

CHAPEL, MARCH 31, 1932

Scripture reading: 19 verses First Chapter Book of Genesis

I hope you had a very, very pleasant Easter vacation, and I am sure you are glad to get back and undertake the remaining part of this quarter's work.

I read in your hearing this morning a part of the First Chapter of Genesis. You know, I am following the Sunday School lessons in my reading. There are one or two things in this lesson I want to call to your attention. You notice repeatedly the statement "and God saw that it was good." The creation made by Jehovah is good. There isn't any question about that, and I am emphasizing that this morning because it took me a long, long time to get over some early teaching that I had; namely, that the dominant thing on this earth is sin. That isn't true. Sin comes in ~~way~~ after the first part of the creation. Sin comes in through man, not through God, or, I will put it this way: man is the instrument that brings it about. God's creation is good, and if we as human beings know how to use it, if we have knowledge,--and the first great sin that is recorded in the Bible was brought about because of ignorance-- if we know and live in keeping with our knowledge there isn't any reason for the multitude of sins that human beings commit. Of course we must have the spirit of Jehovah. God's creation is good.

The other thing I want to touch on deals with first, second, third, fourth, and so on "days" of the creation. We measure days now by the revolution of the earth and call a period of twenty-four hours a day. Is that what Jehovah meant when he said days? I don't think so. I don't think a day in this first chapter of Genesis is a period of twenty-four hours. A thousand years with Jehovah is as yesterday when it is passed. Day simply means period of time and there is every reason to think that is what Jehovah meant. We certainly didn't have a period of twenty-four hours as a day. If we think of day there as meaning a period of time the whole puzzle of this chapter of Genesis is easily solved. All science shows that these period came along just as outlined

but doesn't show that they took place in twenty-four hours. You know the words of all languages change in meaning and sometimes undergo such a change that they mean diametrically opposite what they meant at other times. "She's a nice girl". That's a compliment. There was a time when that was just about the worst thing that could be said about a girl. The meaning of the word is different now. We have to find what the word meant years and years ago. I think that is one of the reasons we so often misinterpret scripture--don't know what the words meant in the period they are describing. If day meant just a period of time there is nothing there to cause one to lose his faith in what is written. It corresponds with all our study, and I, for one, am firmly of the opinion that day means just a period of time, and not just twenty-four hours.

I hope you will search the scripture. You will find it very helpful to you.