

Genesis Ch. 1

INTRODUCTION

Genesis: Greek: origin / beginning.
Hebrew: bereshith; "in the beginning".

- Genesis is the foundational book of the Bible.
- Genesis is foundational to the understanding of the rest of the Bible because it's an outline for the rest of the Bible as a whole.
- Much like a building, if the foundation is unsound, the rest that follows will likewise fall.

Origin of: universe, order and complexity, solar system, atmosphere and hydrosphere, **life**, man, marriage, evil, language, government, culture, nations, religion / relationship with God, and the chosen people.

Author: Inspired word of God, **recorded by Moses**.

2 Timothy 3:16 “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,”

2 Peter 1:20-21 “knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, ²¹for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

- 66 books, 40 authors inspired by God over 1500 years, all saying the same thing! All pointing to Jesus!

Psalm 40:7 “Lo, I come in the volume of the book, it is written of Me.”

[Looking for Jesus!](#)

Hebrews 12:2a “looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith...”

[Jesus said:](#)

Revelation 21:8 “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, says the Lord, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

- We should therefore be able to see Jesus from the beginning of the book, all the way to the end of the book.
- Genesis is the first book of the "Pentateuch": five volume book, the first five books of the Bible. (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy) Same as the Jewish "Torah".
- Most likely written during the 40 years of wondering in the dessert at approximately 1446-1406 B.C.
- **1 Kings 6:1** the 4th year of Solomon's reign over Israel was the same as the 480th year after the Israelites had come out of Egypt. This was recorded at 966 B.C.
- 966 years + 480 years, and they wandered for 40 years.

- Adam lived 930 years. Noah was born in the year 1056, he missed Adam by 126 years, but 7 of the 10 patriarchs / descendents of Adam listed in Genesis Ch. 5 lived at the same time as Noah.
- Noah & Abram were contemporaries, their lives overlapped by 58 years.
- Noah's oldest son, Shem, outlived Abram by 35 years.
- The 1st generation not to have had access to a flood survivor were the 12 sons of Jacob.
- Whether these histories and generations were passed down in written form, or given orally – Moses was actually not very far removed from the original sources.
- The Holy Spirit then sifted through all that information and compiled the book which we now “study – to show ourselves approved unto God, workman that need not be ashamed,” - learning how to – “rightly divide the word of truth.”
- Genesis is a book of relationships highlighting those between:
 1. God and nature
 2. God and man
 3. Man and man
- Genesis and the Bible as a whole are thoroughly monotheistic, taking for granted that there is only one God worthy of the name and opposing the ideas that there are:
 1. many gods: polytheism
 2. no god at all: atheism
 3. everything is divine: pantheism
- The Bible clearly teaches that the one true God is sovereign over all creation and that by divine election he often exercises his unlimited freedom to overturn human customs, traditions, and plans.
- Genesis introduces us to the way in which God initiates and makes covenants with his chosen people, pledging his love and faithfulness to them and calling them to promise theirs to Him.
- Genesis establishes sacrifice as the substitution of life for life (chapter 22).
- Genesis gives us the first hint of God's provision for our redemption from the forces of evil.

Compare Genesis 3:15 to Romans 16:17-20.

Genesis 3:15 "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he will bruise your head and you will bruise his heel." (1st. prophecy)

Romans 16:17-20 “Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. ¹⁸For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple. ¹⁹For your obedience has become known to all. Therefore I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil. ²⁰And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with You. Amen.

- Genesis contains the oldest and most profound example / definition of faith:

Genesis 15:6 “And he ^(Abraham) believed in the Lord, and He ^(God) accounted it to him for righteousness.”

Romans 5:1 “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

- When it comes to talking about faith, more than half of Hebrews chapter 11, the NT "hall of faith" refers to characters from Genesis
- Many of the subjects and themes of the first three chapters of Genesis are reflected in the last three chapters of Revelation.
- Navigation: knowing our starting point helps us to determine our final destination.
- Those who don't know the beginning, have no clue what the end will be.

GENESIS: probationary world ^(testing)

REVELATION: eternal world

1:4	division of lt. / dk.	21:25	no night there.
1:10	division land / sea	21:1	no more sea
1:16	rule of sun and moon	21:23	no need of either
2:8-9	man in a prepared garden	21:2	man in prep. city
2:10	river flowing out of Eden	22:1	river flowing from God's throne
2:9	Tree of Life in midst of garden.	22:2	Tree of Life throughout the city.
2:12	gold in the land	21:21	gold in the city
2:12	bdellium & onyx stone	21:19	all manner of precious stones
3:8	God walking in the Garden	21:3	God dwelling with His people
	<i>Cursed World</i>		<i>Eternal World</i>
3:17	cursed ground	22:3	no more curse
3:17	daily sorrow	21:4	no more sorrow
3:18	thorns and thistles	21:4	no more pain
3:18	eating herbs of the field	22:2	12 kinds of fruit
3:19	returning to the dust	21:4	no more death
3:19	sweat on the face	21:4	no more tears
6:5	evil continually	21:27	nothing that defiles
3:21	coats of skins	19:14	fine linen, white, and clean.

3:15	Satan opposing / present	20:10	Satan banished
3:24	kept from the tree of life	22:14	access to tree of life
3:23	banished from garden	22:14	free entry into the city
3:15	Redeemer promised	5:9-10	redemption accomplished

- No other book in the Bible is quoted as much as is the book of Genesis.

-
-
- While there are various *methods of interpretation*, (allegorical, spiritual, or typological approach) I have choose to take a literal / historical approach of interpretation.
 - There are instances where the Bible is to be interpreted in a allegorical or typological manner, but only when Scripture itself gives us the basis for that allegory or type.
 - The literal, plain meaning is best.

Day 1:

V:1 *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth!”*

- This first verse is a general overview of the rest of the creation, a summary statement of sorts.

“Beginning” – (H-7225) . re'shiyth, ray-sheeth'; the first, in place, time, order or rank, beginning, principal thing.

- Notes the beginning of time, space, and matter all at once.
- None of these can exist without the other two.
- God was there before these things, and He exists outside all of these things.

Colossians 1:16-17 *“For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.
¹⁷And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.”*

- Pre-eminent not only in importance, and glory, and honor, but pre-eminent in chronology.
- He lives outside of time, space, and matter – much like a different dimension or continuum.
- Genesis one deals with the original creation of the material universe, but it does not deal with the absolute very beginning.

John 1:1-3 *“¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.”*

“God” - (H-430). 'elohiym, el-o-heem':

- Principle of 1st mention: demonstrates the importance and or significance of the subject.
- This first occurrence of the divine title of God which stresses His majesty and omnipotence.

Elohim: A plural name with a singular meaning, a “uni-plural” noun, God is One, yet more than one.

- El = God, in a singular sense.
- The Hebrew language has a word for the duo, or duality which can be applied to God and is “Elahh”
- With “im” as the suffix / at the end indicates more than one, more than two. It points towards three – a Trinity.
- In this very first mention of God in the Bible we see God as a Singular Trinity, or a Tri-unity. Father, Son, Holy Spirit.

1 John 5:7 “For there are three that bear witness in Heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are One.”

Matthew 3:16-17 “When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. ¹⁷And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, this is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

Matthew 28:19 “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

2 Corinthians 13:14 “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

1 Timothy 3:16 “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, and justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory.”

1 Peter 3:18 “For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit.”

Revelation 1:4-5 “⁴John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the Seven Spirits who are before His throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,”

Hebrews 9:14 “how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”

Luke 2:40 “And the Child grew and became strong in Spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

2 Peter 1:2-3 “Grace and peace be multiplied to you through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, ³as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,”

- We have diversity amongst the authors who all write about the trinity in a manner where it is an assumed understanding:
- Without exception the writer of every book in the New Testament acknowledged the existence of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- All three members of the Trinity are present at the creation: God the Father in Elohim. Then, Jesus as described in the Gospel of John:

Speaking of Jesus in the creation:

John 1:3 “³All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.”

- We’ll come pointedly to the Holy Spirit in verse 2.

“*Created*” – ^(H1254) "bara", baw-raw'; created out of nothing as opposed to assembling from pre-existing materials, called into existence.

Romans 4:17 “(As it is written, I have made you a father of many nations) in the presence of Him whom he believed – God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did;”

Hebrews 11:3 “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.”

- “Bara” is only used to denote creating something out of nothing.
- There are two other words “asah” and “yasar”, that are translated, made or formed; which are the Hebrew words used for assembling something from existing materials.
- In this account of creation the word “bara” is used in the first verse, then God made and God formed afterward.
- Once God had created / bara’d the heaven and the earth, He used existing materials to make and form everything after that.

By design not by chance.

- When we can observe an intelligent design, that means there was an intelligent designer.

Psalm 19:1 “¹The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. ²Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. ³There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard.”

Psalm 139:13-14 “¹³For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother’s womb. ¹⁴I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well.”

Romans 1:18-20 “¹⁸For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. ²⁰For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.”

CREATIONISM vs: Evolutionary theories, the **religion** of Darwin.

- 1st. law of thermodynamics: nothing new, matter or energy, is created or destroyed in the universe, merely converted to other forms.
- 2nd law of thermodynamics: also the law of entropy, matter always progresses from states of order into states of greater disorder, or decay.

Electro-magnetic decay:

- In 1842 Dutch scientists discovered an electro-magnetic field around the earth, they subsequently discovered that it could be measured.
- As they continued to examine this phenomenon they discovered that it was decaying at a constant and predictable rate.
- They also discovered that there is a corresponding temperature change that goes along with this reduction in the electro-magnetic field – global cooling.
- A modern day scientist, Dr. Barnes from the University of West Texas took the same calculations and began to reverse them, along with the corresponding changes in temperature.
- If we went back 25,000 years, the change in the electromagnetic field surrounding the earth would result in a surface temperature of 240⁰ this would result in all of the water on the planet turning to steam and evaporating into the atmosphere.
- If we went back 100,000 years, the earth would be in a molten state, much like a marshmallow in the campfire.

Mt. St. Helens duplicated "billions" of years of evolutionary developments in a matter of weeks.

Apollo 11, mission to land on the moon, July 16, 1969. Neil Armstrong, Lunar module, designed w/ big padded feet.

- The designers were concerned about the lunar module being swallowed up in moon dust which they estimated to be between 17-35 feet deep, having settled on the moon for at least the last 6 billion years.
- Turned out to be less than one inch of dust, just enough for a foot print.

Big Zipper – Niagara Falls.

- Niagara River flows over the falls in up state New York @ 6 million cubic feet of water per minute.
- As it flows over the edge it actually erodes the granite edge or face of the fall at about 1-3 feet per year.
- 5,280 feet per mile.
- Earth's circumference is 24,859 miles or 131,255,520 feet.
- 1.3 million years Niagara Falls un-zips the earth...

1 Corinthians 3:19-20 *“¹⁹For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He catches the wise in their own craftiness; ²⁰and again, the Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.”*

Proverbs 1:7 *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”*

- I choose intelligent design, and my Intelligent Designer because He *“Created”* – "bara", created all things out of nothing.

“The heavens and the earth”

“Heavens” – (H8064) “shamayim”, shaw-mah'-yim;

- “im” suffix could interpret at singular or plural, heaven or heavens.
- Not meaning the stars of heaven which were created on the 4th day, but more like what we consider “space”, in the sense of “space and time”
- Space as a component of the space, time, and mass universe or continuum.

“Earth” – (H776). 'erets, eh'-rets; to be firm; the earth.

- Like “heavens” the term “earth” refers to the components of matter in the universe.
- At the time of the initial creation, there were no other planets, stars, or other material bodies in the universe; none of them came into being until the 4th day.
- The earth itself initially had no form to it (Genesis 1:2); so this verse speaks essentially about the creation of the basic elements of matter which were later used to make and form the various creations that followed.
- Up to this point our Tri-une God has created, “bara” – called into existence a triad or tri-unity of creation – time, space, and matter, an expression and reflection of it’s Creator.

Period, not a question mark!

- Statement of fact, not attempting to defend, or explain further – simply a statement of fact to be accepted or rejected.

2 Timothy 3:16 “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,”

Accepted in FAITH, if you believe the very first verse, the rest of the Bible follows.

Hebrews 11:1 “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

- It takes less faith to believe God’s word, than to try and get past all the inconsistencies and fanciful speculations of the competing theories.
- But it still takes faith.

Psalms 139:14 “I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well.”