

Genesis 1:1 - Lesson 03

In the Beginning ...

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."

– Genesis 1:1

1. Review

- a. Genesis is a foundational book, chapter 1 the foundational chapter
- b. Evolution was not first a science, but a godless perspective on the universe
- c. Impersonal philosophy affected other areas of study (history, higher criticism)
- d. *"It has always been this way"*, has it? – *"willing ignorance"* – 2 Pet 1:16, 2:5, 3:4
- e. *"Evidence"* for Genesis as myth relies on unbelief in a god of miracles – Heb 11:6

2. A Single Verse

- a. It is a witness to divine inspiration: succinct, direct, intelligent, authoritative.
- b. If you believe Gen 1:1, you will have no problem believing the rest of the Bible.
- c. Nobody, dead or alive, witnessed these events. It requires faith– Heb 11:1-3
- d. It could only be revealed from God, or it is a lie and the Bible is false.
- e. One verse changes your perspective on all things: a beginning? Personal Creator?
- f. Gen 1:1 does not a debate about God, it reveals what is clearly seen – Rom 1:20
- g. The rising disbelief in this verse is not a result of science, but of Rom 1:21-22
- h. Time, space, and matter were created together, how did Moses know this?
- i. Law of Causality says no effect can be greater than its cause. We are here.
- j. Three options for the universe: it's eternal; it created itself; God created it.

3. Impact on World Religions

- a. The world's religions are the product of fallen humanity - Psa 96:5, Jer 10:10-14
- b. Muslims, Jews, Christians embrace Gen 1:1, Eastern religion thinks all is eternal.
- c. Gen 1 refutes atheism, pantheism, polytheism, materialism, humanism, evolution
- d. Other religions/philosophies start with matter, not God, the Creator - Acts 17:22
- e. Some say, *"all religions are... the same ... wrong... products of the culture"*
- f. If God is personal, he is not subject to us (our reason, our 'laws', our culture)
- g. Genesis 1:1 says we are subject to God's judgment whether we like it or not

4. Christ, in the Beginning

- a. Gen 1:1 is a foundation, but it is not exhaustive - Rom 16:25, 2 Tim 1:9-10
- b. There was a purpose in the beginning for heaven and earth – Eph 1:9-11, 3:9-12
- c. Before the world, in the beginning, there was Christ – 1 Pet 1:20, John 1:1-3
- d. The Word that created all things was made flesh – John 1:14, Col 1:16
- e. He is the Alpha and the Omega – Isa 48:12-13, Rev 22:13
- f. He deserves glory and gratitude for Gen 1:1 – Phil 2:10-11, 2 Pet 3:18, Rom 11:36