



Lesson #3, A Generic Look at Genesis

IN THE BEGINNING, GOD...

Created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1

1. *IN THE BEGINNING, GOD...*

God did all this in the beginning, yet there was much before the beginning.

In the beginning, God: God Himself was before the beginning:

“Your throne is established from of old; You are from everlasting.”

Psalm 93:2.

Some are troubled by the questions, “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.

- There are several passages of Scripture demonstrating this truth.

“Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generation.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.” Psalm 90:1-2

J. Edwin Orr used a pretty good definition of God, which I think is thoroughly Biblical:

“God is the only infinite, eternal, and unchangeable spirit, the perfect being in whom all things begin, and continue, and end.”

- ### 2. *IN THE BEGINNING GOD:* God was in three Persons before the beginning, and the Persons shared a relationship of love and fellowship:

“Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was...for you loved Me before the foundation of the world.” John 17:5, 17:24.

3. ***IN THE BEGINNING GOD***: Before the beginning, there was an eternal purpose in the heart of God (Ephesians 1:10-11)... *“He set it all out before us in Christ, a long-range plan in which everything would be brought together and summed up in him, everything in deepest heaven, everything on planet earth.”*

God’s purpose was to “resolve” or “sum up” all things in Jesus, as if Jesus Himself were the answer to a great and complex problem God wrote out on the “blackboard” of the universe.

4. ***IN THE BEGINNING GOD***: 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: *“He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you...and me (all-inclusive church)”* 1 Peter 1:20
- Eternal life was promised before time began: *“In hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began.”* Titus 1:2.
- The mystery of the gospel (the cross) was foreordained before the ages: *“We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. ⁷ No, we declare God’s wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. ⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.”* 1 Corinthians 2:6-8
- The grace given unto us was given before the world began (This conditional gift must be accepted). God’s grace is available, but must be appropriated by choice: *“Who hath saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,..”*

5. IN THE BEGINNING GOD...: At some time before the beginning, God created the angels, because they witnessed the creation of the heavens and the earth. “ Then the LORD spoke to Job out of the storm. He said:² “Who is this that obscures my plans with words without knowledge?³ Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me.⁴ “Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation? Tell me, if you understand.⁵ Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? ⁶ On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone—⁷ while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy? Job 38:1-7

Genesis 1:2, “The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.”

What was the state of the earth before God’ organized His work of creation?

The state of the earth before God organized creation.

- **The earth was without form and void...:** “For thus says the Lord, Who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did not create it in vain, Who formed it to be inhabited: “I am the Lord, and there is no other.” Isaiah 45:18

There are some who say that Satan had destroyed the earth and made it “without form...and void.” There are those that believe the Gap Theory (a long and indefinite chronological gap between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2). Most Gap Theory adherents use the theory to explain the fossil record, assigning old extinct fossils to this indefinite gap.

Note: Whatever merit the gap theory may have, it cannot explain the extinction and fossilization of ancient animals. **The Bible says plainly death came by Adam, “Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way, death came to all people, because all sinned— Romans 5:12, and since fossils are the result of death, they could not have happened before Adam’s time.**

- **Darkness was on the face of the deep**

This may describe a sense of resistance to the moving of the Holy Spirit on the earth. Some speculate this was because Satan was cast down to the earth (Isaiah 14:12 and Ezekiel 28:16)...and thus...resisted God's plan, though his resistance was futile.

Darkness...in the Bible depicts sin and devastation...and the absence of light.

Light...in the Bible depicts new life, ability to see, ability to observe what God has created. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world..."

When one comes to God through Jesus, new life and an ability to see clearly is made available to the new convert. From darkness to light...ability to hear God's voice and the ability to gain new revelation when he hears it.

- **The Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the deep**

Liepold (A Christian philosopher) states, "The verb...signifies a vibrant moving, a protective hovering...His was the preparatory work for leading over from the inorganic to the organic."

Inorganic = not consisting of or deriving from living matter; inanimate · not living · lifeless · dead; without organized physical structure.

Organic = relating to or derived from living matter; living, live, animate, biological · natural

The most extraordinary thing happens when the Holy Spirit starts a process in our lives (body, spirit and soul). The Holy Spirit brings the dead to life; the sinful soul to a living and vibrant soul, and prepares us to be God's created living spiritual being...We come from the inorganic to the organic (living matter).

The Holy Spirit was at work "in the beginning" and He is still at work today.

As darkness was changed to light...Our soul is changed from a dark and sinful past to a living and bright future with the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Hallelujah!!