

## Genesis

### Doctrine of Creation

1. When Jesus was tempted by Satan, He answered that man does not live by bread alone, but by the word of God.
  - *Matthew 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*
2. Jesus wanted to live by the word of God in every facet of His life, and He did.
  - *John 8:29 And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.*
3. The words of God makes a person come alive both physically, and spiritually.
  - *Genesis 1:26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*
  - *Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*
4. Despite the popularity of the Bible, and the fact that it sells well, the great crisis in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is ignorance of the sacred text.
5. This is a great tragedy, because the Bible is personally profitable. The Bible will make us wise unto salvation.
  - *2 Timothy 3:15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.*
  - *2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*
6. A wide, broad, survey of the Bible, can stimulate detailed study of Scripture.
7. A good place to begin is on page one of the Bible, with the first verse.
  - *Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the Heaven and the earth.*
8. There are three words that are of crucial importance in order to understand the full scope of history.

- Beginning
  - God
  - Created
9. These three words set biblical Christianity apart from all other religions in the world, including the religion of Secular Humanism, atheism, and existentialism.
  10. The religious debate immediately starts with the word, “beginning.” The Hebrew word is ro’shah (ro-shaw’), and means, “the head”.
  11. What is asserted is that what is generated, what has a genesis, is the universe, which has a starting point in time.

***Special Note.***

The atheist Friedrich Nietzsche (October 15, 1844 – August 25, 1900) tried to revive the ancient Greek philosophy that the universe does not have a starting point. Nietzsche wrote about, what he called, “the myth of eternal recurrence.” However, the Greeks, and Nietzsche were wrong. The universe does have a point of origin, and it has a point of termination. The universe, and all of life, is not cyclical. The book of Ecclesiastes addresses the idea of a cyclical view of life, and concludes it is “vanity of vanities”.

12. God does not have a starting point in time, for God is eternal. He is without beginning, and without end.
13. Eternal refers to the endless past, the unending future, or to God's present experience of all time.
14. God has no beginning, and He has no ending either.
  - *Genesis 21:33 And Abraham planted a grove in Beer-sheba, and called there on the name of the Lord, the everlasting God.*
  - *Psalms 90:2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.*
  - *Isaiah 57:15 For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.*
  - *Deuteronomy 33:27 The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy them.*
15. God has always existed and He always will. Nothing can resist Him, and nothing will ever be able to bring an end to Him.

16. Because God is eternal, because God is omnipotent, He can speak, and the universe can come into existence.
- *Psalms 33:9 For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.*
  - *Hebrews 11:3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.*
17. As there was a beginning, so there was its author, God.
18. There is no argument for the existence of God. There is simply a bold declaration.
19. If there is a beginning to anything, there must have been something preceding it, or it could not be, for out of nothing, nothing comes.
20. For there to be a created universe, there has to be something that stands outside of it, having eternal being, will, and power. There has to be God.
21. In the beginning God does something. God creates. Genesis introduces us to God in action. He is creating.
22. God creates out of nothing. Unlike us, who merely rearrange material, God created ex nihilo, out of nothing. There was no preexisting matter from which He formed the universe.
23. God alone has the power to bring life out of death, and something out of nothing.
24. How God can do what He does is only known through divine revelation. To date, no amount of studying has revealed the supreme work of God, which is His creative power.
25. The closest the Scripture reveals about how God created is that it lies in the power of His word. God spoke, and the universe sprang into existence. St. Augustine called this the “Divine Fiat”, or the “Divine Imperative”.
26. God spoke into the void, and said, “Let there be”, and the universe began.
- *Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the Heaven and the earth. 2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. 3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.*
27. What is revealed is that the creation is glorious, and is a reflection of God Himself.
- *Psalms 19:1 To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.*
  - *Psalms 97:6 The heavens declare his righteousness, and all the people see his glory.*

**28.** In Genesis 1:2, there are three basic negatives which describe the original universe.

- Formlessness
- Emptiness
- Darkness

**29.** In the ancient world, these three words captured three frightening ideas.

- Formlessness, speaks of absolute chaos.
- Emptiness, describes the worse sensation in our souls when we feel frightened and alone. Imagine an empty universe.
- Darkness itself is a pure negative term. It is the absence of something, light.

**30.** In Genesis 1:2 we are presented with a picture of a vast formless, void, of darkness.

**31.** In Genesis 1:2 a new agent is introduced, the Spirit of God.

- *Genesis 1:2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.*

**32.** Over the darkness, emptiness, and void, we hear for the first time the voice of God.

- *Genesis 1:3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.*

**33.** Instantly, light bursts over the universe, and begins to fill the darkness. Light is brought into existence for God to form His world. There will be water, trees, plants, animals, and, ultimately man.

**34.** Our lives today are utterly inexplicable apart from Someone having said, “Let there be.” By the power, and force of that command, the light of the universe came on, and a setting was established for God to scoop into the dust, and prepare a creature for His glory.