

GENESIS

Week 1 – The Book of Beginnings

Opening Reflection

Before anything existed — galaxies, planets, oceans, time, history, or humanity — God already was. Genesis opens with one of the most consequential sentences ever written:

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” — Genesis 1:1

With just ten words, Scripture announces the origin of all things and the One behind them. No arguments. No philosophy. No buildup. Only a declaration: **God is the beginning.**

Take a moment. Still yourself. Read Genesis 1:1 slowly. Read it again. Let it stand.

Key Ideas from the Message

1. Genesis 1:1 speaks to origins

When Moses wrote “In the beginning,” he meant the beginning of everything:

- the universe
- time and space
- the natural order
- human history
- the physical earth

Before this beginning, only God existed. This alone already answers humanity’s oldest questions:

Where did everything come from? Why are we here? Who stands behind all of this?

Scripture answers: **God — Elohim — the Mighty One.**

2. God existed before the beginning

The verse implies eternity. God stands outside of time. He has no origin story.

He is the Alpha and the Omega — the beginning and the end (Revelation 22:13).

He both **opened** history and will one day **close** it. Nothing predates Him and nothing outlasts Him.

3. God created – out of nothing

Humans “create” from raw materials. God creates with a word.

“By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God...” (Hebrews 11:3)

What God speaks comes into existence. That tells us two things:

(a) His power is unmatched.

Creation is effortless for Him.

(b) His creation has purpose.

Nothing in creation was accidental or random. Paul says:

“All things were created through Him and **for** Him.” (Colossians 1:16)

Meaning: creation was not only made **by** God, but also **belongs** to God and **exists for** God.

What Genesis 1:1 Means for Us Today

From this one verse flow three life-shaping truths:

Truth #1 – God is in control

Colossians 1:17 says:

“He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.”

He did not abandon His creation. He actively sustains it.

This means:

- history is not random
- nature is not free-floating
- your life is not an accident
- what feels “out of control” to you is not out of control to Him

Where do you need to remember this right now?

Truth #2 — God makes Himself known

Creation is revelation. Paul writes:

“God’s invisible qualities... have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made.” (Romans 1:20)

Mountains, storms, oceans, sunsets, galaxies — all whisper:

You have a Creator.
He is powerful.
He is intentional.
He wants to be known.

Genesis 1:1 reminds us: God is not hiding. He is a revealing God.

Truth #3 — God has a plan

Creation was orderly, structured, and directed. Nothing was haphazard. And the same is true of us.

You were made with:

- purpose
- intention
- design
- meaning

Even after Genesis 3 — after sin fractured relationship — God pursued restoration. He sent Christ so that His original purpose for us could be restored:
to know Him, to walk with Him, and to reflect His glory.

Self-Guided Study & Reflection

Use these slowly. Don’t rush the questions. Let them examine you.

Scripture Reading

Read:

- Genesis 1:1–5
- Colossians 1:15–20
- Romans 1:18–23
- Psalm 19:1–6

Reflection Questions

- 1. When you read “In the beginning, God...,” what does that stir in you? Awe? Comfort? Resistance? Indifference? Why?**
- 2. In what ways has creation helped you understand something about God?**
- 3. Are there areas of your life right now that feel chaotic or uncertain? How does God’s sovereignty in Genesis 1:1 speak into that?**
- 4. Do you tend to see your life as accidental or as intentional? How might Genesis challenge that?**
- 5. If God reveals Himself through creation, revelation, and Christ — how are you responding? Seeking? Ignoring? Distrusting? Trusting?**

Personal Application Practices (Choose 1 or more)

✓ Worship Through Creation

Spend 10 minutes outside this week without a phone. Notice the order, the beauty, and the design. Pray: *“Lord, thank you for revealing yourself.”*

✓ Surrender What Feels Out of Control

Take one chaotic situation and give it to God in prayer. Name it. Release it. Trust His sovereignty.

✓ Return to Purpose

Ask God to realign you to His plan rather than your own. Pray: *“Use my life to reflect Your glory.”*

✓ Begin with Genesis

If you’re following the church reading plan, let Genesis shape your view of God from the ground up — not the other way around.

Closing Prayer

Father, You are the beginning. You are the Creator. You are eternal and sovereign. Help me trust that You are in control, that You make Yourself known, and that You have a plan for my life. Restore in me the purpose for which I was created — to know You and to reflect Your glory. Amen.