

# IN THE BEGINNING, GOD...

Sunday, August 23, 2026 -- GENESIS 1-11 series -- msg 2 -- Pastor Andrew Coleman

GENESIS 1:1-2

English Standard Version (ESV)

**1** *In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The 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.*

## REVIEW OF OUR ORIENTATION FROM LAST WEEK:

- Every worldview has a starting point (presuppositions).
- The **materialist** begins, essentially, “*In the beginning—matter.*”
- The **naturalist** begins, “*In the beginning—nature.*”
- The Bible begins somewhere radically different:  
“*In the beginning, God...*” — Genesis 1:1

**Scripture presents and assumes GOD as the origin of the universe.**

Last week we began with **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.*

Scripture unapologetically makes clear:

*Do you want to **understand** the universe, science, life, meaning, all things?*

*Then you need faith.*

**FAITH and UNDERSTANDING go hand in hand.**

Contrary to popular thought, Biblical faith does not abandon understanding but actually enables it.

- Genesis 1-11 gives us the foundational understanding of everything...  
God, creation, humanity, marriage, morality, sin, death,  
judgment, grace, rise of nations, and ultimate redemption.

**Genesis unlocks the proper understanding the rest of the Bible!**

## 1. THE BOOK OF GENESIS – BACKGROUND:

### A) PLACEMENT of GENESIS

Genesis is the first book of the Bible.

Genesis is the first book a five-volume set which Scripture calls ‘the Law of Moses’.

GENESIS → EXODUS → LEVITICUS → NUMBERS → DEUTERONOMY

AKA:     *The Torah* --                 *Torah* = ‘instruction’ or ‘law’  
           *The Law* or *The Law of Moses* or simply ‘Moses’  
           *The Pentateuch* –         *Penta* = ‘five’             *teuch* = scrolls

**LUKE 24:44** Jesus refers to Genesis...

*"Everything written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."*

**JOHN 5:46** Again, Jesus refers to the Pentateuch

*"If you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote of Me."*

**B) AUTHOR OF GENESIS/THE PENTATEUCH -- Moses.**

Exodus 17:14 — *"Write this as a memorial in a book..."*

Exodus 24:4 — *"And Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD."*

Exodus 34:27 — *"Write these words..."*

Numbers 33:2 — *"Moses wrote down their starting places..."*

Deuteronomy 31:9 — *"Then Moses wrote this law..."*

Deuteronomy 31:24–26 — *Moses finishes writing "the words of this law in a book."*

Moses did not personally witness creation, the flood, Abraham etc.

But as God used 39 other authors of the OT and NT, He also used Moses.

**C) RECIPIENTS (READERS) OF GENESIS/PENTATEUCH.**

The people of Israel – descendants of Abraham.

- They were delivered from Egyptian slavery.
- They were delivered from the wilderness.
- They were led to the Promised Land.
- They had lived in lands filled Egyptian and Canaanite gods.  
(worship of the sun, moon, animals, fertility and their rulers.)

God says, in effect: *"Let Me **tell you** and **show you** what is REAL!"*

Think about it, Genesis 1 is going to reveal the ONE TRUE God.

**D) THE GREAT DIVIDE OF GENESIS:**

**Chapters 1-11 -- God and THE WORLD:**

**Primeval History**

- |                           |               |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| • <u>creation</u>         | Genesis 1-2   |
| • <u>fall into sin</u>    | Genesis 3     |
| • <u>Cain &amp; Abel</u>  | Genesis 4     |
| • <u>Noah &amp; flood</u> | Genesis 5-10  |
| • <u>Tower of Babel</u>   | Genesis 10-11 |

**Chapters 12-50 -- God and ONE FAMILY:**

**Patriarchal History**

- |                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| • <u>Abraham</u> | Genesis 12-25 |
| • <u>Isaac</u>   | Genesis 21-35 |
| • <u>Jacob</u>   | Genesis 25-50 |
| • <u>Joseph</u>  | Genesis 37-50 |

**WHOLE  
WORLD**

→

**ONE FAMILY**

→

**ONE MAN**

→

**WHOLE  
WORLD**



Gen. 1-11

Old Testament

Gospels

New Testament

E) Notice the **BREVITY** of Genesis!

The Bible has 1,189 chapters.

The Creation of the **PHYSICAL UNIVERSE** is covered specifically in 2 chapters.

(It is mentioned in a few others Psalm 33 & 104, Job 38–41, John 1, Rom 1, Col 1, Hebs 1 and 11).

God could have given volumes explaining galaxies, atoms, DNA, gravity, physics, astrophysics, quantum mechanics, molecular biology, black holes

The rest of the Bible is focused on the **SPIRITUAL UNIVERSE**.

(Who God is, what He is about, and how He saves His people.)

Think about it: *"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."*

Followed by the vast majority of Scripture dealing with **God, man, sin, holiness, covenant, worship, redemption, Christ, the church, judgment and eternity**.

Apparently, our spiritual lives are far more important than our physical lives.

Apparently, God is far more concerned that you know the Creator than that you understand everything about His creation.

**HERE WE GO!** *In the beginning...* Genesis 1:1

*"In the beginning..."* in Hebrew בְּרֵאשִׁית → *Bereshith*

Beginning of what?

Not God.

But apparently, everything else – the created order.

Time had a beginning.

Matter had a beginning.

Space had a beginning.

Before Genesis 1:1 -- there is no earth, no sun, no stars, no galaxies, no atoms—**nothing**.  
Except GOD.

**PSALM 90:2**

*"Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God."*

**JOHN 1:1**

*"In the beginning was the Word..."*

**AUGUSTINE of HIPPO** said... *"If the Word had been made, the Scripture would have said, 'In the beginning God made the Word'; just as it is said in Genesis 1:1, 'In the beginning God made the heaven and the earth.' So in the beginning God did not make the Word; because in the beginning **was** the Word!"*

The Father, Son & Spirit pre-existed before all creation.

(John 17:5)

## Genesis 1:1 *In the beginning, God...*

**GOD → אֱלֹהִים → Elohim used in context of God or a god**

Hebrew word for deity. (Not so dissimilar to the semitic root of Allah.)  
As a subject in plural form but takes a singular verb (*created -- bara*).  
Plural form only connotes majesty, not the trinity or polytheism.  
1 Kings 18:27 Elijah mocks the prophets of Baal “*where is your god*”

Like in English, **by context**, we can know if we are speaking of God or any other god.

In Genesis 1:1 – we see that this is the God Who preexisted and creates!

**The first subject of the first sentence of the Bible is GOD.**

Not man.  
Not creation.  
Not Israel.  
Not salvation.

Verse 1 “*God created...*”

Verse 2 “*the Spirit of God was over the waters...*”

Verse 3 “*And God said...*”

The Apostle John writes:

**“All things were made through Him...”** — John 1:3

The Apostle Paul writes:

**“For by Him all things were created...”** — Colossians 1:16

## THE GREAT DISTINCTION:

SO ALL THINGS DIVIDE INTO ONE OF TWO CLASSES:

**CREATOR**

**versus**

**CREATED/CREATION**

God is distinct from His creation until, in love, He joined His creation to save it.

## PHILIPPIANS 2:6-8

*5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in **Christ Jesus**, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, **being born in the likeness of men**. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*