

CREATION BEGINS -- THE SETTING

Sunday, September 6, 2026 -- GENESIS 1-11 series -- msg 4 -- 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:

1. Genesis gives us the foundation of a **BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW**.

In the beginning, God...

- This is our presupposition.
- God is literally our beginning place.
- If you get the first four words of the Bible wrong, you are likely to get everything else wrong.

Psalms 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."*

2. God's creation explanation is shockingly **brief**.

Out of 1189 chapters only 2 are devoted to physical creation.

The other 1,187 chapters are aimed at our spiritual lives before Him.

3. Everything ultimately falls into one of two categories:

CREATOR VS CREATED/CREATION

This great distinction is going to dominate the remainder of chapter 1.

4. The Hebrew word *created* infers *ex nihilo* which means **FROM NOTHING**.

5. The main point of the first sentence of the Bible is-- God created **EVERYTHING**.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

1. WHY is verse 2 here? What is God doing?

Verse 1 – **the BIG overview:** *In the beginning God made everything!*

Verse 2 – *without form and void, darkness, the Spirit over the waters*

Verse 3 – **Day One:** And God said, *"Let there be light..."* day/night

God has Moses record the great glory of God's creation process.

And here, we see the stage is set for the show to begin.

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.*

2. Verse 2 reveals God's CREATIVE PROCESS has begun!

The earth was without form and void, תהו ובהו — *tohu wabohu*

Commonly translated:

- “without form and void”
- “formless and empty”
- “unformed and unfilled”

What this does NOT mean: It does not mean evil, defective, chaotic or ruined.

This is important because ancient pagan creation myths postulated numerous false narratives of various gods fighting over the creation process.

ie... Mesopotamian mythology – Marduk had to defeat Tiamat, goddess of chaos.

No battle. No rival. No cosmic struggle. No god whom Yahweh had to defeat.

ie... Gap Theory -- the idea that there is a tremendous time gap between vs 1 and vs 2

Some suggest there were millions or billions of years in which Satan fell, creation was destroyed, there were fallen civilizations, or a judgment that led to chaos.

Vs 2 does **not** say, ‘the earth **became** without form and void...’

None of those ideas come from the text.

What this DOES mean: It means simply begun but unfinished.

We begin to see this pattern of God FORMING and then God FILLING.

We see this throughout chapter 1.

God FORMS the realms

Day 1 — Light / darkness

Day 2 — Sky / waters

Day 3 — Land / vegetation

God FILLS the realms

Day 4 — Sun, moon, stars

Day 5 — Birds / sea creatures

Day 6 — Animals / man

What does this REVEAL about God?

Yes, God could have said, ‘EVERYTHING EXIST.’ And the universe would have existed.

But instead we see a creating God who forms, separates, names, fills, blesses, commissions, instructs, warns, blesses, and rests.

This God wants us to know Him and His will and wisdom.

PSALM 104:24

*"O LORD, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom have you made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures."*

PROVERBS 3:19

*"The LORD by wisdom founded the earth;
by understanding He established the heavens."*

PROVERBS 8:27–31 — this is the personification of **wisdom** speaking...

- 27** *When He established the heavens, I was there;
when He drew a circle on the face of the deep,*
- 28** *when He made firm the skies above,
when He established the fountains of the deep,*
- 29** *when He assigned to the sea its limit,
so that the waters might not transgress His command,
when He marked out the foundations of the earth,*
- 30** *then I was beside Him, like a master workman,
and I was daily His delight,
rejoicing before Him always,*
- 31** *rejoicing in His inhabited world
and delighting in the children of man.*

JEREMIAH 10:12

*"It is He who **made the earth by His power**, who established the world
by His **wisdom**, and by His **understanding** stretched out the heavens."*

PSALM 19:1

*"The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims His handiwork."*

ROMANS 1:20

*"For His invisible attributes, namely, His eternal power and divine nature,
have been clearly perceived... in the things that have been made."*

ISAIAH 40:26

*"Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out
their host by number... because he is strong in power, not one is missing."*

PSALM 147:4–5

*"He determines the number of the stars; He gives to all of them their names.
Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; His understanding is beyond measure."*

ACTS 14:17 **God is generous towards you.**

*"Yet He did not leave Himself without witness, for **He did good by giving you** rains
from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness."*

JOB 38–41 **Homework reading/mediation assignment!**

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.*

3. DARKNESS WAS OVER THE FACE OF THE DEEP.

darkness -- Simply the absence of light.
 Not a moral judgment. Not evil.
 Remember, this is prior to the fall and curse.

the deep -- Hebrew *tehon* or watery deep
 So prior to light and prior to forming there is an unfinished, unlit mass.

4. BUT GOD IS THERE!

And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

Spirit of God → hebrew *Baruah Elohim* ***spirit of God***

Obviously the first mention of the Spirit.
 God is there... in the darkness.

Psalm 139:12

*even the darkness is not dark to You;
 the night is bright as the day,
 for darkness is as light with You.*

hovering over the face of the waters → Hebrew *rachaph* → fluttering.

The Spirit is there actively present, staying.
 As if superintending the creation.
 Scripture constantly associates the Spirit with creation and life.

JOB 33:4

"The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life."

ROMANS 8:11

If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

READY! SET! -- FEEL THE ANTICIPATION! Verse 2

Verse 2 sets the stage for us to DISPLAY God's handiwork of creation.

While the creation being wrought is truly amazing, far more awesome is the ALMIGHTY ONE with infinite majesty, wisdom and power!