

Genesis 1: God Creates

❖ Introduction...

- **How exciting is it for us to begin to look at God's Word on the Origin of Mankind**
 - How amazing is it that we get to look at what happened a very long time ago...
 - And how we got here... And why we are here...
- **One thing I know... is that I exist... I am here... I am not ... not here...**
 - Existence in and of itself is amazing when you consider it...
 - Why is there something instead of nothing?
- **We all ask the question... where did I come from...?**
 - And where did he and she come from... and where did they come from and then what about...
 - Those before them... and all this stuff around us...
- **In ancient days... Philosophers talked about what caused what...**
 - They said that logically everything had to have a cause... something that caused it to be...
 - But logically... there had to be some cause... that was uncaused...
 - **And they called this the Uncaused Cause...**
 - Something or some being that existed without being put into existence...
- **And I think... this is a very logical statement...**
 - And I think the compiler of Genesis understood this...
 - So in the opening verse of Genesis... we see that God is there...
 - And no attempt is made to explain how He got there...
 - He is just there... The assumption is that He is right where He is supposed to be...
 - Existing... and causing others to exist...

❖ Read Genesis 1:1-2:3

❖ Introduction (I must be Brief)

- **In 1859 Charles Darwin published the Origin of Species**
 - It is considered scientific literature
 - **And it is the foundation of Evolutionary Theory**
 - The book's theory is that species evolve over generations by a process called natural selection
 - 1859 was not that long ago... as a matter of fact... it has only been 159 years
- **The theory of evolution and the Big Bang theory as understood today teaches...**
 - About 13.8 billion years ago the universe as we know it started with a singularity...
 - Meaning everything was combined into a small dot...
 - **It exploded and in the first second after explosion**
 - The surrounding temperature was 10 billion degrees
 - The cosmos contained a vast array of electrons, protons and neutrons
 - They decayed or combined with one another as the universe cooled
- **About 4 billion years ago life appeared as some sort of single cell organism...**
 - It had rained on the rocks some say...
 - Some say earth springs got wet and then dried and were exposed to the sun
 - Others say it started at the vents in the ocean...
- **But... it all happened randomly through natural selection...**
 - And after billions of years life came about... And then more complex life...
 - Finally we have some sort of fish to amphibians to lizards to rats to monkeys
 - To apes... to humans... That is kind of how we got here...
- **I have to generalize and simplify this because scientists are kind of all over the map about this...**

- Any given scientist or arm chair scientist would correct me on some of these points...

➤ **Now... let me say this...**

- **If you are here this morning or anywhere this morning... and you believe in Evolution**
 - I do not mean to demean you or to make fun of you...
 - I certainly do not think you are a stupid or ignorant person...
- **I readily admit I am not a scientist... and therefore there are many things I don't know...**
 - But... We do not have to accept everything the science community gives us...
 - How wrong they have been throughout history...
- **I want you to see there is an alternative to this current and relatively very new thinking**
 - And this alternative is very logical and I believe very convincing...
 - And I would like to suggest... Evolution requires more faith to believe... and less fact...

➤ **Scientist readily admit today...**

- That they do not have enough evidence to support these theories...
- When pressed they say... we just don't know how... we can not explain this or that...
- Some of the greatest minds... when pressed on how did we get to this planet...
- They will finally answer with... (Well I guess maybe aliens brought us here)
- Which still does not answer the question... How did life begin

❖ **Today:**

➤ **This theory is very often taught as fact within our schools...**

- And it is considered fact in many circles within our country...
- So... we have a theory that stands in stark contrast to what the Bible teaches about our origin...

➤ **But this theory never answers...**

- Where did that all that material that exploded come from in the first place...
- How did new life find each other and reproduce
- **Why still can't recreate the beginning of life from non life... even in a controlled environment**
 - While having all of the ingredients to do so...
- **And why... after millions of fossils do we not see transitional fossils from one species to another?**
- **And what about organs that have to be created fully functional or the organism will not survive**
 - How did those organs just appear...?
- **And what about all of the information found within the smallest of cells...**
 - So small I couldn't even describe it... yet within it are millions of codes for dna...
- **And then what about the vastness of our universe being trillions of light years across...**
 - And now we find out that all that so called space isn't space...
 - That there seems to literally not be nothing anywhere...
 - That there may be no such thing as nothing...
 - That even what we think of as nothing.... There really is something there that we cant see
 - ◆ With our eyes...

➤ **Besides this theory about our beginning... we have many competing beliefs...**

- Muslims claim that their god Allah created all things...
- Mormons claim that their god was once a man that became a god and made us
- **Buddhism teaches that the earth and stars formed on their own**
 - And then beings from another dimension appeared here
 - But they had come from humans from somewhere else that reached enlightenment
 - Those humans had come from hell and other and these divine beings that ate the earth's dirt
- **Hinduism has many creation stories actually...**
 - And they believe there is a supreme spirit of the universe
 - This began with Lord Vishnu who created Lord Brahma in a lotus flower
 - Who in turn began to create the world from the lotus flower

- There are millions of universes and worlds and they are destroyed and recreated...
- **The Greeks and Romans believed in a Pantheon of gods**
- **We can also go back even further to the beliefs of the Mesopotamians...**
 - The Babylonians and Akkadians and Sumerians of Mesopotamia had their own idea of how life began
 - and who God was...
- **Genesis is written during this time in ancient history...**
 - And it seems to be what is called a polemic... Which is a strong verbal attack on something...
 - It was written to combat what was considered false deities and false accounts of creation...
 - **It must be understood in this context...**

❖ Interestingly...

- **There are hundreds of creation stories and flood stories**
 - The earliest is a Sumerian account called Eridu Genesis dated to 1600 B.C.
 - **The Babylonians of 3000 B.C. to 2000 B.C. have an account called Enuma Elish**
 - And it tells of their god Marduk and his battle with Tiamat that results in creation
 - This account dates back to sometime between year 2000 and 1000 B.C.
- **Some would say that Genesis borrowed from these accounts...**
 - As it is first compiled by Moses who lived around 1500 B.C.
 - Some say the book was compiled fully b/w 1300 and 900 B.C.
 - Nailing down the time of the writing of these accounts within Genesis is very difficult...
- **There is little doubt that Genesis is written to give a true account of what God truly did in creation**
- **I find it fascinating to consider where Moses gets this material from when he puts it all together...**
 - There is no doubt among scholars that there are different sources within Genesis..
 - And we know Moses wasn't alive from the creation story to the end of Genesis
- **Consider how God could have handed down the information...**
 - Adam was the first man... and he lived long enough to know Noah's father Lamech...
 - Noah would have VERY likely... easily taken the creation account with him on the ark
 - **On the other side of the flood... Noah's son... having been through the flood...**
 - And knowing what his dad knows of creation... Lived almost the entirety of Abraham's life...
 - Abraham could have gotten much of the story of the flood from Shem an eyewitness
- **It was Abraham's Grandson and great grandsons that went into the land of Egypt...**
 - Where they took the family story with them...
 - Until the time Moses was born... Only 7 generations removed from Abraham...
- **Moses also spoke with God on the mountain... possibly getting all of it then...**
 - **Either way... He was inspired by God to put these accounts together...**
 - Accounts handed down orally and in written form over the generations...
- **Genesis stands as a true account of the One True God...**
 - And it stood in the time of people of many belief systems... Believing in many gods...
- **The Book of Genesis stands today... as Relevant as it did when it was written...**
 - To tell the world... There is a God in heaven... and this God created...
 - He created from nothing... and He created you and me in His image...

❖ Genesis 1 Begins:

- **Genesis 1:1-3 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.**
- **In the Beginning**
 - This word refers to the beginning of known time.

- There was no beginning until we see this word written down here...
- This verses indicates to us the start of history

➤ **God Created**

- Here is God... already existing... Working...
- The idea here is that God created out of nothing...
- Although this is not the only way this word can be used...
- There is no indication that God formed something from something already existing

➤ **Heaven and Earth**

- This is not meant to confine God's creation to only earth and heaven where he lives...
- This is meant to imply that God created EVERYTHING...

➤ **Earth was without form and void**

- In the process of God's creation... there seemed to be steps involved...
- Without form and void does not mean that it **became** without form and void...
- A good translation is **"total chaos"**
- **Almost like a baker that has gathered all of her ingredients for a recipe...**
- **And they are all laid out... at the moment they are not yet in order...**
- Chaos is the opposite of order... yet even this chaos is in order with God's plan...

➤ **Darkness was over the face of the deep**

- So imagine... God has created this earth filled with water and land...
- And there is matter... and there is darkness.... But...

➤ **The Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters**

- This could be translated as the WIND of God...
- And we see God stirring and moving over the face of what He is working on
- Ready to continue the creation process...
- And as we will see... He will immediately bring light to the darkness

❖ **Genesis 1 Ends:**

- **Genesis 2:1-3 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. ²And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. ³So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.**
- **Here we see the end cap to the first section in Genesis...**
 - The point here is to bring it to conclusion and see that God did what He planned to do...
 - And It was a very good work once He was finished.
 - This section repeats much of what is said in the opening 3 verses

❖ **Genesis 1 Middle:**

➤ **Contains the 6 days of creation**

- On day 1 He creates light and separated it from Darkness
- On day 2 He creates a firmament or expanse to separate the waters
 - The expanse today is that which is b/w the earth below and the outer atmosphere of the earth
- On day 3 God separates the land from the water
 - From the land God brought forth vegetation... grass and plants and trees
- On day 4... the middle day... God creates greater and lesser light to light up the day and the night
- On day 5 God brought forth fish and giant sea monsters and birds to fly in the expanse
- On day 6 God brings forth animals on the ground, creeping things, cattle and wild animals
 - He also creates man in His image..
- On day 7 God rests from the work He had done...
- **And on each day... the author writes... "and it was evening and morning the Xth Day..."**

- Indicating that he had in mind some sort of a regular human day... likely 24 hours
- Considering that the earth was there... likely turning starting on day 1...
- It is not hard to fathom this is a 24 hour period... (But... this is not the point of Genesis 1)
 - ◆ And there is some room to debate this...

❖ Genesis 1 is Entirely About Our God

- Setting Him apart from all other gods and belief systems throughout the world throughout history
- Consider these 5 Magnificent Truths we see in genesis 1

❖ 1) God is Creator

- The Hebrew word Elhoim is used here...
 - This is a universal word for God or gods...
 - Here this word is used to tell us that there was an intelligent being in the beginning...
 - He gives us no introduction to this God... Except...
 - In the beginning... the beginning of time... **GOD**
 - The rest of the book would give us detail into who exactly He is...
- **In Nehemiah the priests led the people in praise of this God...**
 - And they call Him Yahweh...
 - **Nehemiah 9:6 You are the Lord, you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and you preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships you.**
 - He is Yahweh alone...
 - Yahweh being the personal name of the God of Genesis 1
- **This Yahweh would later reveal Himself to the World as Jesus Christ...**
 - Jesus would call Himself the I AM.... Yahweh...
 - The Author of Hebrews would say speaking of Jesus:
 - **Hebrews 1:2 "...through whom also he created the world. ³He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power**
 - **Colossians 1:16-17 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.**
 - **The Audience in Heaven cry out before the throne where God is seated:**
 - **Revelation 4:11 Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."**
 - **Psalm 96:5 For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the Lord made the heavens.**
- **Not only did God create... He created from nothing and made everything...**
 - **Hebrews 11:3 By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.**
- **Oh the Power of Almighty God to create...**
 - To exist... to bring things into existence... to bring life where there was no life...
 - To bring something from where there was nothing...

❖ 2) God Speaks

- **During ancient times... people developed many views of God creating...**
 - These gods would have some struggle in creating... some battle to separate light and darkness...
 - To separate water from land... maybe a fight against another god...
 - Maybe the god died and his body parts made up the heavens and earth...
- **Genesis gives the reader a different image of God...**
 - **"And God said... And God said..."**
 - This is written 10 times in Genesis 1

- And it is followed very clearly and simply with...
- **“And it was so”** Oh the power of God to speak into being
 - Psalm 33:6 **By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host.**
- **We get a small glimpse of this when Jesus comes to this earth...**
 - When He multiplied the bread and the fish...
 - **And when the disciples were in that boat... and the winds and waves were tossing them about...**
 - Jesus was sleeping as they were afraid...
 - Mark 4:39-41 ³⁹ **And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. ⁴⁰ He said to them, “Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?” ⁴¹ And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”**
- ❖ **3) God Made Man in His Image**
 - **God had created a great many things when the time comes on day 6 for Him to create man...**
 - And we see a special creation take place...
 - He did not simply create as He did with light or waters or land or animals ...
 - **Here we see God created in His Image... in His likeness...**
 - Genesis 1:26-27 **Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” ²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.**
 - **After God has created all of these things... the story comes to a climax...**
 - God creates man in a very very special way...
 - **God stops and makes a declaration it seems... to the beings in heaven...**
 - Saying... Let us make man in our image...
 - Many assume that the use of these plural pronouns have the trinity in mind...
 - That God is speaking among the godhead... to the Spirit and to the Son...
 - But this is an unlikely interpretation...
 - **We know that God had created the heavenly beings before He laid the foundations of the earth...**
 - It is likely that He is simply making what is called a “Plural of Exhortation”
 - Just like I make say... let’s grab pizza...
 - ◆ But we go in my car to my pizza place and spend my money and we all eat...
 - He is making man in a likeness that is similar to Himself and to the Beings of heaven...
 - **But when the time to actually create... the pronoun returns to singular...**
 - God alone creates man in His own image... Singular...
 - **And how is it that we are made in His image...**
 - There are many ideas in regards to this... and in many ways it’s as clear as mud...
 - The author does not say much in regards to this...
 - **From the text we gather immediately after the announcement to create in His image:**
 - **“And let them have dominion”**
 - So we could concur that one way that we are made in the image of God
 - Is our purpose to have dominion over all the creatures of the earth...
 - ◆ And over the land on the earth...
 - **We could also gather that we are in the image of God...**
 - As His **representative** on this earth...
 - Also that we are able to know Him in a **personal way...**
 - Outside of this... we can not make any concrete assumptions...
 - **What should stand out is the unique position God has given to us...**

- We seem to be the pinnacle of God's creation...
- Psalm 8:4-5 what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? ⁵Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.
 - 1 Corinthians 6:3 teaches that we will judge the world and judge angels...
- **Not only these things...**
 - But God dies for us... God redeems us to have fellowship Him for eternity...
- **Feel the weight of this: You are created in the Image of God... to Bear His Image and to Know Him**
- ❖ **4) God is the Author of Good**
 - When God created... the heavens rejoiced... When the foundations of the earth were laid
 - Job 38:7 when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?
 - **Here in Genesis 1 we see the beginning of good... What God does is good**
 - 7 times God looks at what He is creating and says "It was good"
 - The final time... after He is finished creating... having finished the creation of man...
 - Genesis 1:31 ³¹And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.
 - ◆ And the Hebrew actually says... It was REALLY VERY good.
- ❖ **5) God Provides**
 - **Unlike the other gods of this time... Our God provides...**
 - Other gods... which were false gods... or some iteration of a fallen angel ruling spiritually...
 - Were very demanding of the people...
 - They were thought of as gods that created man to work to feed them...
 - So they could sit around the pantheon and rest... While men worked to provide for them...
 - **In Genesis 1... we see God created the animal kingdom... and then Man...**
 - And we see God has provided food for all of them to eat freely...
 - At this point they did not even have to work for it...
 - This provision of God continues even today...
 - Job 5:10 he gives rain on the earth and sends waters on the fields;
 - Psalm 145:15-16 The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. ¹⁶You open your hand; you satisfy the desire of every living thing.
 - **The False gods of our day take from us... pride, power, entertainment, lust, indulging, comfort...**
 - They do not reward your soul... they rob it of it's life... God provides life...
- ❖ **God VS Other gods – Genesis attacked the false gods of its day...**
 - **Genesis 1 is still speaking and is still just as relevant today as when it was written...**
 - Shouting loudly to the entire world... Believe me...!
 - **In the day of unbelief... Genesis 1 says... All things did not come from nothingness**
 - All things came from God... He created... He is the true God...
 - He is deserving of our worship and adoration...
 - **Paul speaks to the unbelieving... saying God's wrath is coming because...**
 - Romans 1:19-23 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. ²¹For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²²Claiming to be wise, they became fools, ²³and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.
- ❖ **Invitation:**
 - Do you worship God with the worship He deserves?