

'IN THE BEGINNING'
(Where in the World Did Everything Come From?)
Studies in Genesis 1-11

Beginner's Love

Sometimes when somebody does something really, really well the first time, they say that it's just *beginner's luck*. But when it comes to God, luck never has anything to do with it. Everything He does is always perfect the first time – God is impeccable so He never has to do anything over and over again to get it right. Beginner's love, not luck, is always the reason God does anything in the world. God isn't beginner in the sense that He is an amateur; He is the Beginner in the sense that He has started everything in creation. People and things procreate, or begin copies of what started with God, but only the Creator can make something out of nothing in the first place.

Accordingly, the Bible, His holy Word, is a perfect record of all that it addresses. Whatever it doesn't address is somehow connected to something that is addressed in Scripture and finds its source in **Genesis 1-11** where God, in love, began all there is or ever was. Whenever history, complex modern times, or the prophetic future seems perplexing, it helps to turn back to the biblical beginnings. Go back to **Genesis** for understanding of what was started, what it is now, and what to expect in the future. In answering many questions, Jesus often referred to '*in the beginning*' passages to understand the immutable purposes and plans of God. **Genesis 1-11** explains the beginnings of:

- 1) *1st creation (chapter 1)*;
- 2) *1st marriage (chapter 2)*;
- 3) *1st sin (chapter 3)*;
- 4) *1st murder (chapter 4)*;
- 5) *1st lineage (chapter 5)*;
- 6) *1st global judgment (chapters 6-9)*;
- 7) *1st table of nations (chapter 10)* and
- 8) *1st dispersion of all the nations (chapter 11)*.

God's creative action in each section of history was motivated by His desire to manifest His great power, love and grace in tangible, creative ways for His everlasting honor and glory (***Psalms 19***).

In the beginning, God *spoke everything into existence* out of nothing according to **Hebrews 11:3**. Because God began everything, it has perpetuity to it and therefore continues even if in a broken and distorted semblance of what it was at the start (*the cosmos, human souls, etc.*). Thus, when God intervenes to repair anything originally created by Him, it has the potential of salvage and a restoration just as good as it was originally (*the world in the millennial regeneration, human souls when saved by grace, etc.*). Looking back to the original, helps us know what we can realistically expect personally, and what can once again be fixed and made pleasing to the Lord God Almighty.

Creation Week

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." Genesis 1:1

The heavens (*sky, space and residence of God's presence*) were made in the indefinite, eternal past. There is no way to determine exactly the age of *the heavens* and everything in them (angels, the universe, and whatever existed in eternity past). The biblical account begins when God chose to initiate this material world and all that exists in and around it.

***"The world was without form and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep.
 And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters." Genesis 1:2***

The text suggests that what is now earth was *'in the beginning'* a formless, lifeless, dark spot in the universe, that the Triune God chose to be something very special. It may even perhaps suggest that something may have spoiled some kind of previous creation started by God (?) (*Isaiah 44:18*). Regardless, God the Father willed that the earth become a living canvass of His creative love and grace. God the Son *'spoke the word'* for creation to come into existence. God the Spirit moved up-on and breathed divine life into everything that was made.

- **Discuss how God's work in the beginning with creation helps us understand God's way of saving a lost soul and making him or her a *'new creation'* in Christ. Talk about creation parallels to who you were before Christ and God's creative work in your life now?**

God's Work Week *'In the Beginning'*

(7 Consecutive, Literal, 24-hour Hours ?)

Overview of Genesis Chapter One

Sunday, Monday, Tuesday

(Making the Perfect Planet)

Genesis 1:3-13

'Let There Be Light!'

Day #1 – (Sunday)

*"Then God said, **"Let there be light"** and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good and God divided the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day."* 1:3-5

- **Discuss how Day #1 perfectly parallels the start of salvation & the purpose of Sunday**

'Let There Be Space!'

Day #2 – (Monday)

*"Then God said, **"Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters."** Thus God made the firmament and divided the waters under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so. And God called the firmament heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day."* 1:6-8

- **Discuss how Day #2 perfectly parallels 'separation' from the world upon being saved.**

'Let There Be Land, Sea & Fruitfulness!'

Day #3 – (Tuesday)

*"Then God said, **"Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together in one place and let the dry land appear"**; and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas and God saw that it was good. Then God said **"Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth"** and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, the herb yielding seed according to its kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And **God saw that it was good.** So the evening and the morning were the third day."* 1:7-13

- **Discuss how Day #3 perfectly parallels spiritual 'fruitfulness' in new Christian's lives.**