

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

³ And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

(Pastor prays)

I would almost never choose for it to snow on a weekend because so much of how I think and what I plan revolves around what we do on a Sunday.

But the very fact of a snowstorm (or kind of one) reminds me that regardless of how much I plan, I am not in any kind of real control. From the senseless tragedy in a Ft. Lauderdale airport to the unforeseen conversation with an oncologist, so much of our lives is out of our hands.

This can be frustrating at the least and create despair at its worst. That's why it is so important for us as Christians to get Genesis 1:1 right. There really is no stability in life until we go to the first line of the Bible. The first sentence of this book that we cherish is a cry of praise to the Creator, the stabilizer of our lives, a reminder that there is a God -- and we are not Him.

"In the beginning, God" is a lens from which we view all of the Bible and all of life. Here we find that our God acts and speaks. We find a God who makes things and the God who makes things is the God who makes things new. "In the beginning, God" is a foundational truth of all real theology and must be the bedrock that we stand upon. Just as you enter the door of the Bible through this statement, "In the beginning, God," we must, in all our thinking, begin with God.

Paul tells us in Romans that His (God's) creative act stands as a reminder that He is.

Romans 1:20: For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

We see in Genesis 1:1, a God who initiates, one who inaugurates, a God who speaks, who is a living God. The comforting truth of Genesis is that it sets the tone for the entire

Bible to show us that the center of the universe and subject of the Bible is God and not us. So with that in mind, I want you to see that...

The God of Creation is the God That Gives Me Confidence

Let's take a look at the majesty of who He is. To do so...

We Embrace the Simple Truth of Our God

The beauty of this passage is enhanced only by the brevity of this passage, the plain unvarnished statement of truth that we are called to take on the basis of faith: that all creation points to a Creator. It's good to understand design and destiny and origins. So many have said before that apologetics are vital. But they only build the truth. For it to be effective for life, the truth must be believed. It's a matter of faith. Ours is a religion of faith. Do you believe in the creation? Do you believe in re-creation? Creation points us to God who also provides re-creation in Christ. We don't receive Christ as the re-creator if we don't believe God as Creator. I have confidence as a Christian because I believe the simple truth of Genesis 1:1. In the beginning is God. Let me show you something else.

We Trust the Sovereign Control of Our God

There are several names for God in the Old Testament, but in Genesis 1:1, we are introduced to Him as Elohim. That means "the sovereign God," the one in control. And honestly isn't that one of the greatest means of security, to know that the God who loves you in Christ is the one who is in absolute control? (To know) That there is a God who holds things together? That there is no need to panic? That the one who created you is also the one who is taking you somewhere? It helps me with my life and ministry. This is my Father's world. This is His church. These are His people.

I have been wronged in a certain way this week. God will deal with it. Genesis 1:1 reminds us that He is the one who created you, and, if you are a Christian, He is the one who redeemed you, and has arranged the events of your life for His glory and your good. And if you are not a Christian, I want you to see that you are created for God's glory. But because of your sin, you are separated from God. This creator God knows there is not one thing you can do to make things right, to bridge the gap. He's given us Christ who

lived perfectly, died on the cross, and took the punishment that God gives because of sin.

Jesus died on the cross, was buried for three days and then God raised him from the dead. Now God has arranged the events of your life to point you to your need of a Savior. Not only that. The name Elohim reminds us that the God of the Bible is utterly unique and has no other reference point. There is nothing or no one to compare him to. He is the source and sustainer of all that is and all that ever will be. This first verse shows us His majesty. Because the name Elohim is plural, it reminds us that our God is 3-in-1: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, reminding us that Jesus Christ is not a creation but He was present at creation.

John 1:3 says it like this, *All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.* When we approach Genesis 1:1, we must remember that if we dismiss or rationalize or mythologize it, we call into question the very veracity and truthfulness of the Gospel and the house of the Lord becomes a house of cards.

If Genesis 1:1 is not true, then John 3:16 can't be true, and if that the case, then we have no real hope.

But I want to admit that one of the most perplexing things is the lack of more description. I want to know *how*. But Moses, who wrote this, is safeguarding and proclaiming something of the unsearchable majesty of God. While I applaud the pursuit of science and don't ever think Christians should put their heads in the sand. But so often, science is trying to quantify the unquantifiable.

Even among Christians, there is this strange effort to reconcile evolution and creation. As Ken Ham says in *Answers in Genesis*, "We must allow the first phrase of scripture to be the cornerstone of our worldview." And when you do, you are bought to the faith that holds you when the world is so terribly uncertain.

I quoted the Gospel of John earlier because it's a beautiful book that takes its cue from Genesis. And in the first paragraph, John tells us about Jesus. John 1:4-5, *In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the*

darkness has not overcome it. And into your darkness, our gracious and holy creator God has come seeking...seeking to save that which was lost.

“In the beginning, God” is the Gospel.

(Pastor shares the Gospel and prays)