

Series: **1=3 - The truth about God and His nature – week 1**

CDOBC – beginning on 4/30/17

Today's Title: **"The Creator God"**

April 30, 2017 - Genesis 1

OBJECTIVE: To help people know God as Creator and as a Triune God - and how these truths apply to our life.

Opening Prayer

Genesis 1:1

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."

The very first verse of the Bible is one of many verses assailed by critics - by those who don't believe what the Bible teaches - who have a competing world view. In fact, this verse might be the #1 target on their list of verses they attempt to discredit.

If **Genesis 1:1** is not true...then how do we know the rest of the Bible is true?

Where do you start believing the Bible if you don't believe **Genesis 1:1** is true? **Vs. 2? Genesis 6?** Oh...you don't believe in the flood...so let's begin in **Genesis 11?** Well...in **chapter 11** we read about one of Noah's sons, and since you don't believe in the flood, then you better begin in **Genesis 12**. But in **Genesis 19** - Abraham rescues his nephew Lot from Sodom and Gomorrah before God destroys those cities - and since so many people don't believe the account in **Genesis 19** both from a denial of the supernatural and because *'God loves everyone and He certainly wouldn't judge so many so harshly due to*

homosexual behavior - let's begin in **chapter 37** because we all love the story of Joseph.

But when we get to Exodus...Moses and the 10 plagues...and the parting of the Red Sea...supernatural stuff...pretty hard to believe.

What about the book of **Judges** - Samson and Gideon.

Later you read about the supernatural ministry of Elijah and Elisha. Some critics today doubt King David really existed (even though archeological evidence affirms his existence).

Eventually you get to the N.T. and Jesus testified of His belief that the O.T. was historically factual - and He affirmed the reality of Abel, Noah and the flood, Abraham, Sodom and Gomorrah, Lot and his wife, Isaac, Jacob, manna, the serpent, Jonah, Daniel and Isaiah (<http://creation.com/jesus-christ-on-the-infallibility-of-scripture>).

Peter talks of Noah, Lot and Sodom and Gomorrah in **2 Peter 2:5-7**. He also talks in **2 Peter 3:5** of God creating the world by His mere Word and in **vs. 6** he recounts God destroying the world in the Noahic flood. In **vs. 11-13** he speaks of God destroying the earth again by fire as He brings final judgment to sin.

In **Colossians 1:16**, Paul says that by Jesus “all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities - all things were created through Him and for Him.”

Revelation speaks of a new heaven and a new earth - a 2nd creation if you will - a return to the Edenic state.

The point is this...If you don't believe **Genesis 1:1** is the inspired, authoritative, infallible Word of God - then how can you be certain any other part of the Bible is?

Genesis not only speaks to the origin of all created things, it also speaks to the reality and evil of sin, the fallen nature of man, the origin of history, nations, our temporal purpose, eternal destiny and the redemptive plan of God.

Without Genesis, we don't know who we are!

Philosophy, the value and sanctity of human life, the value of human life compared to animal life, Biblical Environmentalism vs. Naturalist Environmentalism, capital punishment, human sexuality, marriage - all of these things we find in the book of Genesis.

In the opening chapters of Genesis - along with the entire book of Genesis, we begin to see the truth of God as it relates to so many of the issues which confound modern society.

In his book, The Genesis Record, Henry Morris states:

Genesis 1:1 *"...refutes all of man's false philosophies concerning the origin and meaning of the world:*

- *It refutes atheism, because the universe was created by God.*
- *It refutes pantheism, for God is transcendent to that which He created.*
- *It refutes polytheism, for one God created all things.*

- *It refutes materialism, for matter had a beginning.*
- *It refutes dualism, because God was alone when He created.*
- *It refutes humanism, because God, not man, is the ultimate reality.*
- *It refutes evolutionism, because God created all things.”*

(The Genesis Record, by Henry M. Morris, p. 38)

If you believe **Genesis 1:1**, you will not find it difficult to believe the full testimony of Scripture. After all, if God created all things, then He controls all things - can do all things - and He can intervene into His own creation through miraculous means to accomplish His will.

So as we begin our series on *The truth and nature of God*, let's begin with the:

The inspiration and authority of Scripture - all of it!

After all...everything we know about God - beyond the general truths we see in nature - everything we know about God is contained in His self-revelation - the Bible.

The Bible is not a collection of writings from the thoughts, observations and imaginations of men.

It is a collection of writings where God is the author, and by His Spirit He inspired the human writers to write down what He wanted to reveal. This was not a cold or robotic dictation from God to the human writer, for the personality and unique writing style of each human writer was not stifled.

2 Peter 1:20-21

“...knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”

Not only is the Bible authored by God - which is why we call it “The Word of God” - “God’s Holy Word” - but the extent of the Bible’s inspiration and authority includes all of it - all 66 books.

2 Timothy 3:16

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness...”

You can’t pick and choose which parts are inspired, and say some are...some aren’t. If this is how you view the Bible, then you end up with a schizophrenic faith.

It’s either all inspired, or none of it is inspired.

With that said, we must realize **Genesis 1:1** - along with the rest of Genesis is included in the “All Scripture” of **2 Timothy 3:16**.

So, with that as the foundation for our look at *the truth and nature of God*, let’s return to **Genesis 1:1** - as we see:

Our Creator God

Genesis 1:1

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”

“In the beginning” - speaks to the beginning of time / history. God existed in the beginning - He is eternal,

which means He had no beginning. **Genesis 1:1** speaks of the creation of time and history.

“God created” - ***‘Elohim’*** - one of the Hebrew names for God in Scripture - stresses His majesty and omnipotence (power) - it has a plural ending which stresses His numerous ‘majesties’ and qualities. His wonders never cease! In Hebrew, this is a noun with a plural ending, although it is clearly speaking of one God. So, in this name - what Morris refers to as “a uni-plural noun”, it is suggesting the uni-plurality of the God-head. God is one, yet more than one.” (The Genesis Record, by Henry M. Morris, p. 39)

“created” is a Hebrew word which speaks to the amazing work of creation which only God could do.

Hebrews 1:10

“You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of Your hands...”

But the creative work of God is even more amazing than what it first appears.

Theologians refer to creation as being “ex-nihilo” - or *out of nothing*. When God created the heavens and the earth, He created matter out of nothing.

Romans 4:17

“...in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.”

Hebrews 11:3a

“By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.”

He was not using existing matter and re-forming it - re-shaping into something different. There was nothing...and by the power of His words - something appeared. Other than God, nothing existed prior to His work of creation.

In addition, the creation testifies to it's creator.

Psalm 19:1

“The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims His handiwork.”

General Revelation - The fingerprints of God are all over the place, clues which are a road map of the soul to those who seek after God.

“the heavens and the earth.” - a phrase which speaks to the scope or extent of God's creation. These terms speak to the universe or outer space - and the planet we know and love. God created all things - everything. He is the only thing not created - but everything else has been created by Him. (Read supplemental passages about God as Creator)
God is the one and only Creator - but another important truth is the Triunity of God.

God is a Triunity - 3 persons - 1 essence

Terms: Trinity vs. Triunity - explanation...

(Trinity speaks more to the 'threeness' - the 3 persons, whereas Triunity is more balanced between the 3 persons [prefix] and the unity or oneness of God)

Why is this so important to know and understand?

Because the critics and enemies of Christianity will try and destroy the Bible...and they also aim their artillery at the person and nature of God.

If they can destroy or simply damage the Bible - and do the same to God (God is dead! - Nietzsche 1883)

Other religions - Jehovah Witnesses, LDS, Islam, Hinduism, New Age beliefs, Buddhism - even Roman Catholicism - they all teach a different view of God - Jesus - and the Holy Spirit. Obviously Roman Catholicism is very close to what we would teach on this topic, but there are still some significant differences - specifically in the areas of salvation, our view of Scripture, the complete work of Christ on the cross, grace, and the role of Mary and the Saints in forgiveness of sin.

All of these things find their roots drinking from the person and nature of God.

The Triunity of God is a vital doctrine, for it has sweeping implications in all areas of our faith.

We see the first hint of the Triunity of God in the name "*Elohim*" in **Genesis 1:1** - but it's an extremely small hint.

A larger hint is seen in:

Genesis 1:26-27

Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

27 So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”

The use of the plural pronoun “Let Us” and “Our” in vs. 26 is the first significant clue in the Bible to the plurality of God.

The Triunity of God is a doctrine which has caused many Christians over the centuries great confusion - when in fact, this doctrine is an attempt to clarify.

You see, the Bible is clear that God is one - there is one God - there is no God but Yahweh.

Deuteronomy 6:4

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.”

Because of this truth, the first of the 10 commandments:

Exodus 20:3

“You shall have no other gods before Me.”

Paul, in 1 Corinthians 8:6 says:

“yet for us there is one God...”

Ephesians 4:4-6

“There is one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”

James 2:19

“You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe--and shudder!”

But we also see ample evidence in the Bible for the ‘threeness’ of God - 3 persons within the Godhead.

We've already seen verses which speak to God the Father, now let's look at some verses where Jesus - the Son is called God.

Hebrews 1:8

But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Your kingdom."

Romans 9:5

"To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ who is God over all, blessed forever.

Amen."

John 20:28

Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

Matthew 9:4 (omniscience of Jesus)

But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts?"

Matthew 28:18 (omnipotence of Jesus)

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me."

Matthew 28:20 (omnipresence of Jesus)

"...behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

John 8:58

Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." (Claiming to exist for over 2,000 years!)

Right after this, in vs. 59, His enemies pick up stones to execute Him for claiming to be God.

Jesus' miracles affirm He is God (John 20:30-31), and in Mark 2:1-12 in the account of the paralytic lowered through the roof, Jesus forgives sins, something only God can do.

We also see the Holy Spirit called God and given the attributes of God.

Acts 5:3-4

But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit...Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.”

1 Corinthians 2:10 (omniscience)

“...these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.”

Job 33:4 (creative power - omnipotence)

“The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.”

Psalms 139:7 (omnipresence)

“Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?”

The Holy Spirit is also credited with the work of regeneration (**Titus 3:5**), intercession (**Rom. 8:26**), and sanctification (**2 Thess. 2:13**).

The problem: God is one, but the Bible clearly identifies the Father as God, the Son as God, and the Spirit as God.

So how can all this be true? How can these teachings of Scripture be harmonized and synthesized into a greater understanding of these things?

Answer: A Triune God. The doctrine of the Triune God is an answer to the problem...it actually clears up what is

to many a confusing teaching throughout the Bible regarding the deity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

- In the Council of Nicea, the various leaders of the Church gathered in the year 325 A.D. and the result of that council was a definite statement on the deity of Christ.
- A few years later - in the year 381 A.D the Council of Constantinople was held which resulted in a statement confirming the deity of the Holy Spirit.

One of the clearest passages in which we see the oneness and Triunity of God is **Matthew 28:19**, where Jesus says:

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...”

In this passage, the grammatical details tell the story.

“name” is singular, yet there are 3 divine persons identified. When Jesus said this, it was on purpose...and it is a direct confirmation of the oneness and Triunity of God.

Paul in **2 Corinthians 13:14** says:

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”

Less direct in the grammar than **Matt. 28:19**, but still a passage which gives strong support to the Triunity of God.

If we look at God as Creator, and the Triunity of God with simply an analytical and cognitive approach, we miss the true meaning and understanding of these truths. There is a danger to looking at the Triunity of God in this matter, as one author put it: *“You can dissect it and you may figure it out, but you’ve killed it in the process.”*

(What’s So Amazing About Grace, by Phillip Yancy, p.16)

When considering these amazing truths, we must always ask, *‘Why does this matter?’ ‘Why are these truths important?’ ‘How do these truths connect with my life?’*

Apply it...

Have confidence in the Bible - trust what it says.

The Bible...all of it...is God’s inspired, authoritative, infallible self-revelation. From Genesis to Revelation, God has revealed the truth about Himself, about the world, about sin, and about us. It’s not always easy to understand or easy to believe, but we must study and learn what it says and believe what it says. ***God may ask you to believe the unbelievable, but He never asks you to believe something that is not real.***

Since God created all things - He alone is worthy of our worship.

In **Genesis 1:1**, we find a refutation of all mankind’s false beliefs and philosophies concerning origins and

the meaning of this world and the meaning of our life. The only thing / person worthy of our worship and obedience is the One God who created everything. By this very truth, everything is subject to Him - everything is less than Him - He is the great cause of everything else, which means He alone is worthy of our worship.

Since God created all things, He alone has the answers to our biggest questions.

Sin and evil, the origin of history, nations, our temporal and eternal purpose and destiny, the redemptive plan of God. Philosophies which try to give meaning and truth regarding the value and sanctity of human life, the value of human life compared to animal life, environmentalism, capital punishment, human sexuality, marriage - all of these are hot-button issues in our day - and since God is the Creator of all things, He alone is to be trusted in how we should think and act regarding these issues. There is nothing in this life which God's Word fails to address through direct truth or principles which are founded on His truth and wisdom.

Trust His Word - Trust His commands and insights
and you will live as your Creator has intended and
designed you to live - and you will bring Him glory.

Close in prayer