

## Genesis

**Introduction:** The Old Testament has five basic groups of characters and Genesis provides us with the first group; Patriarchs. (Patriarchs, Judges, Prophets, Priests, Kings). Isaiah 46:9-11

Genesis has three defining events: First, the creation story; Second, the universal flood; Third, the dispersion of people at the Tower of Babel.

Genesis 1:1 – Seven words that make three definitive statements.

First, the identity of the Creator – God.

Second, how everything got here – ex-nihilo, 'out of nothing'.

Third, God is presented as a fact and from him proceeds all matter.

**Summary:** The terms "heaven and earth" at the end of verse one is a phrase or poetic expression that stipulates the universe.

Genesis 1:1 establishes the creative work of God; bringing into existence things that did not exist. This makes God's creatures creative by nature.

The theological importance of verse one cannot be overstated. First, the name for God, *elohim*, is a masculine, plural noun pointing to the nature of the Godhead, a Trinity. Second, God is not argued for or explained, he is understood, pointing to his eternality. Third, this verse strongly indicates that matter is not eternal. Fourth, there is a distinctive difference between God and what he created; contrary to pantheism. Fifth, because the universe is created, naturalism and the evolutionary model for origins is wrongheaded. Finally, the question of origin is not a scientific pursuit; it is a theological understanding.

Genesis 1:2 - There are two points of view regarding this verse; The Gap Theory and the No-Gap Theory.

**Summary:** God created which means that he brought the universe into existence from nothing, ex nihilo; and that is the nature of a true creation.

The Spirit of God was the arm of the Lord carrying out the will of God in the creative process.

**Conclusion:** Genesis reveals God in four primary names; Elohim, Yahweh, El Shaddai; Adonai

Genesis is History - Romans 4:16; Hebrews 11:3, 6

Genesis is a prologue to the Law and therefore the content of this book is closely related to the covenant relationship that God has with his people Israel. That relationship began in the first verse of Genesis; the God of Israel is the Creator of all that is and that means that he is above all, sovereign over all, sustains it all; and he owns it all.