

Genesis 1:1



This time in Coffee Cup Bible, we're going to be looking at Genesis 1:1, the very first verse in the Bible, the beginning of the creation story, and a verse you probably know because it's a very simple verse. Genesis 1:1 simply says, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."

Nothing I'm going to say today is going to be earth shattering for you if you've ever heard a sermon about creation or you even read the Bible because there's not a lot in this verse that we haven't probably already been taught in some way. Our tradition would say that Genesis was written by Moses centuries after creation actually happened. It wasn't an eyewitness account talking about every single thing that happened during creation. Not to say that it's not historical by any means, but we must read it as such, understanding this isn't a firsthand account meant to give all the details of what happened as we go through Genesis one, two and even into Genesis chapter three. This verse, "in the beginning" is referring to the entire creation week. Whatever you understand that to be, this verse is not an event that's beforehand or an event during that creation week. It's referring to the creation week as a whole.

Now notice that in this very first verse of the entire Bible, that God is the main subject. And we shouldn't be surprised because the Bible is not about us and it's not about our sin. That's not the main point of the Bible. The main point is God. The main point is his plan for redemption, to us and for us. And when it says in the beginning, it's talking not about a period within eternity, but the beginning of time itself, which is really hard for us to comprehend because we can't really think of what it means to be outside of time. And we're not going to dive into that in a short video like this. But just understand that the beginning is the beginning of time itself, not just this period within the whole eternal time frame. It's worth noting too that the word beginning in the Hebrew language, in the Greek translation of the Old Testament too, the word beginning in the Old Testament anticipates an ending. It's not just the beginning for eternity. It anticipates that there's an end coming.

And thus, from the very first words of the bible, the return of Christ and the end of times is in view. And talking about time from the beginning of it shows in this simple verse that God is the main character moving forward. That, yes, the heavens and the earth are the supporting cast of the story, but the Bible, the entire story of the Bible is about God first and foremost.

So just a couple of discussion questions as you go to discuss this video within your groups. First, how would it change your view of the Bible if you truly and fully understood that the Bible is not about you? It applies to us absolutely, but we are not a character in the Bible and it's not about us. It's about God and God alone. How would that change your understanding if you actually recognized and believed that when you read it?

And second, do you actually look forward to Jesus's return? Or when you think of the gospel, do you think only back to the crucifixion and resurrection story? Do you focus too much on that beginning rather than looking towards the ending? And what might that change in your thoughts, in your faith life, in your prayer life, or even just your everyday life if you thought about the return of Christ and the end of times as a reality that is coming, maybe not in our lifetime, but it could be tomorrow as well. What might that change for you?