapters of the Bible.] |
| 1 Cor 15 | A. Christ's death is based in Genesis. |
| Gen 3:14-15 | 1. Jesus is Eve's descendant who will conquer Satan (Gen. 3:15). |
| Sin/Death (5 slides) | 2. Sin explains death in Genesis 3 (1 John 3:4; Rom. 5:12). |
| Last Adam | 3. Jesus—the "last Adam" (1 Cor. 15:45)—shows there was a first Adam. |
| Jesus OT (2 slides) | B. Jesus held to the literal truth of the OT. |
| Timeline | 1. Jesus showed that man as old as the whole creation (Mark 10:6). |
| Our view? (2 slides) | 2. If Jesus is our Lord, can we have a different view of the age of the earth than He had (John 5:45-47)? |
| The Gospel | C. The gospel gives power and hope based on Genesis. |
| 7 Cs | 1. Christ's crucifixion leads us to creation's consummation. |
| | 2. The 7 Cs of history stem from creation to confusion (Gen. 1–11). |

MPI (We all have that same foundation of truth in the Bible, but do we all know about it? No...)

MP II. **Non-Christians in the NT era saw origins differently.**
[Unbelievers 2000 years ago didn't have the same view of their beginnings.]

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| 1 Cor. 1:23 | A. Jews in Paul's day <u>were prepared</u> for the gospel in Genesis. |
| Stumble Cartoon | 1. Jews considered the cross a <i>stumbling block</i> (1 Cor. 1:21a). |
| Acts 2 (3 slides) | a) Peter preached the cross and 3000 trusted Christ. |
| Paul (3 slides) | b) Paul always shared with the Jews first. |
| | 2. Jews <i>had</i> the OT foundation in creation. |

Greeks B. Greeks in Paul's day needed Genesis as their foundation.

1. Greeks considered the cross *foolishness* (1 Cor. 1:21b).

Acts 17 (8 slides) 2. Greeks *needed* the OT foundation in creation (Acts 17).

MPI (So Genesis gives the foundation of the gospel—but not everyone has that foundation. What, then, are the implications for us in terms of how we share the gospel?)

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| MP III. | Adapt your approach to suit your <u>audience</u>. |
| Sign/Sand (2 slides) | [Like the apostles, we shouldn't use a one-size-fits-all strategy to share Christ.] [Don't try to offend people—but don't put your head in the sand either and not say anything at all!] |
| Acts 17 (5 slides) | A. Paul laid the foundation in creation for Greeks (Acts 17). |
| Huxley (7 slides) | B. Even atheists like Thomas Huxley see the importance of Genesis. |
| Mocking (8 slides) | C. Secular education mocks the gospel as foolishness. |
| Evangelism (8 slides) | D. We must sow the seed of the gospel wisely. |

1. Let's plant seeds where people are receptive.
2. Let's also plow unplowed ground in creation evangelism.

Subj (So how do you share Christ to those who are not like you? How do you give the gospel to people with different assumptions than you?)

Conclusion

MI

1. Go back to Genesis when you share the gospel (MI).
 - a) Tell others that God made the world perfect—but he gave us a choice whether to obey Him.
 - b) Make sure people understand sin before you tell them there is a Savior.

MPI

- a) The foundation of the gospel is Genesis.

MPII

- b) Non-Christians in the NT era saw origins differently.

MPIII

- c) Adapt your approach to suit your audience.

3. So how will you respond to these key truths (exhortation)?

Rev 14

- a) Worship God alone (Rev. 14:6-7).

Nail on
Door

- b) Like Martin Luther who nailed his 95 theses to the wall of the Church of Wittenberg in 1517 upholding Scripture against the teachings of his day, so we must do the same today in a different arena. Nail Genesis 1–11 on the door of your heart.

Whom?

- c) Share the message of Genesis—whom do you need to share Genesis with? Maybe it's time to adapt your approach to go back to the beginning.

Prayer

4. Prayer

Preliminary Questions

Verses

Questions

Context: What did the author record just prior to this passage?

1.

Purpose: Why is this passage in the Bible?

1.

Background: What historical context helps us understand this passage?

1.

Questions

1.

Tentative Subject/Complement Statements

Text

Possible Illustrations

1. Text

Possible Applications

1. Text

Original Answers in Genesis Notes

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Exegetical Outline (Steps 2-3)

Exegetical Idea:

I.

A.

B.

II.

A.

B.

III.

A.

B.

Purpose or Desired Listener Response (Step 4)

The listeners will share the gospel based on Genesis

Homiletical Outline (Cyclical inductive form)

Introduction

1. Interest: We wrongly assume people understand us when we talk.
2. Need: How are you doing at sharing the gospel with others?
 - a) Do you understand your times?
 - b) Do you know how to communicate to people unlike you?
3. Subject: How do you share Christ to those who are not like you? How do you give the gospel to people with different assumptions than you?
4. Background: Dr. Terry Mortenson of Answers in Genesis has graciously allowed me to adapt and share his talk today.
5. Preview: Today we will see how to talk to different types of people about Christ. It relates to their foundations. We will see these three truths:
 - a) The gospel foundation
 - b) How unbelievers in the NT era viewed the gospel
 - c) How we can learn from them to share the message today

(First, what is the ultimate foundation of the gospel?)

I. The foundation of the gospel is Genesis.**A.** Christ's death is based in Genesis.

1. Jesus is Eve's descendant who will conquer Satan (Gen. 3:15).
2. Sin explains death in Genesis 3 (1 John 3:4; Rom. 5:12).
3. Jesus—the "last Adam" (1 Cor. 15:45)—shows there was a first Adam.

B. Jesus held to the literal truth of the OT.

1. Jesus showed that man as old as the whole creation (Mark 10:6).
2. If Jesus is our Lord, can we have a different view of the age of the earth than He had (John 5:45-47)?

C. The gospel gives power and hope based on Genesis.

1. Christ's crucifixion leads us to creation's consummation.
2. The 7 Cs of history stem from creation to confusion (Gen. 1–11).

(We all have that same foundation of truth in the Bible, but do we all know about it? No...)

II. Non-Christians in the NT era saw origins differently.**A.** Jews in Paul's day were prepared for the gospel in Genesis.

1. Jews considered the cross a *stumbling block* (1 Cor. 1:21a).
2. Jews *had* the OT foundation in creation.

B. Greeks in Paul's day needed Genesis as their foundation.

1. Greeks considered the cross *foolishness* (1 Cor. 1:21b).
2. Greeks *needed* the OT foundation in creation (Acts 17).

III. Adapt your approach to suit your audience.**A.** Paul laid the foundation in creation for Greeks (Acts 17).**B.** Even atheists like Thomas Huxley see the importance of Genesis.**C.** Secular education mocks the gospel as foolishness.**D.** We must sow the seed of the gospel wisely.

1. Let's plant seeds where people are receptive.
2. Let's also plow unplowed ground in creation evangelism.

(So how do you share Christ to those who are not like you? How do you give the gospel to people with different assumptions than you?)

Conclusion

1. Go back to Genesis when you share the gospel (MI).

2. Today we have seen three key truths (MPs).
3. So how will you respond to these key truths (exhortation)?
 - a) Worship God alone (Rev. 14:6-7).
 - b) Nail Genesis 1–11 on the door of your heart.
 - c) Share the message of Genesis.
4. Prayer



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Rick Griffith

6 September 2015

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Introduction

1. We wrongly assume people understand us when we talk.
2. How are you doing at sharing the gospel with others?
 - a) Do you understand your times?
 - b) Do you know how to communicate to people unlike you?
3. How do you share Christ to those who are _____ like you?

I. The foundation of the gospel is _____.

A. Christ's death is based in Genesis.

1. Jesus is Eve's descendant who will conquer Satan (Gen. 3:15).
2. Sin explains death in Genesis 3 (1 John 3:4; Rom. 5:12).
3. Jesus—the "last Adam" (1 Cor. 15:45)—shows there was a first Adam.

B. Jesus held to the literal truth of the OT.

1. Jesus showed that man as old as the whole creation (Mark 10:6).
2. If Jesus is our Lord, can we have a different view of the age of the earth than He had (John 5:45-47)?

C. The gospel gives power and hope based on Genesis.

1. Christ's crucifixion leads us to creation's consummation.
2. The 7 Cs of history stem from creation to confusion (Gen. 1–11).

(We all have that same foundation of truth in the Bible, but do we all know about it? No...)

II. Non-Christians in the NT era saw _____ differently.

A. **Jews** in Paul's day were prepared for the gospel in Genesis.

1. Jews considered the cross a *stumbling block* (1 Cor. 1:21a).
2. Jews *had* the OT foundation in creation.

B. **Greeks** in Paul's day needed Genesis as their foundation.

1. Greeks considered the cross *foolishness* (1 Cor. 1:21b).
2. Greeks *needed* the OT foundation in creation (Acts 17).

III. Adapt your approach to suit your _____.

A. Paul laid the foundation in creation for Greeks (Acts 17).

B. Even atheists like Thomas Huxley see the importance of Genesis.

C. Secular education mocks the gospel as foolishness.

D. We must sow the seed of the gospel wisely.

1. Let's plant seeds where people are receptive.
2. Let's also plow unplowed ground in creation evangelism.

(So how do you share Christ to those who are not like you? How do you give the gospel to people with different assumptions than you?)

Conclusion

1. Go back to _____ when you share the gospel (Main Idea).
2. So how will you respond to these key truths (exhortation)?
 - a) Worship God alone (Rev. 14:6-7).
 - b) Nail Genesis 1–11 on the door of your heart.
 - c) Share the message of Genesis.