

IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED...

John 1:1-18; Genesis 1:1-31

I. GOD IS THE SUBJECT OF CREATION

- A. God is not a part of creation; He was before creation.
- B. There never was a *time* when God was not (cf. Isa.26:4; 40:28; 43:13; 57:15; Dan.4:34; Jer.10:10; Micah 5:2; Hab.1:12; John 8:58; Rom.1:20,23; 1 Tim.6:16).
 - 1. Abraham “called upon the name of the LORD, the Eternal God” (Genesis 21:33)
 - 2. “I AM WHO I AM” (Exodus 3:14)
 - 3. “The eternal God is your refuge” (Deuteronomy 33:27)
 - 4. “from everlasting to everlasting you are God” (Psalm 90:2)
 - 5. “Now to the King eternal” (1 Timothy 1:17)
 - 6. “I am the Alpha and the Omega” (Rev.1:8)

II. ALTERNATIVES TO “IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH” (Genesis 1:1)

- A. “Why is there something rather than nothing?”
- B. Genesis 1:1 refutes the belief of polytheism (cf. Deut.6:4; Isa.43:10; 45:5,6).
- C. Genesis 1:1 repudiates dualism.
- D. The opening verse of Scripture refutes atheism (cf. Psalm 14:1).
- E. Genesis 1:1 proves false the claim of materialism.
 - 1. Materialism says that matter is eternal and God is not.
 - 2. God created the heavens and the earth *ex nihilo* (Gen.1:1 with Heb.11:3)
 - 3. The materialists believes, by faith, that life came from non-life!
- F. Genesis 1:1 refutes pantheism.
 - 1. Pantheism asserts that there is no ultimate distinction that exists between individuals and ultimate reality. All things are one. Reality is unity without individuality.
 - 2. The 9th century A.D. Indian philosopher, Shankara, summarized his Hindu message in the statement, “Thou art that.” In Shankara’s view, this meant that you are identical with everything else in the world. You are rock. You are cat. You are the pew you’re sitting on. You are god.
 - 3. Pantheism is impossible in light of Genesis 1:1 because there is a distinction between God and creation.
 - 4. *Was pantheism true before creation?*

III. WHY THE FIRST VERSE OF SCRIPTURE IS IMPORTANT FOR US TODAY (cf. Psalm 96:5; Isa.37:16; Jer.10:11,12)

- A. The Gospel is rooted in Genesis (Acts 17:24).
- B. God is spirit. Our worship of God must be in spirit and truth (Isa.44:13-17; John 4:23)
- C. God alone is Creator.
- D. Our lives are not our own to do with as we will (Psalm 24:1; Isa.29:16; 45:9,10). God is the subject of creation and His *glory* is the goal of creation.
 - 1. Nature is a revelation of God's *glory* and proclaims His praise (Ps.19:1; Rom.1:19)
 - 2. God *glorified* Himself through Pharaoh and the ten plagues (Ex.9:16; 14:4,17,18; 15:10,11,14-16; 18:11; Neh.9:10; Isa.2:11,12; Ezek.20:9; 28:22; 39:13; Dan.4:30-37; Rom.9:17,22,23; Rev.19:1-6)
 - 3. God is *glorified* both in the salvation of sinners and in the damnation of the wicked (Rom.9:22,23; cf. 1 Cor.15:40-41).
 - 4. God has made the wicked for the day of trouble (Prov.16:4; Rom.9:22,23)
 - 5. In John 9 the disciples asked Jesus, Why was this man born blind...Jesus said it was so that the *glory* of God might be revealed through Him.
 - 6. God bestows the benefits of grace first and foremost for His Name's sake. The chief purpose of redemption, forgiveness, sanctification are all for the *glory* of God (Pss.105:8; 78:9; Isa.43:25; 48:11; 60:21; 61:3; Rom.9:23; Eph.1:6f).
 - 7. God will not share His *glory* with another (Isa.42:8; cf. Rev.4:11; 5:12,13)
 - 8. Of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, *to Him be the glory forever!* (Rom.11:36)

QUESTIONS FOR SABBATH DISCUSSION & MEDITATION:

Take what you have learned this morning and make it into a prayer for yourself, your family, the church and/or your nation. Remember that prayer consists in Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication (Feel free to use the outline for praying).

What alternatives are there to "in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth?"

Which two alternatives to the origin of creation are most popular in our culture?

Why was pantheism false before God created anything in the beginning?

How is the doctrine of the Trinity intimated in Genesis 1:1,2?

What is the relationship of the Persons of the Trinity to the work of creation?

*Genesis 1:1 says that God created the **heavens and the earth**. What are the heavens and the earth that God created?*

In what ways do Christians and non-Christians live as if God exists for the sake of mankind?

If God existed for the sake of mankind, would hell be necessary? Why or why not?

