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Genesis 1:1-4 – In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. ³ And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴ God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness.

The Bible does not tell you the age of the earth.

God didn't create the earth dark.

God's spoken Word and His creative power spoke the world into existence.

Something happened that caused darkness to fall upon the earth.

Luke 10:18 – Jesus replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven."

<u>Isaiah 14:12-15</u> – How you have fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! ¹³ You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. ¹⁴ I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." ¹⁵ But you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit. ¹⁶ Those who see you stare at you, they ponder your fate: "Is this the man who shook the earth and made kingdoms tremble, ¹⁷ the man who made the world a desert, who overthrew its cities and would not let his captives go home?"

God connects creation to experiencing Him in everyday life!

John 1:1-14 – In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. ⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. ⁸ He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. ⁹ That was the true Light, which gives light to every man coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. ¹¹ He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. ¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name ¹³ who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word

became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

<u>Hebrews 11:3</u> – By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

The "unseen" created the "seen!"

<u>Proverbs 18:21</u> – Death and life are in the power of your words, and they who indulge in it shall eat the fruit of it [for death or life].

Until what God says about you governs your words in everyday life, you will never tap into the creative power of God.

We must learn to agree with God!

The world that was formed by the Word of God is still subject to its power, when spoken in faith from our mouths.

Our yesterdays are fixed and immovable, but our tomorrows are full of the possibilities that the creative power of the Word of God in our mouths can produce.

<u>Psalm 19:14</u> – Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.

<u>Psalm 107:2</u> – Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy.

JUDGES 6-7: The Story of Gideon hiding behind a wine press

- <u>6:1</u> Israel rejects God and is oppressed by the Midianites. They rejected the light and it resulted in darkness.
- 6:6 Israel cries out to God.
- **6:11-16** God calls Gideon & Gideon's Question
 - Judges 6:11-16 The angel of the Lord came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. ¹² When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior." ¹³ "But sir," Gideon replied, "If the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our fathers told us about when they said, 'Did not the Lord bring us up out of Egypt?' But now the Lord has abandoned us and put us into the hand of Midian." ¹⁴ The Lord turned to him and said, "Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?" ¹⁵ "But Lord,"

Gideon asked, "how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family." ¹⁶ The Lord answered, "I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites together."

- 2 Mistakes Gideon Made:
 - He blamed God
 - He asked "why" like it was God's plan and doing
- Gideon provided reasons why God's plan couldn't come to pass:
 - Past disappointments and failed expectations
 - Weak family
 - Weakest in the weak family
 - Feeling abandoned by God
- **6:17-24** Gideon's Offering
 - o Gideon brings an offering of the very thing they were in shortage of!
- **6:25-31** Gideon rejects his father's darkness
 - o Gideon tears down his Father's Altar to Baal
 - He rejected the darkness
- **7:1-8** Gideon's Army reduced from 32,000 to 300
- <u>7:17-18</u> Victory for God & Gideon
 - "Watch me," he told them. "Follow my lead. When I get to the edge of the camp, do exactly as I do. 18 When I and all who are with me blow our trumpets, then from all around the camp blow yours and shout, 'For the Lord and for Gideon."

Together with God the Midianites of your life can be defeated.

When God says you are a mighty man (woman) of valor, then you are!

God spoke His Word and separated the light from the darkness.

We must speak His Word over our lives and the light will be separated from the darkness.