

Genesis Foundations Series
Genesis 1:1a – “In the beginning, God”

- I. **The Bible Shows Us that Creation is about GOD – Creation is God-founded**
 - A. **The Bible Assumes that GOD Exists** (Psalm 14:1a The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God.")
 - B. **The Bible Declares that GOD is the Creator** (John 1:1-3 All things were made through Him)
 - C. **The Bible Indicates that Creation is about GOD** (God is mentioned 35x 1:1-2-3 w/o pronouns)
- II. **The Bible Shows Us that Creation is for GOD – Creation is God-focused**
 - A. **A Belief in GOD is the First Step Towards the Truth** (Heb 11:6 “he who comes to God must believe that He is”)
 - B. **A Proper Grasp of GOD is the Foundation for All Knowledge and Wisdom** (Prov 1:7; 9:10; 14:27; 19:23)
 - C. **An Understanding that Creation (Including Ourselves) Was Made for GOD Is Vital (Col 1:16 “for Him”)**
 - D. **A Proper Response to GOD as GOD is Required of All in Mind and Action (Rom 1:18-25 “did not glorify Him as God”)**

Principle: God is deservedly to be the Central Focus of our Lives!

7 “Beginnings” Referred to in the Bible:

1. Eternity Past (Prior to Creation)

- **Prov 8:22-23** The LORD possessed me at the beginning of His way, Before His works of old. ²³ I have been established from everlasting, From the beginning, before there was ever an earth. (wisdom personified)
- **John 1:1-2** – In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God.
- **2 Thes 2:13-14** ¹³ But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, ¹⁴ to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- **1 John 2:13a(-14)** I write to you, fathers, Because you have known Him *who is* from the beginning.

2. The Beginning of the World (Creation)

- **Gen 1:1** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
- **Is 64:4** For since the beginning of the world [Men] have not heard nor perceived by the ear, Nor has the eye seen any God besides You, Who acts for the one who waits for Him.
- **Matt 19:4** And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made [them] at the beginning 'made them male and female,'" (cf. Mark 10:6)
- **Matt 19:8** He said to them, "Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so."
- **Matt 24:21** For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. (cf. Mark 13:19)
- **John 8:44** You are of [your] father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and [does not] stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own [resources,] for he is a liar and the father of it. (cf. 1 John 3:8)
- **Heb 1:10** And: "You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands."
- **2 Pet 3:4** and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as [they were] from the beginning of creation." (see also *Is 46:9-10; Eph 3:9*)

3. The Beginning of Jesus' Earthly Ministry

- **Luke 1:2** ... those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us,
- **John 2:11** – This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.
- **John 6:64** – “But there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him.
- **John 8:25** – Then they said to Him, “Who are You?” And Jesus said to them, “Just what I have been saying to you from the beginning.”
- **John 15:27** – And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.
- **John 16:4** – But these things I have told you, that when the time comes, you may remember that I told you of them. And these things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you.
- **1 John 1:1** – That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life --

4. The Beginning of the Church (Pentecost)

- Acts 11:15 – And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning.

5. The Beginning of Paul's Ministry

- Phil 4:15 – Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only.

6. Title or Characteristic of Jesus Christ

- Col 1:18 – And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.
- Heb 7:3 – without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually.
- Rev 1:8 – “I am the Alpha and the Omega, [the] Beginning and [the] End,” says the Lord, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.” (cf. 21:6,13)
- Rev 3:14 – And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:’

7. The Point of Conversion or Discipleship of Believers (or The Constancy of Truth Over Time)

- 1 John 2:7 – Brethren, I write no new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning.
- 1 John 2:24 – Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.
- 1 John 3:11 – For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another,
- 2 John 1:5 – And now I plead with you, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment to you, but that which we have had from the beginning: that we love one another.
- 2 John 1:6 – This is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it.

God answers the “where did we come from” question at the very start. God starts at the beginning as far as a human perspective is concerned.

The Bible begins at the beginning, and ends at the end – logical, from Genesis to Revelation – the whole of Scripture in one Book.

What Does the Term “God” (Elohim) Indicate?

1. **God is the Subject of the Bible** – “The creation account is theocentric, not creature centered. Its purpose is to glorify the Creator by magnifying him through the majesty of the created order. The passage is doxological as well as didactic, hymnic as well as history. ‘God’ is the *grammatical* subject of the first sentence (1:1) and continues as the *thematic* subject throughout the account.” *Tom Constable's Expository Notes on the Bible (Ge 1:1). (2003).*
2. **El signifies the strong God;** and what less than almighty strength could bring all things out of nothing?
3. **God (elohim) is the standard Hebrew term for deity.**
4. **God (elohim) is used also for:** pagan gods (31:30), angels (Ps. 8:5), men (Ps. 82:6), and judges (Ex. 21:6).
5. **God (elohim) is plural** (Hebrew *im* = plural) possibly the form called the plural of majesty or the plural of intensity, which, instead of meaning “gods,” can mean “the fullness of deity” or “God—very God.”
6. **God (elohim) also hints at the plurality of persons in the Godhead, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – The Trinity.** “This first occurrence of the divine name is the Hebrew *Elohim*, the name of God which stresses His majesty and omnipotence. This is the name used throughout the first chapter of Genesis. The *im* ending is the Hebrew plural ending, so that *Elohim* can actually mean “gods,” and is so translated in various passages referring to the gods of the heathen (e.g., Psalm 96:5). However, it is clearly used here in the singular, as the mighty name of God the Creator, the first of over two thousand times where it is used in this way. **Thus Elohim is a plural name with a singular meaning, a “uni-plural” noun, thereby suggesting the uni-plurality of the Godhead. God is one, yet more than one.** [Emphasis added.] (Henry Morris – *The Genesis Record*)

The existence of God is assumed (it is logical and obvious) – Romans 1:18-20; Ps 19:1-3

There are only two choices regarding the origin of the universe:

- (1) eternal mass (evolution via randomness – chaos that randomly results in organization) OR an
- (2) Eternal Maker (creation by a Creator; an obviously designed universe by a powerful Designer)