

“In the Beginning God”

Ge 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.

Introduction:

1. The key to God’s truth is right here at the front door
2. We cannot exhaust the truth of this first verse of the Bible
3. Imagine trying to drain the ocean’s water with a teaspoon
4. Isn’t it interesting that the first thing God wanted us to know about Him is that He is Creator.
5. Isn’t it also interesting how fiercely the devil fights this verse - if he can destroy confidence in this verse then he can destroy confidence in the entire Bible
6. On Christmas Eve, 1968, the three astronauts of Apollo 8 circled the dark side of the moon and headed for home. As their tiny capsule floated through space, they gazed on planet earth. What do you think they did? They did not quote Einstein, Shakespeare or Darwin. There was only one statement that could capture the magnificence of that moment. As billions of people all around the world listened, an astronaut acknowledged God as Creator as he read these words: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth”
7. My hope is that you will leave this morning with a renewed appreciation for the almightiness, the infinite greatness, the awesome majesty, the unfathomable power of our mighty God

I. GOD IS PRESENTED - RECOGNIZE HIM

A. Nowhere Does the Bible Prove God's Existence

1. Gen 1 does not start off with 38 proofs of the existence of God
 - a) *God is not argued here*
 - b) *God is not explained here*
 - c) *If we try to prove the existence of God then we are attempting what no Bible writer attempted*
 - d) *If a skeptic tells you to prove God's existence then tell him that you can't prove the existence of God - you believe it by faith*
 - (1) The skeptic smiles thinking that he has won the argument.
 - (2) Then you ask him to prove that God does not exist
 - (3) He can no more prove that God does not exist then you can prove that God does exist.
 - (4) By faith we accept that God exists and it is by faith that the skeptic believes that God does not exist
2. Until the 1700s it was very rare to hear anyone doubt the existence of God
3. Up till then people just assumed that if there was a creation, then there must be a Creator

B. Gen 1:1 Refutes

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

1. The Atheist – “there is no God”
2. The Agnostic – “We Can't Know God”
3. The Pantheist – “All of Nature is God”
4. The Materialist – “matter is eternal”
5. The Fatalist – “there is no divine plan”
6. Many today believe in God but they don't believe in the God of the Bible

c. The Existence of God is a Matter of Faith – Heb 11:6

Heb 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

1. The finite mind cannot prove an infinite God
2. You can't put God in a test tube, He can't be proved or disproved
3. Creation in its immensity and complexity screams out that there is a creator
4. Newton's model of the solar system

Sir Isaac Newton made a model of the solar system. It had a central sun and planets that went around the sun. The earth had a moon. When you turned the crank, then this model went into action. One day a friend of Newton's stopped by for a visit. This scientist was an unbeliever. He looked at the model and asked, "Who made this?" Newton replied, "Nobody made it, it just appeared by itself." The scientist said, "Come on, this can't just appear, someone had to make it." "The universe represented by this model is infinitely more complex and you believe that it just happened by itself. Why can't you believe that the model just happened by chance?"

5. Since no one was there at the beginning, origins are a matter of faith
 - a) *To believe in evolution requires just as much faith as believing in creation*
 - b) *It takes more faith to believe the monkey story than it does to believe "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the..."*
 - c) *Either "nothing times God = everything"*
 - d) *Nothing times nobody + billions of years = everything*
6. If there is a personal God who created everything
 - a) *Then He can call the shots*
 - b) *He can say what is right and what is wrong*
 - c) *He can give the requirements for salvation*

d) *Then we are accountable to Him*

God is Presented - Recognize Him....

II. GOD IS POWERFUL - RESPECT HIM

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

A. "In the Beginning"

1. Gen 1:1 speaks of the creation of space and matter and it also speaks of the beginning of time
2. "bereshith" and is translated correctly in the KJV
3. Some have tried to accommodate great ages of time and suggest a weaker translation such as...
 - a) *"In the beginning of God's creating..."*
 - b) *"When God began to create..."*
 - c) *These are grammatically possible translations*
 - d) *The context precludes these translations*

B. "God" = Elohim

1. El refers to the strong one, mighty one, the prominent one
2. El is the singular form
3. Elohim is plural which allows room for the trinity
4. Ro 1:20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:
5. Whether you look thru a telescope or a microscope, the only explanation is God. The fool says there is no God.

C. "Created" = bara

1. To create out of nothing
2. This is only used of God – since only God can create

Heb 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.

3. We just rearrange materials
 - a) *When a painter creates a masterpiece we mean that she took some canvas and some paints and painted the picture. She did not create the painting out of nothing, she used materials already in existence*
 - b) *When we build something we rearrange materials*
4. Create here informs us that matter is not eternal, it had a beginning - God alone is infinite and eternal
5. It is either eternal God or eternal matter
6. A group of scientists got together and decided they no longer needed God. One of them said to God, “We’ve decided we no longer need you. We can do all kinds of things through science. We can even clone people and make body parts so we just don’t need you anymore.”
God listened patiently, then He said, “Let’s have a man making-contest.”
The scientist agreed and bent down to grab himself a handful of dirt. God smiled and said, “No, wait a minute, get your own dirt.”

D. “The Heavens”

1. In Hebrew "shamayim" which is plural can be translated heaven or heavens depending on context
2. This does not refer to the stars of heaven for they were created on the fourth day
3. This word corresponds to our word "space"

E. “And the Earth”

1. This refers to the matter which would be organized into the structured

earth

2. Erets is usually translated "land" or "ground"
3. At this time there were no other planets, stars, or other bodies in the universe

God is Presented - Recognize Him // God is Powerful - Respect Him

III. GOD IS PURPOSEFUL - REVERENCE HIM

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

A. God Created for His Own Pleasure

Rev 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

1. God always has a purpose for what He does
2. God created us for His pleasure
3. We exist for the pleasure of God, He does not exist for us
4. We find our greatest pleasure in giving Him pleasure

B. God Created for His Own Praise

Ro 11:36 For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.

1. When I gaze on the handwork of God I want to praise Him
2. We give God glory through our worship
3. We give God glory through our obedience
4. We give God glory when we live the Christian life that shines in this sin-darkened world

C. God Created for His People

1. God made these things for us
2. Man would be created soon and he would need a home
3. So God made an ideal place, food, everything man would need

God is Presented / God is Powerful / God is Purposeful.....

IV. GOD IS PERSONAL - RESPOND TO HIM

A. God is a Real Person

1. God is spirit - but he is a person
2. God is not some kind of an impersonal force
3. A person has intelligence, will, emotion

B. God is a Revealed Person

Ro 1:19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed *it* unto them.

1. No one can know God unless God reveals Himself to that person
2. The Word of God is God revealing Himself to mankind
3. Unbelief is inexcusable

C. God is a Redeeming Person

2Co 5:17 Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

1. You don't have to read very far that sin came and marred the creation
2. God came, in the form of Jesus Christ, to redeem His people

Conclusion –

There is No God!

There is no God! All of the wonders around us are accidental. No Almighty hand made a thousand-billion stars. They made themselves. No power keeps them in their steady course. The earth spins itself to keep the oceans from falling off toward the sun. Infants teach themselves to cry when they are hungry or hurt. A small flower invented itself so we could extract

digitalis for sick hearts. The earth gave itself night and day and then tilted itself so that we can have the seasons.

How about the sugar-thermostat in your pancreas? It maintains a level of sugar in the blood so that you have sufficient energy. Without it, all of us would fall into a coma and die.

Why does snow sit on the mountain-tops waiting for the warming spring sun to melt it as just the right time for the young crops in the farms below to drink? Is this just a lovely accident?

Your heart will beat for 70-80 years without faltering. How does it get sufficient rest between beats? A kidney will filter poison from our blood, and leave the good things alone. How does it know the bad stuff from the good stuff?

Who gave the human tongue flexibility to form words, and a brain to understand them, but denied it to the animals? Who showed a womb how to take the love of a husband and wife and keep splitting the ovum until, in time, a baby would have the proper number of fingers, eyes and ears and hair in the right places and come into the world when it is strong enough to sustain life? - There is no God?