

“The Sabbath (1): The Refreshing ‘Delusion’”

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- Richard Dawkins, *The God Delusion*

- Genesis 1:1—“In the beginning _____ the heavens and the earth.”
 - ◆ One short line that has become the prologue to all divine _____ and the premise for all human _____ .
 - Psalm 33:6, 9
 - Hebrews 11:3
 - ◆ There are only two worldviews when it comes to the origins of this universe:
 - In one worldview random nature rules supreme—_____ — Charles Darwin’s *Origin of the Species* is its most widely circulated advocate—and _____ is its resulting philosophy.
 - In the other worldview (the oldest) the divine Creator rules supreme—_____ — the Holy Scripture is its most widely circulated advocate—and _____ is its resulting philosophy.
 - Genesis 1:1 declares that the worldview of a divine Creator is the _____ authentic expression of reality in this universe.
 - ◆ Norman Gulley: “. . . authentic theological method turns the Cartesian (Descartes) method upside down. Instead of ‘I think, therefore I am’ (Descartes), true theological method says, ‘_____ is, therefore I _____.’ Scripture says, ‘In the beginning God’ (Gen. 1:1; John 1:1). The Bible begins with God, and presents a movement of God to humans, rather than the reverse.” (*Prolegomena* 19)
 - ◆ Genesis 1:5
 - The biblical reckoning of time ever begins with the dark part of the day followed by the light part of the day—evening and then morning.
 - The Hebrew for “day” is *yom*, which when it is attached to a numeral, as it is 150 times in the Old Testament, always (except for Zechariah 14:7) refers to a _____ hour period of time.
 - ◆ Genesis 1:31

- Genesis 2:1-3
 - ◆ Samuel Bacchiochi, *Divine Rest for Human Restlessness* (62, 63):
 - Genesis 1:1 is _____ words in the Hebrew.
 - Genesis 1:2 is two times _____ (14) words.
 - The three nouns in Genesis 1:1 appear in multiples of _____ throughout the Creation account.
 - And the expression “it was good” occurs _____ times with the seventh time, “it was very good.”
 - Genesis 2:2,3 which deals with the “seventh day,” is composed of three sentences, each _____ words long in the Hebrew, with the middle phrase being “the seventh day.”
 - From the beginning of time “seven” has been the expression of _____ and perfection in both biblical and Near Eastern literature.
 - ◆ Which being interpreted means that only through experiencing God’s gift of the seventh day can our humanity find the _____ we’ve been destined for in our Creator.
 - ◆ The Hebrew word for “rest”(used twice in this passage) is *shabath* which is the obvious root for “_____.”

- ◆ M. L. Andreasen: “Had [Genesis 2] merely said that God blessed the Sabbath day, some might think that it referred to any day on which the Sabbath might come, and that if the first day of the week should be chosen as the Sabbath, the blessing would apply to that day. To forestall any such interpretation, God states that He blessed the seventh day, not the first, or the third, or any other day, but the seventh day. Hence the seventh day is a blessed day.” (*The Sabbath* 45)
 - No man or church can transfer the divine gift day to another day.
- ◆ But why the divine gift of the seventh day?
 - It is the most perfect gift that any loving parent can give his or her child—the gift of uninterrupted, unhurried _____ together.
 - In the words of the incarnated Creator himself, “The _____ was made for humankind, and not humankind for the Sabbath” (Mark 2:27 NRSV).
 - For from the very beginning of time the seventh day has been a _____ day from God to the human race.

“The seventh day is like a palace in time with a kingdom for all.”

Abraham Heschel

God, created, revelation, faith, naturalism, atheism, supernaturalism, theism, only, God, think, 24, seven, seven, seven, seven, seven, completeness, completeness, Sabbath, time, Sabbath, gift