



GENESIS

- **Hebrew title**, *bereshith*, means “in the beginning”.¹
- **English title** of **Genesis** comes from the Greek word for “generations” found in the Greek version of Gen. 2:4: “this is the book of generations of heaven and earth...”²

Today we see 4 beginnings that define our relationship with God & the world.

I. The Beginning of the Universe—Genesis 1:1

Ancient civilizations where the gods are lustful, vengeful beings who created humans, yet care very little about them.

Modern culture says we are cosmic accidents - pointless, purposeless beings in a pointless, purposeless universe.

This doesn't answer where these colliding atoms and chemical compounds come from. *The scientific evidence demonstrates that our universe is NOT eternal, therefore it had a beginning.* But how does time, matter, & energy come from NOTHING?

The Bible offers a 3rd explanation for our universe - the God who exists outside of time, matter, & energy, who created the universe to show His power & created you to know His Presence.

Genesis 1:1 (CSB) ¹ **In the beginning God** created the heavens and the earth.

The Bible does not teach WHEN the universe began, but it DOES teach WHO caused it to begin. **In the beginning** - the origin of it all - **God created the heavens** (i.e. the universe).

Big Bang?

This event points back to a time when everything exploded out of one single point of nothingness, showing THAT the universe came into existence, but not answering HOW. The Big Bang still needs a BIG BANGER.

And the Bible claims that God created it all, including **the earth**, as the most special place in the universe. God took the disordered earth - **formless, empty, & dark** (Gen. 1:2), & made it into a place where we can survive & thrive.

The rest of Genesis 1 tells of God's formation of the earth, the seas, land, plants, animals, and mankind. And here we live on a planet in the 'Goldilocks zone' - not too hot and not too cold, just the right distance from the sun, just the right distance from the moon for our ocean tides to be regulated, just the right amount of oxygen for people, and just the right amount of carbon dioxide for plants. And that's just 4 of over 100 fine tuned specifics that must exist for US to exist on planet earth.

II. The Beginning of the Mankind—Genesis 1:27

Genesis 1:27 (CSB) So God created man **in his own image**; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female.

This doesn't mean we LOOK LIKE God, but that we ARE LIKE God - **creational, relational, & eternal**.

- **Creational**: When you appreciate people creating beautiful art & music...that's because the One who made you is CREATOR.
- **Relational**: When you smile because people are in right relationship with each other (family & friends), when you appreciate folks serving & loving one another, when you see people seek to know God...that's because your Creator is relational.
- **Eternal**: People were created to live forever. When something inside you cries out for and seeks something beyond this life...that's because your Creator is eternal.

¹ David M. Carr, "Genesis, Book of," ed. David Noel Freedman, Allen C. Myers, and Astrid B. Beck, Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible (Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans, 2000), 491.

² Ibid.

III. The Beginning of Sin—Genesis 3

Genesis 3:1 (CSB) ¹ Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You can’t eat from any tree in the garden?’”

It’s in Genesis 3 that we see the sinful suggestion that God has not told us the whole truth, that He is holding some fun back from us.

While this passage doesn’t call **the serpent** ‘devil or ‘Satan’, the Scripture refers to the devil as “*the ancient serpent, the one called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world*” (Rev. 12:9 NET)

Tempting people to question their Creator - is literally, the oldest tactic in THE BOOK.

Genesis 3:8–9 (CSB) ⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and **they hid from the LORD God** among the trees of the garden. ⁹ So the LORD God called out to the man and said to him, “**Where are you?**”

This is not a geographical question, but a spiritual question. God knew where Adam was. *He wanted ADAM to know where Adam was.* They were guilty and they knew it. Sin entered the world and the relationship between God & those made in His image was damaged. [Enter stage left: sin, sickness, death]

If you’ve ever felt that something is wrong with the world, you’re right! The Bible helps us understand and address the evil that exists on our planet. Sin separates us from relationship with God & people made in His image. Sin brings sickness, death, & broken relationships.

Some 2000 years before Christ, God set a rescue plan in motion. God chose Abram (later called Abraham) to begin this rescue plan.

IV. The Beginning of God’s Plan—Genesis 12

Genesis 12:1–3 (CSB) ¹ The LORD said to Abram: Go out from your land, your relatives, and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make you into a great nation, I will bless you, I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, I will curse anyone who treats you with contempt, and **all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you.**

From Abram comes Isaac. From Isaac came Jacob, later called ISRAEL. From Israel came 12 tribes from whom would emerge the Savior who would bless **all the peoples on earth.**

As we begin this 8-week journey through 40 essential chapters of the Bible, we will see that ***the Good Book is a story of God redeeming people made in His image.*** And it’s in the very first writing of the Bible that we see God’s love and plan to redeem fallen mankind beginning to be carried out.

God’s Plan to Redeem Fallen Man

1 John 4:9–10 (CSB) ⁹ God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his one and only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ Love consists in this: not that we loved God, but that **he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.**

FEET2FAITH

1. **Read the Good Book 5 days this week** (Genesis 1, 3, 6,12, 22). * more copies available tomorrow. \$13 for adults, \$7 for children.
2. **Show up next Sunday & invite someone to come with you!**
3. **Watch the video at RightNowMedia.org.**

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