

Unique By Design: In the beginning

May 4, 2025

Text: Genesis 1:1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

Introduction:

Big Idea: God's creation is _____ by _____.

1. **All _____ have a beginning.** [In the beginning]
 - You and I are finite
2. **God is the _____ of all created things.** [In the beginning, God]
 - Hebrews 1:10–12 And, “You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end.”
 - John 1:1-3 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.
 - Colossians 1:15-17 (Jesus) is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
 - **EVERYTHING ACCORDING TO SCRIPTURE IS BUILT (not around the earth or man) AROUND _____.**
 - Everyone believes something about God: Theist, Deist, Dualist, Polytheist, Pantheist, Animist, Hedonist, Atheist
3. **God's creative ability reveals his eternal _____ and perfect _____.** [God created the heavens and the earth]
 - Created - The root *bārā'* has the basic meaning “to create.” It differs from *yāšar* “to fashion” in that the latter primarily emphasizes the shaping of an object while *bārā'* emphasizes the *initiation of the object*.

My biggest questions in life are answered in Genesis 1:1

- Origin – _____ did I come from?
- Purpose – _____ am I here?
- Design – _____ does “it” all work?

Truth Into Action:

- **Make the choice to make the Word of God your foundation in life.**
 - Believe God to answer the “**where**” of your **ORIGIN**.
 - Believe God to supply the “**why**” in your **PURPOSE**.
 - Believe God to answer the “**how**” of your **DESIGN**.

Pray first†

Please understand we want to help you know Jesus personally and journey with you in taking fresh steps of obedience daily for Jesus. We would love to pray with you and for you. Join us at the end of the service for prayer or send us your request on the Connect Card and we will lift them up throughout the week.

Table Talk

Warm Up: What is your biggest question in life?

1. Why study Genesis?
2. Why should we believe Genesis 1:1 is true? What kinds of questions are answered in this one verse?
3. Why do some people not want to accept the truth of Genesis 1:1?
4. What, if anything, makes it difficult for you to believe Genesis 1:1?
5. Why do you think this is the first verse in the Bible?
6. How is the truth in Genesis 1:1 comforting to you?
7. How should the truth in Genesis 1:1 compel us to praise God?

Closing Prayer: Father God you are not a God of confusion but of order and design. Help me to grow in my confidence and appreciation of your Word and your UNIQUE DESIGN.

Resources: *Theology of the Body* by Christopher West; *What God has to Say about Our Bodies* by Sam Allberry; *Embodied* by Preston M. Sprinkle; *Five Lies of Our Anti-Christian Age* by Rosaria Butterfield; *Love Thy Body* by Nancy R. Pearcey; *Holy Sexuality and the Gospel* by Christopher Yuan; *The Great Sex Rescue* by Sheila Wray Gregoire, Rebecca Gregoire Lindenbach & Joanna Sawatsky; *Wonderfully Made: A Protestant Theology of the Body* by John W. Kleinig; *Rethinking Sexuality: God's Design and Why It Matters* by Juli Slattery; *Why did God Make me A Boy?* By Joe & Abby Owens; *Why did God Make me A Girl?* By Joe & Abby Owens; *Love-ology* by John Mark Comer