

IN THE BEGINNING...

TEXT: Genesis 1:1

THESIS: To reveal God's creation of the universe as stated in Scripture.

INTRO.: A. When dealing with the Creation of the universe we must begin with the very first verse of the Bible! There is no other more definitive or authoritative place to get answers for *the how, when, what, where or Who of Creation.*

B. Genesis is not only the first book of the Bible it is the **ONLY** explanation of where and how everything in the universe began. Genesis is the **foundational Book** of the Bible and **Gen. 1:1** is the **foundational verse** of the Bible! Of the 50 chapters in Genesis, the first 11 deal with the entire world and the nations of the world and serve as the foundation for the remaining 39 chapters, which deal with the beginning of the nation of Israel. ***Today we will look at the most fundamental and foundational words for life ever written.***

NOTE: ***The only authoritative information we have about creation is found in God's Word.*** Science can be helpful sometimes, but many scientists believe in evolution because they prefer not to have to answer to an all-powerful, Judge, King and Savior. More and more scientists are abandoning the bankrupt theory of evolution and replacing it with some other belief system, and a growing number are accepting the facts of God's Word and are being born again.

I. GOD'S ACCOUNT OF CREATION: Gen.1

A. The Opening Words of Scripture:

1. They are *profound, remarkable, impressive and astounding!*
2. In these **10 words in English** we have the answer to the time, space, matter continuum which has baffled some of the greatest human minds.

ILLUS.: "*In the beginning*" (time – before the beginning there was no time!)
"*God created*" (energy – He created without pre-existing materials)
"*the heaven*" (space) (we will explain why it is "*heaven*" & not "*heavens*" later).
"*and the earth*" (matter)

3. In **Hebrew there are only 7 words** (and 7 is the number of perfection or completion).

NOTE: **7** is the number associated with **Israel** and **10** is the number of the **Gentiles**. Quite a coincidence...

- a. "**bereshith**" = "*in the beginning*" cf. *Jn.1:1* Though creation had a beginning, Jesus (the Word) was already there!

b. **"Elohim"** = **"God"** (a plural word for God implying the Trinity)

NOTE: No argument is set forth to prove the existence of God; His existence is assumed as a fact. This opening sentence refutes **atheism, agnosticism or skepticism** for it states the very existence of God. It refutes **materialism**, for it distinguishes between God and His material creation. It eliminates **polytheism**, for it predicates that which necessitates a personal, singular God. It disproves **pantheism** since He is personal and not "in everything". It destroys **humanism**, i.e., that man himself is the ultimate being in the universe. It demolishes **secularism** which states that man is not a spiritual being created in God's image.

c. **"bara"** = **"created"** (created out of nothing – there was no previous matter - man cannot create things; he can "make" ("**asah**"), or "form" ("**yatsar**") things out of existing materials.

Heb 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.*

d. **"shamayim"** = **"the heaven"** (corresponds to our word "space" – the sun, moon & stars [+planets?] were created on the fourth day)

e. **"erets"** = **"the earth"** (*matter* or land, ground or material)

NOTE: The other two Hebrew words would be the words – for **the heavens and** the earth.

II. VIEWS CONCERNING CREATION:

A. The Gap Theory:

1. This theory states that Gen. 1:1 was God's original creation.
2. Then it states that the phrase "**was without form and void**" imply a destruction, so they must change "**was**" to "**became**"! (*Gen. 1:1 ½ ?*)
 - a. This theory became popular when Darwin's theory of evolution arrived.
 - b. The idea was that we had to account for the geologic ages of evolution.
 - c. This is not only **an accommodation to evolution**, but it teaches uniformitarianism.

2 Pet. 3:3,4 *Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers...saying all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they are willingly ignorant of..."*

- d. It thus allows for the billions of years of evolution with the death of billions of creatures when the Scripture directly contradicts this concept.

Romans 5:12 *Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned...*

B. The Day-Age Theory:

1. This view teaches that each "day" in Genesis was long periods of time...maybe thousands or millions of years!
2. Of course this is nonsense or the creation narrative makes no sense.
3. This would make Adam and all the animals on Day 6 to live thousands or millions of years.
4. This theory, like the Gap Theory is simply an accommodation to evolution.

ILLUS.: Slide on the use of the word "day" in the Bible.

B. Theistic Evolution Theory:

1. This view teaches that God formed the original earth and then left it to evolve.
2. This is another accommodation concept to allow for evolution & billions of years.
3. This is the "have it both ways" view, i.e., the Bible & evolution

C. Intelligent Design Theory:

1. On its surface ID sounds rational: effects have a cause or a design has a Designer.
2. The problem is that the Designer is not necessarily God; it could be Mother Nature Or man or any "Intelligence" which makes order from chaos.

NOTE: Believers reject this theory because it refuses to absolutely identify God as the Creator.

B. The Young Earth Bible View:

1. Contrary to the Gap Theory, this view is the most biblical and conforms to the narrative in the opening verses of Genesis.
2. In verse 1 God creates matter; in vv.2 & following He gives the successive days of creation.
 - a. God created the original mass of matter and then He begins to shape it into perfection and completion.
 - b. He does so in 6 literal 24 hour days, not over eons of time.
 - c. This view teaches that the earth is not 60+ billion years old, but using the Bible as the sequential guide, teaches that creation is only about 6,000-10,000 yrs. old.

CONCL.: This lesson simply sets the stage for the lessons which follow, where we will deal with the geologic ages, dinosaurs, prehistoric creatures and men, et.al. using God's holy Word as our guide. Stay tuned...