



A GENERIC LOOK AT GENESIS

Basically, our study will be a synopsis of Genesis with major emphasis on Creation and the Abrahamic Covenant.

Lesson #2

A summary of Lesson #1:

THOUGHTS TO BEGIN WITH AS WE STUDY THE BIBLE...ESPECIALLY GENESIS.

1. We come to the Bible knowing there is a God.

The Bible tells us we can know God exists because of what we see in the created world.

“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard. Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. (Psalm 19:1-4)

“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.” (Romans 1:20)

2. We come to the Bible believing it is the place where God has spoken to man, perfectly and comprehensively.

We believe 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.”

3. We believe the Bible must be understood literally, that is, as straightforward and true according to its literary context.

The Bible is much more than a book; it is a library of books, and books written in different literary forms. Some portions of the Bible give a historical account, others are poetic, and some are prophetic.

4. We believe the Bible is not a book of science; yet where it touches science, it speaks the truth. After all, if the Bible is false in regard to science or other things that we can prove, then we cannot regard it as reliable in regard to spiritual matters that we cannot prove.

5. We come to the Bible knowing the copies we have in our hands are reliable duplicates of the exact writings, which God perfectly inspired.

6. We come to the Bible knowing the unique importance of the Book of Genesis.

- *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.*
- *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. It is precisely because people have abandoned the truth of Genesis that society is in such disarray.*
- *Genesis is important to the New Testament. There are at least 165 passages in Genesis either directly quoted or clearly referred to in the New Testament; many of these are quoted more than once, so there are at least 200 quotations or allusions to Genesis in the New Testament.*
- *Jesus declared the importance of believing what Moses wrote: “For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?” (John 5:46-47)*
- *We can’t say we believe in Jesus if we don’t believe in the Book of Genesis.*

“I beg and faithfully warn every pious Christian not to stumble at the simplicity of the language and stories that will often meet him there [in Genesis]. He should not doubt that, however simple they may seem, these are the very words, works, judgments, and deeds of the high majesty, power, and wisdom of God.” (Luther)

With that said...“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.” (Morris)

Thus it is probable that the Book of Genesis was written originally by actual eyewitnesses of the events reported therein. Probably the original narratives were recorded on tables of stone or clay, in common practice of early times, and then handed down from father to son, finally coming into the possession of Moses.

So...We begin the beginning of Scripture...The Beginning of Mankind!

How in the world did the world come into being?

There are many possible answers to the question of how everything came into being. Some say, once there was absolutely nothing, and now there is something. Others (including the Bible) say before there was anything created, there was a Personal Being.

One day, students in one of 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?"

A simple factual statement regarding God's work as creator.

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

Let's see what this entails:

- **GOD CREATED:** The Bible simply and straightforwardly declares the world did not create itself or come about by chance. It was created by God, who, by definition, is eternal and has always been.
 - ✓ It is no accident that God is the subject of the first sentence of the Bible, for this word dominates the whole chapter and catches the eye at every point of the page: it is used some thirty-one times in as many verses of the story." (Kidner)
 - ✓ If you believe Genesis 1:1, you really have no problem believing the rest of the Bible.
 - **GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS:** 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, including spirals, spherical clusters, and flat pancakes. 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.
 - ✓ For every patch of sky the size of the moon, if you could look very deep, you would see about a million galaxies.
- But God did all this Himself:** *"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."* Isaiah 48:13.
- But God is bigger and greater than all His creation:** *"Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, measured heaven with a span and calculated the dust of the earth in a measure?"* Isaiah 40:12

• **GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH:** 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.

- ✓ People who are otherwise intelligent often fall into this delusion. Jacques Monod, a biochemist, wrote: “*Chance alone is at the source of every innovation, of all creation in the biosphere. Pure chance, absolutely free but blind, at the very root of the stupendous edifice of evolution.*”
- ✓ Assigning such power to CHANCE is crazy. Chance has no power. Chance doesn’t do anything but describe a probability.
- ✓ When someone says the universe or anything else came about by chance, one may say that despite their expertise or skill in other areas, when it comes to this subject they are ignorant, superstitious, or simply repeating a tired theory said and disproved before, yet unthinkingly accepted.

NOTE: Inherent in the idea of God is that He is an intelligent designer. Only an intelligent designer could create a just-right universe, not “chance.” Our universe is a just-right universe. The universe has a just-right gravitational force.

If it were larger, the stars would be too hot and would burn up too quickly and too unevenly to support life

If it were smaller, the stars would remain so cool, nuclear fusion would never ignite, and there would be no heat and light.

The universe has a just-right speed of light. The universe has a just-right average distance between the stars.

With that, we can conclude that there is no chance that such a universe could create itself, apart from an intelligent designer.

IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH:

*This tells us that God used no pre-existing material to create 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.*

Men cannot create in the sense the term is used in Genesis 1:1. We can only fashion or form things out of existing material. The closest we come to creating is in reproducing ourselves sexually. This is perhaps one reason why Satan wants to pervert and destroy God’s plan and standard for sexuality; it is deeply connected to our being made in the image of God.

The little boy asked the teacher, “Teacher, which came first...the chicken or the egg.” This is a universal saying...but, it is a universal thought-provoking statement.

It doesn’t make any difference...God can make the egg or the chicken!! (FAITH)

GOD IS AND HAS ALWAYS BEEN. HE IS AND HE IS THE GREAT I AM!