

Subject: *The God of Creation – Part 1*

Scripture: *Genesis 1:1-13*

This chapter is the foundation of everything else in the Bible. It is the very foundation of our faith. If we believe what is recorded in Genesis 1, we will believe the rest of the Bible, but if we don't believe what is written here, we will doubt other things in Scripture.

Hebrews 11:3 *Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.*

Genesis comes from a Greek word that means “origin, beginning.” The first chapter of Genesis is one of the most God-centered chapters in the Bible. God is mentioned by name 32 times in 31 verses. If we add the use of personal pronouns that refer to God, He is mentioned a total of 43 times. On the first page of the Bible we understand who is in charge. In the first chapter, we find God controls all the action. God created (vs. 1), God moved (vs. 2), God said (vs. 3), God saw and divided or separated (vs. 4), God called or named (vs. 5), God said (vs. 6), God made (vs. 7), God called (vs. 8), and God approved of all He had done (vs. 10, 12).

The first chapter of Genesis destroys all false teachings and philosophies of the world. These are some of the false views that our children and youth encounter in the classroom.

- A. Atheism (no god) – The Bible says there is a God and He created all things.
- B. Polytheism (many gods) – The Bible says there is only one true God and He created everything by Himself.
- C. Pantheism (all is god) – The Bible says that God is separate from all created things.
- D. Evolution (all things evolved from the simple to the complex over billions of years)
The Bible says that God made everything in six literal 24-hour days.
- E. Materialism (matter is eternal) – The Bible says that nothing existed until God made it.
- F. Fatalism (the world has no purpose) - The Bible says that God had a purpose in creation.

Evolution continues to be a popular belief is because it provides a convenient alternative to belief in a Creator God. If there is a God who created everything, that means we are dependant on Him and accountable to Him. Evolutionist Sir Arthur Keith said, “Evolution is unproved and unprovable. We believe it because the only alternative is special creation, and that is unthinkable.” Thomas Huxley said, “It is clear that the doctrine of evolution is directly antagonistic to that of Creation.”

In the first chapter of Genesis we find the written record of God's creation. We not only learn about creation, but most important, we learn about the Creator. The Bible is God's revelation of Himself. What can we learn about God from the creation record in Genesis?

1. GOD IS ETERNAL – “In the beginning God”

Genesis means “origin, beginning,” and it tells us about the beginning of all things except God. He had no beginning, but He has always been. In the beginning He was already there.

Deuteronomy 33:27 *The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.*

Psalms 90:2 *Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.*

1 Timothy 1:17 *Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

2. GOD IS SELF-EXISTENT

He depends on no one else or nothing else for His being. God is the only uncreated being. He is the only independent being.

John 5:26 *For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself.*

3. GOD IS SELF-SUFFICIENT

God did not need anything that He created. He has no needs. He lacks nothing. Steven Lawson said this about God’s self-sufficiency: “God needs nothing. There are no deficiencies in Him. His creation cannot provide Him with anything that He finds missing in Himself. He lacks nothing, while possessing everything. He had no inadequacies, no incompleteness, no gaps, no voids to be filled. God is missing no vital element, no critical part. The strongest person can give Him no power. The smartest intellect can provide Him with no knowledge. The richest tycoon can give Him no resources. He is entirely complete in Himself. He is self-contained, having within Himself whatever He needs.”

Acts 17:24-25 ²⁴ *God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;* ²⁵ *Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things.*

God does not need believers, supporters, advisers, servants, or worshipers. He upholds all things, but He needs no one to uphold Him.

4. GOD CREATED ALL THINGS – “God created the heaven and the earth”

The heaven and the earth represent all things in the universe. God created all things, seen and unseen, all things physical and spiritual, all things on earth and in heaven. God is supreme and sovereign (controls all things). In the ancient world, all false gods were in control of some things, but not all things. These false gods were localized and limited, unlike the one true God who has all power over all things. There is no maverick molecule in His universe.

John 1:1-3 ¹ *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.* ² *The same was in the beginning with God.* ³ *All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*

Colossians 1:16-17 ¹⁶ For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

A. God created by His sovereign choice

He was under no obligation. He created everything by His free will. He didn't ask for permission or advice. There was no one to ask!

B. God created out of nothing

Hebrews 11:3 *Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.*

God did not use pre-existing materials because there were none. This is called creation "ex nihilo" (out of nothing).

C. God created by His sovereign command

He spoke and it was done. This is called "fiat" creation ("let it be"). God created all things without any effort or difficulty. All the billions and billions of stars were just as easy as a tiny insect or worm. See Genesis 1:16, "He made the stars also."

D. God created in an orderly way

We see how the Scripture unfolds, "the first day, the second day..."

E. God created by perfect wisdom

He had a time and place for everything and everything was put in its place. The word "universe" speaks of the unity and diversity of creation. Everything is different and yet everything works together the way God designed it. This universe is not a chaos; it is a cosmos (Gk. for "world" which means beautiful, orderly arrangement).

5. GOD REVEALED THE DETAILS OF HIS CREATION

When God made everything, no eyewitnesses were present. God revealed the truth to Moses and it was recorded and preserved for all time.

Acts 7:22 *And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds.*

Moses was raised in Egypt and learned all the wisdom and religion of Egypt including their beliefs about the beginning of the world. But God taught Moses the truth he needed to know and the truth we need to know. From ancient times, people choose what they want to believe about creation. Everybody will believe the truth or a lie.

When God created all things He revealed Himself through what He made.

Psalms 19:1 *The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork.*

Romans 1:18-20 ¹⁸ *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;* ¹⁹ *Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath showed it unto them.* ²⁰ *For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.*

But when God recorded Genesis 1 and all Scripture that followed, He revealed so much more about Himself. And with this greater amount of truth comes a greater accountability. People who reject the biblical account of creation are condemned and deserve the worst punishment.

6. GOD CREATED ALL THINGS FOR HIS GLORY AND PLEASURE

God created all things for Himself. If you ask, “Why did God create this world?” you would get all kinds of answers, but many people would either say, “I don’t know” or “He made it for us to enjoy.” God had a purpose in creation...to bring Him glory and pleasure.

Isaiah 6:3 *And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.*

Revelation 4:11 *Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*