

Week 1: In the Beginning

God did it: *The Story about Creation part one*

(it's a new beginning)

To be reading this means that you are interested in spiritual things. Maybe something has happened to you or someone around you recently. My hope is that you are curious, interested, and seeking answers. The God story is a good one. It most certainly is different than you think. I wanted to begin this story with an in depth look at God in the Bible. This is a story. I called this part one. Part two is in week ten. In-between these weeks is a study of God. Join us in knowing more about the God of the Bible.

Aren't you just a little curious. If you're a science advocate then clearly, you're a curious person. If all is knowable then there must be answers to everything. It's just about finding those answers. Archeology is all about discovering the past to bring enlightenment to our future. These people give us answers to our questions. Who built the Pyramids? How old is the earth? So many questions. Almost every culture on earth has a God. Why is that? Every culture? Like Indiana Jones it's time to unearth some answers to more questions.

1. Why are you here?

Genesis 1:1-3 *"In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light."*

Since many of us were children we grew up hearing these set of verses. Maybe we saw a book in a doctor's office like I did showing God and the animals or Noah and the flood. A man on TV might have told you in the mist of flicking channels that God made the earth. Write down how you knew there might be a God? Ponder these questions while you reflect on your answers.

1. Do I mock religious people?
2. Why did I complain about the church?
3. Why would God allow death?

4. Do you have an expectation of God and his people?
5. What is your picture of God to this point in time?

For most of us this is a story. Passed down through the centuries as a myth, legend, or fable about this powerful Jewish God. Is it just a story? It would be easy for me to tell you it is real. That does not prove anything. I could tell you I met Jesus and he changed my life but that just might prove I'm nuts. How do we know that this story is true? Just because people say that this book called the Bible is true does not make it so.

Here is my best kick at the can to answer if the Bible account and story of this version of history is true.

Malachi 3:10 *"Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus, put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing."*

This verse is used in church circles to talk about giving money. We are not asking for money. I wanted to point out that God asks us to test his good character. If he says he is real, then can we test that? God says he can prove himself. Could we give him some time to do that? I am asking you to give God thirteen weeks of your time to challenge the story of God. Is this story real? I believe either way you will know yourself spirituality better at the end of thirteen weeks. I also hope that you will see that God, Jesus, and the Holy spirit can be something tangible in your life.

Next week's reading: *Read chapters 1-3 of Genesis for next week and ask yourself these questions:*

1. How could God make something from nothing? If that's impossible then where did the Big bang come from? What was before the explosion? Doesn't everything have a beginning? I am amazed at scientists demanding that we came from a big bang event. Where did that originate. My mind is busting over creating something from nothing. It does not seem possible that something like chemicals have always existed. How can something always exist, yet here we are.

Gen 1:1 *"In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void."*

2. The Bible says God made the Earth, heavens, and everything in it. Science says that all these things come from random acts of space. What do you believe? It is mind busting to think about conformity of pressure and gases that keep the sun from exploding. Only a rocket scientist could

begin to understand why we have different cells that accomplish different tasks. Still, here we are? Random or made? It's your choice.

Genesis 2:18-19 *"Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.'" So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man, to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name."*

3. The Bible says man was made from dust. Is that what you believe? How do you back your story of creation? We have the Bible and visible knowledge. Were here somehow? This world is vast and very different from the platypus to the monkey. How can we explain that with scientific data? It's funny that man is looking for the next chemical. On Mars and in the universe, there are a certain group of chemicals that we find on the periodic table. They are found on Mars, in the sun, and floating in space. The dust we are made of are those chemicals. We share in creation because we share what we are made of in the universe.

Gen 2: 7 *"then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being."*

4. We know good from evil. Each nation on earth has rules and laws. We know murder and love. It seems easy to believe in Satan because this world is harsh. God seems so unreal, yet there seems to be a battle between good and evil in everything we do. Why is that? Clearly, we do things that are evil. We also do good acts of valor. What is interesting is that we notice the difference. If good and evil don't exist then why notice at all?

Gen 3:4-5 *"But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.'"*

The Jesus connection

The book of John in the New Testament is a lone wolf. The other three Gospels are called the synoptic gospels. They share information and stories. John shares some but most of his account of Jesus is his own. There are scholars that believe John does not belong in the Bible because it's different than the other three. The Jesus connection to our first study about God is found in verse 1 of genesis and verse 1 of John. They say Jesus is part of God in some way. The writer of John believes Jesus was there in the beginning. That is the lone wolf thing.

The writers of the Bible believed in a beginning of time. They believed this universe was created. The Old Testament writers gave enough information to say God did it. The New Testament writers have thousands of years to refute and disprove that notion. Yet, here we are reading that John believed in the beginning. Further to that, he claims Jesus was there. Actually, John just might be our first clue to the existence of God. He claims Jesus was there. He claims the word of God was there too. Something odd is going on in this world. Good and evil seem to be at odds. Jesus says he is the connection between past, present, good and evil, and the way to heaven.

Gen 1:1 *"In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless*

void.”

John 1:1 *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”*

Curiously it says in:

Genesis 1:2 *“And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.”*

The spirit of God was in the beginning too. What is going on with Jesus, Father God, and the Holy Spirit? There is a Jesus connection.

John 14:6 *“Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”*

Revelation 22:13 *“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.”*