

IN THE BEGINNING: GENESIS 1

1. The God of Creation – Genesis 1:1

Introduction

- risks for preachers,
- yet essential, foundational truths the church and world must hear

1. The Place of Genesis

Where?

- The beginning of the story of the cosmos, humanity and God's Israel

How?

- Prehistory (1-11) & Patriarchal history (12-50)
- Prologue (1:1-2:3) & 10 Books of beginnings and unfoldings – 'generations' (2:4ff)

By Whom?

- Moses – the educated prince of Egypt become *the* prophet of the LORD

For Whom?

- Israel, to teach the truth about the one true God, refuting all false ideologies

What?

- A word from God, about God: the beginning of the gospel of the Kingdom of God

2. The Purpose of Genesis

The 'pre-history' answers vital questions of human **origins, purpose, identity**

Approaching the Text

"Moses wrote in a **popular** style things which, without instruction, **all ordinary persons**, endowed with common-sense, are able to understand."¹

- Written not for experts, but for everyone

Genesis and Science – beyond what & how, to why & who: The transcendent God

Genesis and History – real, but unique history: covenant history

3. The Person of Genesis

- Powerful **polemic** about the uniqueness of the LORD, the one true God

A world not defined by chance

A world not defined by sex

A world not defined by luck

4. The *real* Point of Genesis

"The first chapter of Genesis *cut through the murk of ancient mythology with a shaft of light*"²

- A world defined by a Sovereign God, whose creation is for a glorious purpose

Great comfort

Great challenge.

¹ John Calvin, *Genesis* (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 1992), Vol 1:86-87.

² Herman Wouk, *This is my God* (London: Collins, 1973), 52-3.