

Genesis

1. In the beginning

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One day, students in one of late nuclear physicist Albert Einstein's classes were saying they had decided there was no God. Einstein asked them how much of all the knowledge in the world they had among themselves collectively, as a class. The students discussed it for a while and decided they had 5% of all human knowledge among themselves. Einstein thought their estimate was a little generous, but he replied: "Is it possible God exists in the 95% you don't know?"

We who are mortal and finite human beings try to comprehend the infinite and immortal God Almighty should be considered as a very lousy joke. But we human beings surely try and even challenge Him who has all the authority of the universe.

A. THE WORD OF GOD

Before we start to study the fifty chapters of the Book of Genesis throughout this year, we must understand a few things about God and His Word, the Bible.

The Bible does not make elaborate arguments for the existence of God. However, it does tell us how we can get to know Him through Jesus Christ His Son. It also tells us that we can know His existence from what we see in His creation.

Romans 1:20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

Please don't ever think that God is doing His best to let people know that He exists and it is Him who created all the stuff in heaven and earth. Whether people believe 'the fact of Creation' or not, it is true and God rules. He is not the one who is fighting and arguing to make His point, but the puny humans are.

Many people argue that there are too many different versions of the Bibles and they don't know which one to believe. Obviously, those people have not read the Bible all the way through and don't understand the meaning of the different versions of the Bible. Even though we have many different versions of Holy Bible, they all have the same meaning.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

We come to the Bible knowing the copies we have in our hands are reliable duplicates – though not perfect duplicates – of the exact writings, which God perfectly inspired. We can know this about the Old Testament by seeing the incredible care and reliability of the ancient Jewish scribes, demonstrated by the Dead Sea Scroll discoveries.

We also can know this about the New Testament by knowing that because of earlier manuscripts, and a greater number of ancient manuscripts, the New Testament is by far the most reliable and exhaustively crosschecked ancient document we possess. Really, no more than one one-thousandth of the New Testament text is in question.

B. WHY IS GENESIS IMPORTANT?

The Bible would be incomplete and perhaps incomprehensible without the Book of Genesis. It sets the stage for the entire drama of redemption, which unfolds in the rest of the book. The book title 'Genesis' which means 'origin' fits its assignment.

Almost all important doctrines and teachings have their foundation in the Book of Genesis: the doctrines of sin, redemption, justification, Jesus Christ, the personality and personhood of God, the kingdom of God, the fall, Israel, the promise of the Messiah, and more.

Genesis shows us the origins of the universe, order and complexity, the solar system, the atmosphere and hydrosphere, the origin of life, man, marriage, evil, language, government, culture, nations, religion.

Genesis is important to the New Testament, too. There are at least 165 passages in Genesis either directly quoted or clearly referred to in the New Testament.

The only proper way to interpret Genesis 1 is not to 'interpret' it at all. That is, we accept the fact that it was meant to say exactly what it says.

The only way we can ever really find out who we are is from God. The best place to find out begins in the Book of Genesis.

C. WHO DID CREATE THE UNIVERSE?

We know the Bible is not a book of science. Yet where it touches science, it speaks the truth. Many archaeologists in the Middle East simply discover what the Bible already stated long ago.

If everything around us, including ourselves, is the result of random, meaningless occurrences apart from the work of a creating God, then there is no greater law in the universe than survival of the fittest.

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

If you don't accept this first verse of the Bible, you cannot accept and believe the rest of the Bible. Everything that mentioned in the Bible is hinged on this very verse that states everything in heaven and earth are created by God, not by chance or anything else for that matter.

The word 'God' is an important part for us understand before we go any further. God – This is the ancient Hebrew word 'Elohim'. Grammatically this Hebrew word is a plural word used as if it were singular. The verbs and pronouns used with 'Elohim' should be in the plural, but when 'Elohim' refers to the Lord God the verbs and pronouns are in the singular. This is the reason why many Bible students point out that it is the base of our belief of Trinity - God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

The simple fact of God's creation is even more amazing when we consider the greatness of God's universe.

A typical galaxy contains billions of individual stars. Our galaxy alone, the Milky Way, contains 200 billion stars. Our galaxy is shaped like a giant spiral, rotating in space, with arms reaching out like a pinwheel, and our sun is one star on one arm of the pinwheel. It would take 250 million years for the pinwheel to make one full

rotation. But this is only our galaxy. There are many other galaxies with many other shapes. The average distance between one galaxy and another is about 20 million trillion miles. Our closest galaxy is the Andromeda Galaxy, about 12 million trillion miles away.

Isaiah 48:13 Indeed My hand has laid the foundation of the earth, And My right hand has stretched out the heavens; When I call to them, They stand up together.

D. EVOLUTION vs. CREATION

If God created the heavens and the earth, then we must forever put away the idea that anything happens by chance. "Chance" merely describes the statistical probability of something happening. Chance itself can "do" nothing.

Because chance has no power. For example, when a coin is flipped, the chance it will land "heads" is 50%. However, "chance" does not make it land heads. Whether or not it lands heads or tails is due to the strength with which the coin is flipped, the strength of air currents and air pressure as it flies through the air, where it is caught, and if it is flipped over once it is caught. Chance doesn't "do" anything but describe a probability.

So, when someone says the universe or anything else came about by chance, they are either extremely ignorant, superstitious, or just repeating a line they have heard before and have unthinkingly accepted.

Let's see what the renowned evolutionists talk about their own evolution theory and the creation facts:

"The pathetic thing is that we have scientists who are trying to prove evolution, which no scientist can ever prove." -*Dr. Robert Millikan, Nobel Prize winner and eminent evolutionist*

"Lynn Margolis is a distinguished University Professor of Biology at the University of Massachusetts. At one of her many public speakings she asks the molecular biologists in the audience to name a single, unambiguous example of the formation of a new species by the accumulation of mutations. Her challenge goes unmet." -*M.J. Behe, Darwin's Black Box, 1996 p. 26*

"It is possible (and, given the Flood, probable) that materials which give radiocarbon dates of tens of thousands of radiocarbon years could have true ages of many fewer calendar years." -*Gerald Aardsman, Ph.D., physicist and C-14 dating specialist*

"We have to admit that there is nothing in the geological records that runs contrary to the views of conservative creationists." -*Evolutionist Edmund Ambrose*

"No matter how numerous they may be, mutations do not produce any kind of evolution." -*Pierre-Paul Grasse, Evolutionist*

Do you know what the main reason why all these intelligent people knowingly go against the fact that God created heaven and earth? The reason is that once they admit that it is God who created everything, then they have to be submissive to Him. Guess what gets in the way between them and God? Their pride. So to keep their pride, they would choose the road to hell.

James 4:17 Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.

To make my point, here is a great comment from a well-known evolutionist Nobel Prize winner in Biology Dr. George Wall:

"There are only two possibilities as to how life arose. One is spontaneous generation arising to evolution; the other is a supernatural creative act of God. There is no third possibility. Spontaneous generation, that life arose from non-living matter was scientifically disproved 120 years ago by Louis Pasteur and others. That leaves us with the only possible conclusion that life arose as a supernatural creative act of God." He then went on to say that "I will not accept that philosophically because I do not want to believe in God therefore, I choose to believe in that which I know is scientifically impossible; spontaneous generation arising to evolution." -Dr. George Wall professor emeritus of biology at Harvard University. From an article in Scientific America

Last, but not the least, let's hear from the founder of the evolution theory:

"Not one change of species into another is on record ... we cannot prove that a single species has been changed." -Charles Darwin, *My Life & Letters*

In our day a group of theologians who, not wanting to be called intellectual ignorants by the world, have adopted what is known as "Theistic Evolution." Theistic evolution is probably the most unrealistic of all theories. It is almost an unreasonable opinion and an illogical position. These theologians would like to rub their elbows with the unbelieving intellects, but they also like to carry a Bible under their arm and want to be called as 'reverends'. It is impossible to do both. Either you completely believe that God created everything or stand against it.

E. CREATING EVERYTHING FROM NOTHING

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

The ancient Hebrew word 'bara' (created) is specific. It means to create out of nothing, showing that that God created the world out of nothing, not out of Himself. God is separate from His creation. Unlike Eastern and pantheistic perceptions of god, the Bible teaches the universe could perish yet He would remain.

On contrary to God, men cannot 'create' in the sense the term is used in Genesis 1:1. We can only 'fashion' or 'imitate' or 'form' things out of existing material.

F. BEFORE THE BEGINNING

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

From what we just read, it sounds like God was there before the time of 'beginning'. How can there be 'before' the beginning? That means that 'beginning' is not really 'beginning' to God and He is not limited by the timeline we use.

Some would ask the questions, such as, "Where did God come from?" and "Who created God?" The answer is found in the definition of God - that God is the uncreated Being, eternal, and without beginning or end.

*Psalms 90:1-2 Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.
Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth
and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.*

God is the only infinite, eternal, and unchangeable Spirit, the perfect Being in whom all things begin, and continue, and end.

Before the beginning, God had a specific plan to fulfill this eternal purpose, with many different aspects revealed to us:

- The mission of Jesus was foreordained before the foundation of the world. -1 Peter 1:20
- The mystery of the Gospel of Jesus was foreordained before the ages. -1 Corinthians 2:7
- The grace given unto us was given before the world began. -2 Timothy 1:9
- Believers in Jesus Christ were chosen in Him before the foundation of the world. - Ephesians 1:4

At some time before the beginning, God created the angels, because they witnessed the creation of the heavens and the earth.

Job 38:7 When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy?

G. APPLICATION

1) We must accept 'Creation by God' in faith.

Even science cannot tell us how something can be made out of nothing. God apparently did it just that way. And man today cannot tell when this was created.

Hebrews 11:3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

2) We must reject evolution theory because it rejects God and it rejects the whole course of Gospel of Jesus Christ.

It denies the fall of man and the fact of sin, and it opposes the virgin birth of Christ. I do not believe that it is the answer to the origin of this universe. It is straight from the pit of hell to undermine what God did and is doing and is going to do in our lives.