

Genesis Foundations Series

Genesis 1:1a – Is God Your Foundation? Everything Begins with God

- I. The Bible Shows Us that Creation is about GOD – Creation is God-FOUNDED (He exists, is the Creator; Creation about God)
- II. The Bible Shows Us that Creation is for GOD – Creation is God-FOCUSED – *Life Principle: God is to be Our Central Focus!*

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

7 “Beginnings” Referred to in the Bible:

- (1) Eternity Past (Prior to Creation) – (2) The Beginning of the World (Creation) – (3) The Beginning of Jesus’ Earthly Ministry – (4) The Beginning of the Church (Pentecost) (5) The Beginning of Paul’s Ministry – (6) Title or Characteristic of Jesus Christ – (7) The Point of Conversion of Believers – *Life Principle: Begin @ the Beginning – witnessing, instruction, history, education...*

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

1. God is the Subject of the Bible (the existence of God is assumed)
2. God (*elohim*) is the standard Hebrew term for deity, and is also used for pagan gods, angels, men, and judges.
3. God (*elohim*) is plural possibly the form called the plural of majesty or intensity which can mean “the fullness of deity”
4. God (*elohim*) also hints at the plurality of persons in the Godhead, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – The Trinity.

There are only two choices regarding the origin of the universe: (1) eternal mass, or (2) an Eternal Maker

Genesis 1:1b – “...God created...”

“GOD CREATED” – The Concept of Creation – *God Created EVERYTHING Ultimately Out of NOTHING*

The Usage of the Word “Create” (bārā) (6x in creation account) Its subject is always God (men do not create); used only of God’s activity with no presence of existing material; refers to a new activity; it refers to the product, not the material from which it is made. The context indicates that creation was *ex nihilo* (“out of nothing”). *Create* does not necessarily mean an altogether new thing. “Create” / “make” used interchangeably for the creation of human life. (*bārā*) is singular. One God created everything; but is not part of creation.

Rejects 9 Views: Atheism; Pantheism; Polytheism; Radical materialism; Naturalism; Fatalism; Dualism; Humanism; Nihilism

“THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH” *Life Principle: Identify the Basic Elements and Start There*

- A. **Where is God going to put this creation? Heavens!** → SPACE (*Heavens (1) vs Heaven (8) vs heavens (9)*)
In Genesis 1:1, the term refers to the component of space in the basic space-mass-time universe. (Henry Morris, *The Genesis Record*)
The Third Heaven – The Presence of God and Home of the Angels (2 Cor 4 12:2-4)
The Second Heaven – The Realm of Outer Space (Ps 19:1)
The First Heaven – The Atmosphere or “Air” (The Sky Where Birds Fly) – Gen 1:6-8
- B. **What was God going to make things out of? Earth!** → MATTER (*Earth in v. 1 is not quite the earth of v. 10!*)
- C. **How did God Do This?** → **By His WORD!** (Ps 33:6-9; 148:1-6) – Ps 33:6 “*By the word of the LORD the heavens were made...*”

When Was the Beginning?: Three Views of the Timing of Verse 1

- (1) Previous Creation – Verse 1 refers to the heavens & earth which existed prior to the creation account. *This view is held by those who may hold to either theistic evolution or the gap theory.*
- (2) Preview of Creation – Verse 1 is a summary statement of what is to follow: “*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth, the details of which are to follow.*”
- (3) Part of Creation on Day 1 – Verse 1 is part of Day 1. *The heavens and the earth are the first components of creation as God begins to create on Day 1. The evidence:* (A) Genesis 2:1-4 Includes Verse 1 as Part of the 6 Days of Creation (Gen 2:1-4); (B) Conjunctions and Connectives Require a Single Day for Verses 1-2; (C); The Presence of Earth & Water Components on Day 2 is Explained Only by Verse 1; (D) Other Passages Combine the Heavens & the Earth in the 6 Days of Creation (or their Events; e.g. Ex 20:8-11)

A literal 6-day creation defines the method of interpretation of the Bible, and lays the foundation the rest of Scripture.

Incomplete Creation: God Takes His Time (1:2a-b)

1. **The Subject – “The Earth”**
2. **The Situation – Three Conditions (the condition immediately after v. 1):**
 - a. **Without form** – shapeless – *tohu* – unfashioned – uninhabitable (Is 45:18 – God wasn’t finished)
 - b. **Void** – lifeless – *bohu* – empty – uninhabited (3x – Used only with *tohu*)
 - c. **Dark** – lightless – unpowered
3. **The Strategy**
 - a. God begins with the simple and moves to the complex.
 - b. God was at the beginning of several phases – creation had only just begun.
 - c. God uses six days to address each condition.
4. **Summary Observations**
 - a. God works by processes. (Matt 28:20; Rom 12:1-2; Col 2:6-7; 3:1ff)
 - b. God’s today is not His tomorrow. (2 Pet 3:1-13; Rev 21-22)
 - c. God has His plan and His pace. (2 Pet 3:8; Moses)

The Protector and Power of Creation – The Holy Spirit (1:2c)

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 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. (Genesis 1:1-2)

Spirit or Wind? (Are we reading into the text?)

It could be translated “mighty wind” here. It is not “wind” here for at least 3 reasons (adapted from Victor P. Hamilton, *The Book of Genesis Chapters 1-17, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament*, pp. 111-112):

1. **None of the other eighteen occurrences of this phrase in the OT means anything like “mighty wind.”**
2. **It is true that there are some plausible examples in the Hebrew Bible of *elohim* used as a superlative, that is, as an adjective rather than a noun. But even these examples are ambiguous.**
3. **If the author had intended to say “a might wind” he could have used unambiguous expressions that would have more clearly communicated this.** [This would be a poorest choice way to indicate this.]

Why does this make a difference? Two reasons: (1) We need to be careful with our interpretation process – just because something sounds good to us does not make it true; (2) We want to accurately understand the Word!

Waters? What Waters?

This seems to relate to the “earth” that was created in verse 1. The unshaped, uninhabited, unenergized matter that yet was nothing because of a lack of energy and design.

This term is synonymous with “the face of the deep.” Again the word “face” means “presence,” and the thought is that the formless waters, like the formless earth, were essentially a “presence” rather than a cohesive body.

Although the marvelous universe had been called into existence by the omnipotent Creator, it had not yet been imbued with energy and set in motion. This must await the energizing action of the Spirit of God and the activating power of the Word of God. (The Genesis Record, p. 51)

What Did the Spirit Do?

^{NKJ} And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. (moved, moving, YLT – fluttering)

Deut 32:11a ^{NKJ} As an eagle stirs up its nest, Hovers over its young, / ^{ESV} that flutters over its young,

Jeremiah 23:9a ^{NKJ} My heart within me is broken Because of the prophets; All my bones shake. / ^{NAU} All my bones tremble;

Waves are typically rapid back and forth movements and they are normally produced by the vibratory motion of a wave generator of some kind. Energy cannot create itself. It is most appropriate that the first impartation of energy to the universe is described as the “vibrating” movement of the Spirit of God Himself. (The Genesis Record, p. 52)

The Spirit Is Involved in Creation (Job 26:13; 33:4; Ps 104:29-30)

Preparing to Act (like a military preparatory command?), to Empower or Energize? (Titus 3:4-7; 1 Peter 3:18; cf. 2 Peter 1:20-21)

Protecting & Preserving What Has Been Created (the universe was not matter friendly at the moment!)

And God Said: The Word of the Lord in Creation (and Beyond)

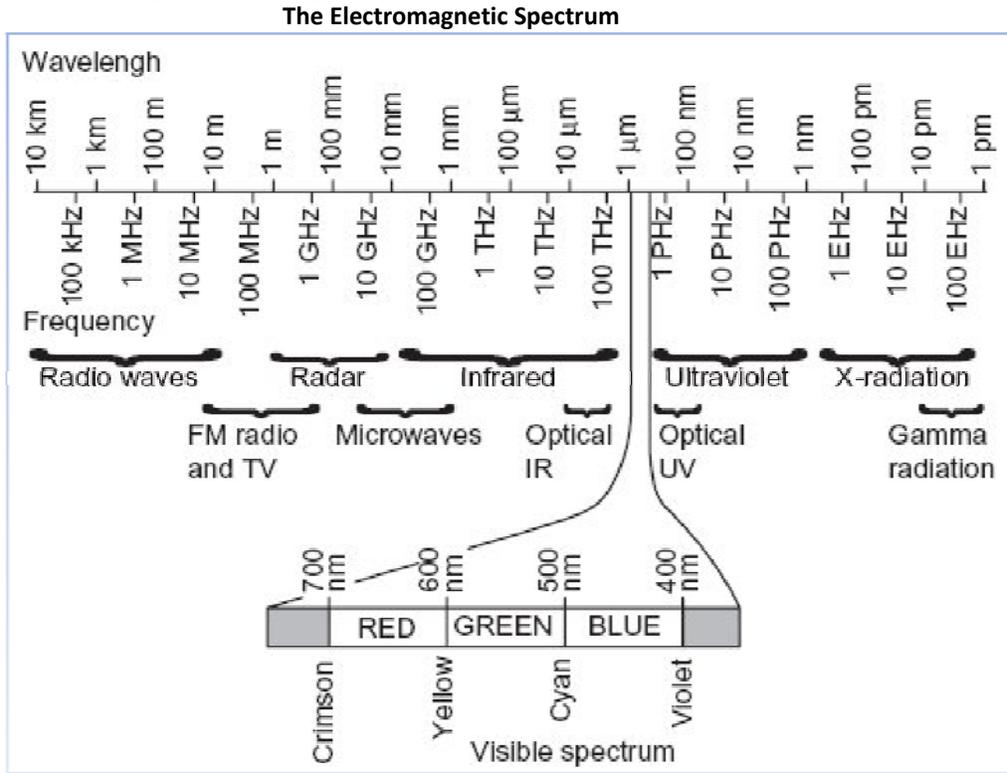
- I. The Pattern of God Speaking in Creation (11x in Gen 1-2)
- II. The Power of God Speaking in Creation (Ps 33:6-9; Is 45:12; Rom 4:17; Heb 11:3; 2 Pet 3:5)
- III. The Person of God Speaking (John 1:1-3, 14; 1 Cor 8:6; Heb 1:2)
- IV. The Principle of God Speaking (Gen 3:1; Is 66:2; Heb 4:12; 1 Pet 1:22-25; 1 John 2:14)

Genesis Foundations Series

Genesis 1:1-5 ¹ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 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. ³ Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴ And God saw the light, that *it was* good; and God divided the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.

God Creates Light

1. **God Declares** (*And God said "Let there be light"*)
2. **God Creates** (*and there was light*)
 - Light → Energy (electromagnetic spectrum)



(by Graham Saxby, as shown on <http://www.answers.com/topic/electromagnetic-spectrum>)

- We do not know what light is (particle & wave properties), but we know what it does
 - Light is the constant on which all of modern science is built, and on which all creation relies upon
 - God is the source of ALL light/energy (the sun/stars – “lights” – were not created until Day 4)
 - God provides the power for all of creation to hold together
3. **God Evaluates** (*and God saw the light, that [it was] good*)
 - Possible outcomes (for us): good, bad
 - Absolutes...
 - We, too, should be evaluating our work, and measuring it against God’s standards
 4. **God Separates** (*and God divided the light from the darkness*)
 - From chaos to organization
 - Life involves separating, dividing, choosing, distinguishing, discerning
 - God draws the lines. We simply acknowledge them and live by them.
 5. **God Defines** (*God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night.*)
 - God assigns labels and meanings
 - Light = “Day”
 - Darkness = “Night”

Summary

- “The evening and the morning were the first day”
- The earth likely rotating on its axis now, with the cycle of normal days beginning
- Light & dark areas on the earth, even without the sun (hint at understanding starlight?)

Light Is a Spiritual Concept Referred to Throughout the Bible! You Have to Grasp Creation to Understand!

Light is referred to in a spiritual sense in at least 6 ways:

1. As Identification – It Marks a Person

OF GOD

- God is light (1 John 1:5)
- I am the light of the world (John 8:12)
- who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom [be] honor and everlasting power. Amen. (1 Tim 6:16)
- Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. (James 1:17)
- There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever. (Rev 22:5)

OF GOD'S PEOPLE (Believers)

- You are the light of the world. A City that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. (Matt 5:14)
- You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of the darkness. (1 Thes 5:5)

2. As Information (Revelation; Truth)

- Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! (Is 5:20)
- In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. (John 1:4-5)
- That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. (John 1:9)
- And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.
- For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God. (John 3:19-21)
- While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light. These things Jesus spoke, and departed, and was hidden from them. (John 12:36)
- I have come [as] a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness. (John 12:46)
- But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. (Eph 5:13)

3. As Salvation

- 'to open their eyes, [in order] to turn [them] from darkness to light, and [from] the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.' (Acts 26:18)
- For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to [give] the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (2 Cor 4:6)
- giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. (Col 1:12)
- But you [are] a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; (1 Pet 2:9)

4. As Sanctification (Spiritual Growth & Conduct)

- The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. (Rom 13:12)
- For you were once darkness, but now [you are] light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), (Eph 5:8-9 – "Spirit" is phos in NU)
- But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:17)
- He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. (1 John 2:10)

5. As Separation (Holiness)

- Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? (2 Cor 6:14)

6. As Proclamation (Evangelism)

- Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matt 5:16)
- "that the Christ would suffer, that He would be the first to rise from the dead, and would proclaim light to the [Jewish] people and to the Gentiles." (Acts 26:23)