

IN THE BEGINNING, GOD...

Sunday, August 23, 2026 -- GENESIS 1-11 series -- 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 _____ has a starting point (presuppositions).
- The **materialist** begins, essentially, “*In the beginning—*_____.”
- The **naturalist** begins, “*In the beginning—*_____.”
- The Bible begins somewhere radically different:
“*In the beginning, _____...*” — **Genesis 1:1**

Scripture presents and assumes **GOD** as the _____ 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 _____ go hand in hand.

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

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

Genesis unlocks the proper understanding the _____ 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 _____ of Moses’.

GENESIS → EXODUS → LEVITICUS → NUMBERS → DEUTERONOMY

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

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 -- _____.

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 _____ 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 _____.
- They had lived in lands filled Egyptian and Canaanite _____.
(worship of the sun, moon, animals, fertility and their rulers.)

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

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

D) THE GREAT _____ OF GENESIS:

Chapters 1-11 -- God and _____:

Primeval History

- creation Genesis 1-2
- fall into sin Genesis 3
- Cain & Abel Genesis 4
- Noah & flood Genesis 5-10
- Tower of Babel Genesis 10-11

Chapters 12-50 -- God and _____:

Patriarchal History

- _____ Genesis 12-25
- Isaac Genesis 21-35
- Jacob Genesis 25-50
- _____ Genesis 37-50

**WHOLE
WORLD**

→

ONE

→

ONE

→

**WHOLE
WORLD**

Gen. 1-11

Old Testament

Gospels

New Testament

E) Notice the _____ of Genesis! The Bible has 1,189 chapters.
The Creation of the _____ **UNIVERSE** is covered specifically in _____ 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 _____ **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 _____ lives are far more important than our _____ lives.
Apparently, God is far more concerned that you _____ 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 _____.

But apparently, _____ 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 _____ 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 _____!

The first _____ of the first _____ 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:

_____ **versus** _____ **/CREATION**

God is distinct from His creation until, in _____, 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.*