

God of Creation | Genesis Ch. 1-11

Session Two: Genesis 1:1 | The God Who Was in the Beginning

Big Picture Questions

Why are we here?

1. There is only 1 God

- Remember Moses' Audience: Israelites who had just come out of Egypt
 - They had a lot of experience with pagan worship; Egypt was a dualistic culture
 - They are moving into a polytheistic future (Canaan/Promised Land)
 - The very first commandment of The 10 Commandments is not to worship other gods
 - ...So, for the Israelites, this beginning verse is everything!
 - It's as if Moses is saying, "You will not be like the place you just came out of OR the place you are going to. You will worship ONE God."
- The focus of this narrative is not on the creation itself (Geocentric), it turns our focus on God
 - The Bible is a book about God
 - This text is about God speaking, God acting, and God doing
 - God remains the subject of this creation story
 - God's name in chapter 1
 - Elohim- creator God
- This reference to the "heavens of the earth" actually means that *everything* you could perceive (and everything you can't perceive)

2. Eternal- God is not limited by and exists outside of time

- If God created the beginning, He also existed before the creation
- God is not bound by time
 - He never has too little or even too much time
- We *are* bound by time. We exist within time.
 - Ecclesiastes 3:11 "He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end."
 - We have a vague sense that there is something beyond us
 - And we will not fully figure out what He is doing

3. Ex Nihilo- God created out of nothing

- We all have some capacity for creativity, because we come from a God who is infinitely creative
- But all human creativity is the vaguest whisper of the creativity of God
- Knowing that God created everything out of nothing influences our understanding of...

- Value
 - Why is it that the created world around us has value? He made it.
- Ownership
 - It all belongs to Him. We relate differently to things when we consider who owns them
- Stewardship
 - If anyone should care about stewarding creation, it is the people of God
 - If anyone should care about doing justice for those who bare his image, it is the people of God
- We are simply guests in His created order

4. Omnisense- God holds all knowledge

- If God made it all, then it makes sense that He holds all knowledge
 - Macro: He holds knowledge beyond what our best telescopes could view out in the universe
 - Micro: He holds knowledge beyond what our best microscopes could view
 - Future: He holds knowledge of things that could happen
 - Past: He holds perfect knowledge of what already has happened
- He is not bound by time, He is in both the past and future right now
 - “God knows instantly and effortlessly all matter and all matters, all mind and every mind, all spirit and all spirits, all being and every being, all creaturehood and all creatures, every plurality and all pluralities, all law and every law, all relations, all causes, all thoughts, all mysteries, all enigmas, all feeling, all desires, every unuttered secret, all thrones and dominions, all personalities, all things visible and invisible in heaven and in earth, motion, space, time, life, death, good, evil, heaven, and hell.” -A.W. Tozer
- He never learned any of it. He knows it because it came from him
- God knows and has compassion on our limits of knowledge

5. Omnipotent- God holds all power

- God holds all power to do exactly what He has said He will do.
- He spoke and the whole universe leapt into being
- At one time there was only Him, so all power must come from Him.
- Many of us will try to control God,
 - we will want to do things that make God bend to our own will

6. Self-Sufficient- God needs nothing

- If at one time only God existed, then everything that we can perceive is not needful to Him for His existence
- We have tons of needs
 - We were created to have needs
 - In our needs, we are always to be turned back to God as the source of all things
 - When we need something, it is the thing by which we can be controlled
 - The thing we need the most is the thing that makes us vulnerable
- God cannot be weakened or diminished by having something that He needs outside of Himself
- God does not need us
 - God did not create us because He was lonely- He was Triune

- Glory
 - God created to proclaim His glory
 - God did not create to enhance His glory
 - All of creation speaks at the glory of God

Big Picture Questions Recap:

- Science is a moving target.
 - We can't let our current understanding of science be the lense by which we read this creation account
- The creation account is not primarily concerned with the "how", but the "who".
- "It is best not to shout where God only whispers." R.C. Sproul
- Q) Who created?
 - God alone.
- Q) Why He created?
 - A) For His glory.
- Why are we here? Why are *you* here?
- God is our deliverer.
 - Our salvation begins in Genesis 1:1.
- He is our origin.
 - Knowing where you came from makes all the difference in seeing where you need to go.
 - Isaiah 40:21-28