

## The Most Important Verse

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth" (*Genesis 1:1*). These ten words comprise the most important verse in the Bible. Now, I realize that is an audacious claim, in light of all the other terrific verses to consider, but it's true.

No other verse has been more scrutinized or criticized than *Genesis 1:1*. Satan has unleashed every weapon in his arsenal in order to discredit, debunk, or destroy these ten words. Why would he bother? Because even he knows that ***Genesis 1:1 is the foundation for the rest of the book.***

## Foundational Truths

Consider the foundational truths that are included in this incredible verse:

**God exists.** Therefore, atheism is a lie. Though we cannot see Him (yet), we know that God exists because we see evidence of His handiwork all around us — the wisdom, order, creativity, and fine-tuning of the universe.

**God is one.** Polytheism (belief in many gods) is a lie. Though He is three persons — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — He is one. In the trinity, there is perfect unity.

**God existed before the beginning.** Thus, God is eternal. He existed prior to time and He will exist after time has expired. He is indeed the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.

**God made all things.** Therefore, naturalism (nature is all there is) and Darwinian evolution are lies. Something cannot come from nothing, rather all things came from

Someone. When we see a building, we know there is a builder. When we see a painting, we know there is a painter. When we see creation, we know there is a Creator. All things exist intentionally and purposefully, not randomly or by chance.

**God exists outside of creation.** Thus, pantheism is a lie. God is not a part of creation, nor is He comprised by the things in creation, rather the things in creation were comprised by God. Since He is independent of creation, He has authority over it; and since He has authority over creation, He sustains it and governs it.

## On What Does Salvation Stand?

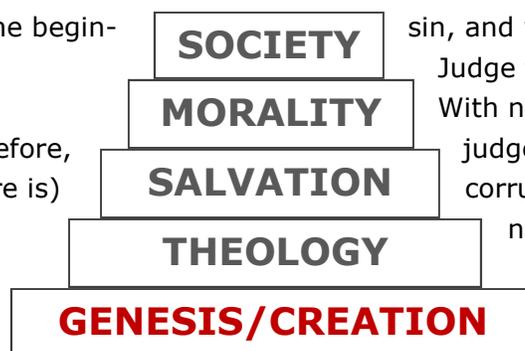
Some might argue that *John 3:16* is the most important verse of the Bible. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life."

While I love this verse too, **it simply cannot stand alone.** Why not? Because it implies that there is a God, that there is a world that He loves, that He has a Son, that people perish for some reason, and that they can have eternal life if they believe in Him. All of these salvation truths are meaningless without *Genesis 1:1*.

If Satan can discredit the first verse of the Bible, then there is no God. If there is no God, then there are no commands or rules to follow.

With no rules to follow, then there is no sin, and with no God, then there is no Judge to whom we are accountable. With no sin and no divine authority to judge us, then we are not fallen or corrupted after all, and we have no need for Someone to redeem us.

**The salvation narrative is thus unraveled.**



## **But Wait, There's More!**

Already you can see the importance of the first verse, particularly in regards to our salvation. But there are many more things tied to the creation account. Let's consider some of them.

**God made man in His image.** Unraveling the creation account devalues and even debases human life. Since we are made in the likeness of the Creator, mankind is set apart from the rest of creation. Not only are we exceptional creatures, we find our dignity, our worth, and our purpose in God. Life, therefore, is precious and is to be protected. The effects of detaching ourselves from a Creator and, instead, considering ourselves accidents of nature are a pointless and, therefore, worthless existence.

Furthermore, since all people are made in God's image, then all people are equal. While human beings are more valuable than animals, no one human, or category of humans, is more valuable than another. Therefore, racism (one group is superior to another) is a lie. All of us have inherent rights and liberties and should not be controlled but by consent.

**God made us male and female.** Gender was God's idea. He made male and female as complementary equals. Likewise, marriage was God's idea, one man and one woman for life, the foundation for family, the building block of all societies. Since both gender and marriage were God's ideas, we are not free to tamper with, redefine, or destroy either concept in order to satisfy our sinful preferences.

**God made Adam and Eve separately.** Have you ever noticed that God created Adam and Eve at separate times? Adam's aloneness is the only thing that is described as "not good" in the beginning, and, thus, God blessed Adam with a companion. The Lord wanted both Adam

and Eve to understand the importance of community, in marriage, in family, and in society.

However, there is another truth to note here. God created individuals not groups. Thus, the modern definition of collectivism is a lie, the idea of subjugating individual rights and liberties for the common good. We do not exist for the State or for any other collective; we are first valuable as individuals. Though God values community, He also promotes individuality (not individualism which is selfish and prideful); and, individuals are encouraged to join with others, to build community by choice (unity) and not by force (uniformity).

**God makes the rules.** As part of His creation, we are subject to His authority and His laws. He is the standard for truth and morality. He determines right and wrong. Thus, postmodernism and moral relativism are lies. Neither individuals nor societies are at liberty to determine their own truth or their own morality. All are subject to God's laws.

**Man is to subdue the earth.** Since human beings are made in God's image, then they are the climax of creation. As such, God set them as the caretakers over creation and gave them permission to use it in order to meet their needs. Thus, environmentalism (we must sacrifice all on the alter of preservation) is a lie. Though we are to be good stewards of creation, we are never to idolize or deify it.

## **Warning**

*Genesis 1:1* is the foundation for the rest of the Bible, for Christianity, for our salvation, for truth and morality, and for all of society. We cannot simply dismiss it as a fairy tale or some religious mumbo jumbo. It is the truth; and, we must continue to value it and defend it, or certainly all will be undone.