

GENESIS 1-11

THE GOD OF EVERYTHING

Sunday, August 16, 2026 -- GENESIS 1-11 series -- Pastor Andrew Coleman

OUR FOUNDATIONAL ORIENTATION:

HEBREWS 11:3

English Standard Version (ESV)

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.

Notice the astonishing association of FAITH and UNDERSTANDING.

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

Faith produces a coherent understanding of reality because it receives the testimony of the One who was there from the beginning.

PSALM 33:6, 9

*By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,
and by the breath of his mouth all their host [stars & galaxies].
For he spoke, and it came to be;
he commanded, and it stood firm.*

ROMANS 1:19-20

19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 20 For 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.

WHY GENESIS 1-11 MATTERS:

1. WHAT IS IN GENESIS 1-11?

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|---------------------------|--------------|
| • <u>CREATION</u> | Genesis 1-2 |
| • <u>FALL INTO SIN</u> | Genesis 3 |
| • <u>CAIN & ABEL</u> | Genesis 4 |
| • <u>NOAH & FLOOD</u> | Genesis 5-10 |
| • <u>TOWER OF BABEL</u> | Genesis 11 |

2. EVERYONE HAS A BEGINNING POINT or PRESUPPOSITION:

Nobody approaches the ultimate questions of existence without presuppositions.

From the beginning of time until about 250 years ago, most of the world began with the presupposition of a creator-god of some type. The great civilizations of antiquity—Mesopotamia, Egypt, Canaan, Greece, Rome, India, China, pre-Columbian America, and most traditional tribal cultures—the world was generally understood in religious/cosmological terms.

Only in 'modern times' has a divine or supernatural reality become doubted.

The **materialist** begins: *'In the beginning -- matter.'*

The **naturalist** begins: *'In the beginning – nature.'*

So the evolutionist must ultimately explain the complexity and diversity of life through unguided natural processes.

But Scripture begins with **'IN THE BEGINNING, GOD...'**

It presupposes that **GOD** is the beginning of **EVERYTHING**.

3. THE MODERN WORLD HAS AN ALTERNATIVE CREATION STORY.

Charles Darwin	Developed a biological framework for explaining life's diversity through <u>natural processes</u> rather than <u>special creation</u> .
Thomas Huxley	Became one of Darwinism's most vigorous public defenders and recognized tensions between evolutionary struggle and traditional Christian ethics.
Herbert Spencer	Extended evolutionary concepts into theories of society and popularized " <u>survival of the fittest</u> ."
Karl Marx	Developed an explicitly materialistic understanding of history and society and admired Darwin's naturalistic account, though Marxism should not simply be equated with Darwinism.
Friedrich Nietzsche	Rejected Christian morality and sought an account of human meaning and values after the rejection of Christian theism.
Carl Sagan	Popularized a modern cosmic naturalism memorably summarized in his conviction that the cosmos is all that exists.

BUT -- Ideas have consequences! If you say one thing, it is related to something else. Ultimately, a beginning point has to be recognized. And therein lies the question.

The beginning point has many other implications: If God did not create us then...

- *Who defines what a human being is?*
- *Is human life sacred? If so, why?*
- *Where does morality come from?*
- *Is love better than cruelty? If so, why?*
- *Is oppression actually wrong? If so, why?*
- *Should I answer to anyone beyond myself? If so, why?*
- *What is wrong with us? Why is the world so broken?*
- *Is there any ultimate purpose to life?*

4. GENESIS GIVES US THE FOUNDATION FOR UNDERSTANDING EVERYTHING.

Genesis 1–11 explains:

<u>GOD</u> —	<i>Who is ultimate?</i>
<u>CREATION</u> —	<i>Why is there something rather than nothing?</i>
<u>MAN</u> —	<i>What is a human being?</i>
<u>MARRIAGE</u> —	<i>Why male and female?</i>
<u>MORALITY</u> —	<i>Who determines good and evil?</i>
<u>SIN</u> —	<i>What went wrong with us?</i>
<u>DEATH</u> —	<i>Why do we die?</i>
<u>JUDGMENT</u> —	<i>Is God morally accountable for His creation?</i>
<u>GRACE</u> —	<i>Does God pursue sinners?</i>
<u>NATIONS</u> —	<i>Where did humanity's peoples and languages come from?</i>
<u>REDEMPTION</u> —	<i>Is there hope for this ruined world?</i>

Genesis unlocks the proper understanding the rest of the Bible!

<u>CREATION</u>	<u>FALL</u>	<u>REDEMPTION</u>	<u>NEW CREATION</u>
God humanity	judgment	grace	restoration

The great path and purpose of Creation:

Creation in Genesis 1–2.
Creation ruined in Genesis 3.
Creation groaning throughout history.
Creation redeemed through Christ.
Creation restored in Revelation 21–22.



This is your whole Bible!

5. GENESIS TELLS US WHO WE ARE—AND WHAT WENT WRONG.

Genesis explains the deepest experiences of every human.

It explains our greatest joys and our deepest pain.

It explains our greatest hopes and our deepest despair.

It explains our love and our hatred.

It explains our longings and our fulfillments.

It explains our love of anything beautiful.

It explains our anger at injustice.

It explains why we experience guilt.

It explains why the world is simultaneously so magnificent and broken.

Genesis 1-3 -- We live in God's good creation, as God's image bearers, in a world devastated by man's rebellion against God.

6. GENESIS IS THE BEGINNING OF GOD'S GOOD NEWS.

The grandest message of Genesis is not that man messed up, but that God has a promise and plan to fix us.

As quickly as we see man's failure, we also see God's plan of redemption.

GENESIS 3:15

The offspring of the woman will crush the serpent's head.

Genesis explains why Jesus came!

7. SO, WE BEGIN WHERE GOD'S WORD BEGINS-- WITH HIM.

GENESIS 1:1

In the beginning, God...

This brings us back to Hebrews 11:3 -- *"By faith we understand..."*

Our goal is not to make Genesis fit what I already believe about the world.

Our goal is to allow Genesis, as God's Word, to enlighten us in our understanding of what we see and experience in the world.

God is not trying to explain himself and his plan to us in self-defense.

God is graciously and generously revealing Himself and his plan to all who will believe.

This is why in the Genesis account of the NEW TESTAMENT (John chapter 1) we read:

JOHN 1:1-5, 9-12

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

9 The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. 12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

Our journey through Genesis 1-11 begins with God and it begins through faith.