

Week 1 - Genesis 1:1

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

The beginning. Genesis 1:1 is the first verse in the Bible. It is the first statement about the history of the world and time itself. Because of that, it is the perfect place for us to start, as everything that follows only makes sense if this verse is understood correctly.

We are just kicking off our season, so this is a great time for us to dive into the Bible and try to understand even familiar parts of it better. Genesis 1:1 will give us a good foundation for the rest of the devotions this season.

So what does Genesis 1:1 mean? It is really simple, but many in our world today deny the truth of this simple statement. God is real and He is the one who made everything.

Before anything existed, God was there. He had no beginning, and the Bible later shows many times that He will have no end. God always exists and He doesn't need anything outside of Himself. But instead of existing eternally all by Himself, God decided to display His power. He chose to show His might and genius as He created everything out of nothing. That is what this type of creation is.

Sometimes we make art projects or sculptures, but we have materials that we put together to change its form. When God truly created, all He did was speak. God made the heavens and the earth and everything in them just by talking to emptiness. Out of nothing, He created everything. There was nothing that God could not do. And God created everything perfectly. And because He is the Creator, everything He created was supposed to obey Him and honor Him.

This was especially true of people. When God created the first man and woman, Adam and Eve, He gave them special instructions about what they were supposed to do with the rest of His creation. Adam and Eve were meant to rule over creation in a way that would please God and highlight the majesty and glory of the Creator. That was their entire purpose and God created them specially to be able to fulfill that mission. Unlike everything else, when God made people, He did not just speak; He carefully "formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature (Gen. 2:7). It was a marvelous thing and showed just how special this crowning jewel of creation was to God.

But soon, there was a problem; Adam and Eve chose to rebel against God. They disobeyed Him and instead showing the world who God was, they wanted to be God. Everything had been perfect. There was no reason for them to be discontent or to want something more. God had provided everything and even had a strong, personal relationship with them. They needed that relationship in order to fulfill their duty in ruling over the rest of creation, but by rebelling against God, they sinned and made it impossible to have the right relationship they needed.

The same is true of us. We were all made to worship and serve our Creator, but because we all sin and are slaves to sin, we can't do anything on our own to honor God the right way. But God had promised Adam and Eve thousands of years ago that He would not leave them alone; He would make a way for the problem to be eliminated. As we study more passages in the Bible this season, we'll see how God has broken the power of sin and offered us a solution to our ruined relationship.

Discussion Questions:

- What does eternal mean?
- How did God create the heavens and the earth?
- What purpose were Adam and Eve supposed to fulfill?