

INTRODUCTION

1. Today we are beginning a new study in Genesis.
2. I'm not sure how far we will go.
3. Right now I have a desire to look at the first 3 chapters which cover the creation and the fall.
4. We may take it to chapter 9 so we can also look at the flood but for today let me invite you to take God's Word and turn with me to the first verse in the Old Testament, Genesis 1:1.
5. Genesis 1:1 is a short verse and one that we all know very well.
6. It says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."
7. Here we are introduced to the Creator and the subject of origins.

8. It's clear today that many question the truthfulness of this first verse.
9. Even many professing Christians question whether God created or it was done by random chance.
10. But long before Darwin, there were those who proposed a different view of origins.
11. All of us have heard of evolution.
12. Whether you know what the term means, you have heard other terms like millions or billions of years.
13. Evolution teaches that about 15 billion years ago the universe exploded into existence,
14. About 4.6 billion years ago the earth evolved
About 3.5 billion years ago life evolved
Humans evolved from ape-like creatures¹
15. The formula they use to arrive at how the universe was created and how life evolved is this:
16. First the formula for making the universe is - Nothing + nothing = two elements + time = 92 natural elements +

¹ Mike Riddle, Creation/Evolution: Does It Matter What We Believe? Answers in Genesis.

time = all physical laws and a completely structured universe of galaxies, systems, stars, planets, and moons orbiting in perfect balance and order.

17. The formula for life is: Dirt + water + time = living creatures.²

18. In an article titled, "The Big Lie of Evolution," David Brandt Berg says, "At the core of evolutionary theory is the big assumption that life somehow arose from non-life, that by pure chance the right chemicals happened to be in the right place, in the right arrangement, at the right time, under the right conditions, and by some mysterious, unknown electrochemical process -- POOF -- life created itself! This assumption is completely contrary to a universally accepted and proven law of science, known as the second law of thermodynamics, which states that "All processes (left to themselves) go toward a greater state of disorder, disorganisation, disarrangement and less complexity."

19. In other words, inanimate matter never increases its own order, organisation or complexity--these always decrease! And even if the elements could arrange themselves into a certain definite pattern, as is necessary for life, they could not make themselves a

² <http://www.evolution-facts.org/Evolution-handbook/E-H-1.htm>

living cell because LIFE is not a mere physical arrangement of chemicals! The likelihood of this happening is so far-fetches that Princeton University Professor of Biology Edwin Conklin has said: "The probability of life originating from accident is comparable to the probability of the unabridged dictionary resulting from an explosion in a printing shop."³

20. Looking back at the formulas, you'll notice that both formulas exclude any intelligent designer.
21. That's because evolution is anti-God.
22. Evolutionists theorize that the two formulas can enable everything about us to make itself—with the exception of man-made things, such as automobiles or buildings. Complicated things, such as wooden boxes with nails in them, require thought, intelligence, and careful workmanship. But everything else about us in nature (such as hummingbirds and the human eye) is declared to be the result of accidental mishaps, random confusion, and time. You will not even need raw materials to begin with. They make themselves too.⁴
23. Genesis says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

³ http://deeptruths.com/articles/big_lie_exposed.html

⁴ <http://www.evolution-facts.org/Evolution-handbook/E-H-1.htm>

24. If you believe the Bible then you believe God is the Creator.
25. And believing that God is the sole Creator is no different than believing that Jesus is God.
26. Both call for faith and trust in the written record, the Bible.
27. Genesis is the most important book ever written.
28. It is foundational to every other book in the Bible.
29. It gives vital information concerning the origin of all things.
30. Henry Morris said, “One’s belief concerning his origin will inevitably determine his belief concerning his purpose and his destiny. A naturalistic, animalistic concept of beginnings specifies a naturalistic, animalistic program for the future. An origin at the hands of an omnipotent, holy, loving God, on the other hand, necessarily predicts a divine purpose in history and an assurance of the consummation of that purpose. A believing understanding of the Book of Genesis is therefore prerequisite to an understanding of God and His

meaning to man.”⁵

31. Genesis is unique.
32. It's the only book that gives:
33. The origin of the universe
34. The origin of order and complexity
35. The origin of the solar system
36. The origin of the atmosphere and hydrosphere
37. The origin of life
38. The origin of man
39. The origin of marriage
40. The origin of evil
41. The origin of language
42. The origin of government

⁵ Morris, Henry M. The Genesis Record : A Scientific and Devotional Commentary on the Book of Beginnings. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1976. Print.

43. The origin of culture
44. The origin of nations
45. The origin of religion
46. The origin of the chosen people Israel
47. You see why Genesis is foundational to everything we believe?
48. Let's take a few moments and get introduced to Genesis

LESSON

I. The Title

- A. As already noted Genesis is about “origins” and it derives its title from the opening word (bereshith) translated “in the beginning.”
- B. The English title Genesis is from the Latin Vulgate. The Latin title is a transliteration of the Greek title geneseos, which is the word which translates the Hebrew toledot. The Hebrew word means “origin,” “birth,” or “generation.”

II. The Date

As you already know because it appears first in your Bible, Genesis is the first book of the Bible, specifically the Old Testament, written somewhere between 1445 to 1405 B.C. This would date after the exodus and before the death of Moses.

That brings us to...

III. The Author

The Book of Genesis, in common with all the other books of the canonical Scriptures, was written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. “For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost” (2 Peter 1:21). “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16).⁶

A. Moses is the author of the first five books of the Bible called the Pentateuch

⁶Ibid., Morris.

B. His authorship wasn't questioned until the 18th century but Scripture reveals Him to be the author

1. The Pentateuch Itself

- a) Exodus 17:14 (NASB) Then the Lord said to Moses, "Write this in a book as a memorial and recite it to Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven."
- b) Exodus 24:4 (NASB) Moses wrote down all the words of the Lord. Then he arose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain with twelve pillars for the twelve tribes of Israel.
- c) Exodus 34:27 (NASB) Then the Lord said to Moses, "Write down these words, for in accordance with these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel."
- d) Numbers 33:1-2 (NASB) These are the journeys of the sons of Israel, by which they came out from the land of Egypt by their armies, under the leadership of Moses and Aaron. 2 Moses recorded their starting

places according to their journeys by the command of the Lord, and these are their journeys according to their starting places.

- e) Deuteronomy 31:9 (NASB) So Moses wrote this law and gave it to the priests, the sons of Levi who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and to all the elders of Israel.

2. The Old Testament

- a) Joshua 8:30-32 (NASB) Then Joshua built an altar to the Lord, the God of Israel, in Mount Ebal, 31 just as Moses the servant of the Lord had commanded the sons of Israel, as it is written in the book of the law of Moses, an altar of uncut stones on which no man had wielded an iron tool; and they offered burnt offerings on it to the Lord, and sacrificed peace offerings. 32 He wrote there on the stones a copy of the law of Moses, which he had written, in the presence of the sons of Israel.

- b) Malachi 4:4 (NASB) Remember the law of Moses My servant, even the statutes and ordinances which I commanded him in

Horeb for all Israel.

3. The New Testament

- a) Jesus said in John 5:46 (NASB) For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me.
- b) Jesus also said in John 7:19 (NASB) Did not Moses give you the Law, and yet none of you carries out the Law? Why do you seek to kill Me?”
- c) Paul quoted from Leviticus 18:5 in Romans 10:5 (NASB) For Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is based on law shall live by that righteousness.
- d) Mark quoted Exodus 3:6 in Mark 12:26 (NASB) But regarding the fact that the dead rise again, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the passage about the burning bush, how God spoke to him, saying, ‘I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’?

4. In addition to Scripture stating that Moses wrote “the law of Moses” which is the first five books of the Bible, there are other reasons why we believe Moses is the author of Genesis and the other four books of the Pentateuch

a) The unity of the content and style in the Pentateuch indicates a single author

b) The writer describes details as an eyewitness, such as would not be true of an editor centuries later

c) The author is also familiar with ancient Egyptian names, words, customs, and geography

“Modern archeological evidences substantiates that literary activity pre-dated Moses. Thus, Moses was not only able to write the Pentateuch, but was able to draw on other ancient documents in his process of writing.”⁷

d) Tradition affirms the Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch. As early as the fifth century

⁷ Daniel Wong, Professor of Biblical Studies, The Master’s College, Notes from Old Testament Survey (B101) 10.

B.C. both Jews and Samaritans believed Moses wrote the Pentateuch.⁸

- e) Ecclesiastes, the second book of Maccabees, Philo, Josephus, as well as the early church all ascribe to the Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch

IV. The Contents

I already mentioned Genesis as the origin of many things but let me mention the content of the 50 chapters.

- A. Generations (or accounts) of the heavens and the earth (1:1-2:6)
- B. Generations of Adam (2:7-6:8)
- C. Generations of Noah (6:9-9:29)
- D. Generations of the sons of Noah (10:1-11:9)
- E. Generations of the sons of Shem (11:10-26)
- F. Generations of Terah (11:27-25:11)

⁸ Merrill F. Unger, *Introductory Guide to the Old Testament*, 219.

- G. Generations of Ishmael (25:12-18)
- H. Generations of Isaac (25:19-35:29)
- I. Generations of Esau (26:1-37:1)
- J. Generations of Jacob (37:2-50:26)

V. The Purpose

- A. Genesis is mainly designed to show that God is the sovereign Creator of the universe who created man to rule the world, but because of man's sins this dominion was lost until the promises of restored rule could be realized through God's special chosen race.
- B. Genesis therefore introduces the beginning of creation, man, man's fall, and the beginning of redemption through a promise (3:15).
- C. Abraham and his family are chosen as those who will mediate this promise to the world (12:2-3). Genesis pursue the history of Abraham and his descendants to show the persistence of God's promise of redemption through the preservation of a special people.

VI. The Text (Genesis 1:1)

A. In the beginning (v.1a)

1. This is the beginning of the universe in time and space
2. Jesus references “the beginning of creation” in Mark 13:19 (NASB) when describing the tribulation that follows the 7 year treaty between the Antichrist and Israel. He says, “For those days will be a time of tribulation such as has not occurred since the beginning of the creation which God created until now, and never will.”

B. God (v.1b)

1. His name
 - a) Hebrew Elohim
 - b) This is its first occurrence in the Bible
 - c) The im ending is the Hebrew plural ending, so that Elohim can actually mean “gods,” and is so translated in various passages referring to the gods of the heathen (e.g., Psalm 96:5).

- d) However, it is clearly used here in the singular, as the mighty name of God the Creator, the first of over two thousand times where it is used in this way.
- e) Elohim is a plural name with a singular meaning, a “uni-plural” noun, thereby suggesting the uni-plurality of the Godhead. God is one, yet more than one.⁹

2. His existence

- a) It is assumed not proven

A.W. Pink says, “No argument is entered into to prove the existence of God: instead, His existence is affirmed as a fact to be believed.”¹⁰

- b) He is eternal - He existed before the beginning

Psalms 90:1-2 (NASB) Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. 2 Before the mountains were born or You gave birth to the earth and the world, even from

⁹ Ibid, Morris.

¹⁰ Pink, A. W. Gleanings in Genesis. electronic ed. Escondido, CA: The Ephesians Four Group, 2000. Print.

everlasting to everlasting, You are God.

The Bible has a special name for those who choose to deny the fact of God. That name is *fool* (Ps. 14:1 and 53:1).¹¹

C. Created (v.1c)

1. The Hebrew word bara occurs in the creation account 6 times (1:1, 21, 27 [3X]; 2:3)
2. This word is used here of God's creative activity alone though it is used in Isa.65:18 of matter which already existed but primarily refers to creating something out of nothing
3. The context demands that this was a creation without preexisting material. God created ex nihilo, i.e., out of nothing

Isaiah 45:8 (NASB) Drip down, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds pour down righteousness; let the earth open up and salvation bear fruit, and righteousness spring up with it. I, the Lord, have created it.

¹¹ MacDonald, William. [Believer's Bible Commentary: Old and New Testaments](#). Ed. Arthur Farstad. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1995. Print.

4. Over and over Scripture reveals God as the Creator

- a) Nehemiah 9:6 (NASB) You alone are the Lord. You have made the heavens, the heaven of heavens with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to all of them And the heavenly host bows down before You.

- b) Job 38:4-7 (NASB) Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding, 5 Who set its measurements? Since you know. Or who stretched the line on it? 6 “On what were its bases sunk? Or who laid its cornerstone, 7 When the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

- c) Psalms 33:6-9 (NASB) By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of His mouth all their host. 7 He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap; He lays up the deeps in storehouses. 8 Let all the earth fear the Lord; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.

9 For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.

D. The heavens and the earth (v.1d)

1. This is a summary statement to include all 6 consecutive days of creation

a) Genesis 2:4 (NASB) This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made earth and heaven.

b) Exodus 20:11 (NASB) For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.

c) Exodus 31:17 (NASB) It is a sign between Me and the sons of Israel forever; for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, but on the seventh day He ceased from labor, and was refreshed.”

2. The Hebrew word for “heaven,” shamayim is a plural noun and can be translated as either

“heaven” or “heavens” depending on the context

- a) It does not mean the stars of heaven, which were created on day 4 of the creation week
- b) The word may have originally come from the compound of sham (there) and mayim (waters) reflecting the water with the upper reaches of the atmosphere (see Gen. 1:7)
- c) The word could also refer to space in general or in particular
- d) In Genesis 1:1 it seems to refer to the component of space in the basic space-mass-time universe¹²

3. In like manner the term “earth” refers to the component of matter in the universe

- a) At the time of the initial creation, there were no other planets, stars, or other material bodies in the universe; nor did any of them come into being until the fourth day.

¹² Ibid., Morris.

- b) The earth itself originally had no form to it (Genesis 1:2); so this verse must speak essentially of the creation of the basic elements of matter, which thereafter were to be organized into the structured earth and later into other material bodies.
- c) The word is the Hebrew *erets* and is often also translated either “ground” or “land.”
- d) Somewhat similarly to the use of “heaven,” it can mean either a particular portion of earth (e.g., the “land of Canaan”—Genesis 12:5) or the earth material in general (e.g., “Let the earth bring forth grass”—Genesis 1:11).¹³

CONCLUSION

1. Genesis -- an amazing book of beginnings.
2. Through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Moses set out to give this detailed account of the origins or beginning of everything.
3. And as we have seen, God did this.

¹³ Ibid., Morris.

4. By His power He created the heavens and the earth out of nothing.
5. He is to be praised.
6. There's something else to note, If we didn't have Genesis we would not have any knowledge of how everything began and why Christ came.
7. Jesus is clearly presented in Genesis.
8. Christ is the seed of the woman (3:15), the seed of Abraham (12:3) and the Shiloh descended from Judah (49:10). Christ is also the ultimate object to whom the sacrifices point (3:21; John 1:29). He is the life-giver in contrast to Adam who brought death (Rom.5:12; 1 Cor.15:21-22). In addition, the 'sacrifice' of Isaac points to the death of Christ, who was the Lamb, provided by God (Gen.22).
9. Do you know Jesus who came to take away the sin of the world?
10. You can know Him today by turning to Him, confessing Him as Lord and surrendering your life to Him now.
11. Let's pray.