

Forming and Filling (sorting the *tohu* and *bohu*)

Brynmawr Family Church Sermon
Stuart Wheatman, Sunday 25th July 2010

Intro

God's answer to chaos and emptiness in our lives and in His Church

Read Gen 1:1-5

Give simple overview of 6 days of creation- 3 days God divides things, sorts things and brings order from chaos- He *forms* the realms. This is the principle of *forming*. After that there are 3 days where God *fills* each realm- this is the principle of *filling*.

Definition of words

- *Tohu* and *bohu* used in Genesis 1:2 for 'formless and empty'
- Tohu=chaos, formless, confused. Bohu=empty, void, desolate. Tohu and bohu also used in Is 34:11 in judgement of Edom-warning of becoming desert. God's judgment results in returning to chaos and desolation.

1. Forming-

- God brings order out of chaos- tohu=chaos, everything in order- separation of light and dark, day+night-routine, water above and below, dry land and sea. Jesus had habits- He had order and routine- e.g. prayer, thanks at meals etc.
- We need God's revelation to see chaos
- We need God's structures- Babel impressive but not what God wanted, but tabernacle was- built according to pattern- so need revelation
- Godly structures bring freedom not bondage. Numbers full of structure+rotas etc. from God. Methodist revival- 'organised to beat the devil' discipleship, holiness, but also had the power- people falling out of trees under p[ower of God. We trust in God, not the structure or else we become legalistic and obsessional- Heb 11:30-by faith (in God) the people marched around Jericho- the plan would not normally have these results but it happened to be God's plan for that occasion, same with Gideon leading only 300 against thousands- the faith wasn't in the plan but in God, laying on hands, Jesus healing blind man with mud- worked because that was the way God the Father revealed on that occasion.
- Planned action is faith outworking. Faith is activated by deeds

Application

- Our lives- Godly assessment- 'analyze my life' Ps 139:23-24. If in doubt chuck it out. Areas of chaos? Breaking of ungodly habits and development of godly ones. Eating, sleeping, exercise, time-keeping, handling finance, spending, hoarding, tidying, personal hygiene, exercise, enjoying God, worship, Bible, handling our sexuality appropriately, purpose-driven life. Confusion replaced with direction. Bridge over troubled water.
- The Church- outward confession of faith- believe in hearts and confess with lips, water baptism, baptism in the Holy Spirit, development of gifts, sharing the faith, hearing from God, worship, serving, loving, leading, nurturing, passing on the baton.

2. Filling

- Structure without presence=death. About relationship, about presence.
- Bohu=empty

- Birthing- Spirit hovering, RarCaPH=brooding (also Deut 32:11 eagle and same idea Mt 23:37 hen). Dream- Spirit cover us as snow covers the land.
- Filling the realms- sun, moon, stars, birds, fish, animals, mankind.
- We can have all the right structures in place, but if there is no anointing from God, no filling of His Spirit, it is useless. A cup is a wonderful structure, but it was designed for a purpose- to be filled. God wants to fill our containers with His glory. Hab 2:14 say 'The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea'. Glory of God- light came before sun, so the first light must be God's glory. Glory= Hebrew word *Kabod*=weight, heaviness, heavy=dire, massive, honour, riches, (natural glory and supernatural glory) the manifest presence of God- also known as the *shekinah* (literally 'dwelling' from Hebrew verb *shakan* meaning 'to dwell'. *Mishkan*=Hebrew for tabernacle, *Skeinei* in Greek and both come from the word *shekinah*). The 'shekinah' is the means by which God becomes visible- e.g fire (burning bush, Pentecost, Elijah's offering, pillar of fire at night over Israelites), cloud (over the tabernacle), light (seen on Moses' face, seen on Mt. Of transfiguration, referred to by Paul in 2Cor 3:18 and 2Cor 4:6), flesh (Jesus 'tabernacled' amongst us it says in John 1:14 using this same thought of the shekinah).
- Glory of God: fills tabernacle (Ex 33:12-23; Ex 34:29-25); leaves tabernacle because of sin (1Sam 4:21-22-ichabod-Shiloh becomes desolate); David rejoices at return of Ark=return of presence of God; fills temple (2Chron 7:1-3); leaves temple because of sin (Ez 10:18,19; Ez 11:23). Over 400 years of prophetic silence void of the glory of God
- New covenant glory surpasses the old. God's presence returns after 400 years. Holy Spirit comes upon, overshadows Mary (Lk 1:35); Glory of God shines as angels appear to shepherds (Lk 2:9); H.S descends as a dove and remains on Jesus (John 1:32-34) and He begins power ministry. Word became flesh and tabernacled amongst us- we have seen and touched his glory (John 1:14). Transfiguration- (). We are now God's temple where God's Spirit/glory dwells (1Cor 3:16). We have a glory that surpasses what Moses experienced and will not fade (2Cor 3:7-18, 2Cor 4:6).
- We are commanded to be filled (Eph 5:18). God only commands what we can do. It is our responsibility to thirst, ask and expect to receive overflowing outpourings of God's Holy Spirit.

Application

- Cost of presence of God=holiness. Get rid of idols of the heart
- Expectation of manifestation of God's glory- Hab 2:14, age of the Spirit (Joel 2:28- all flesh). Soaking. Get back in the river
- Sensitivity to God's Spirit

Summary

- God wants to bring His order to chaos in our lives and the Church. Let's be obedient to Him and expect Him to show us areas that need to come under His hand.
- God wants to bring His infilling into our lives and His Church. Let's be hungry for the manifestation of His presence and in faith for His Holy Spirit to overflow through us.