

On the Beginning

1. Implications of the Opening Lines

NOTE ESPECIALLY Genesis 1:1-8

The Bible begins with the Book of Genesis, the book of beginnings. Among many other things, Genesis gives us the *basics* of God's revealed truth. Even the first verses express very important basic truths.

1. The Reality of God.

The Bible begins assuming that God exists (v. 1). It does not present proofs of God's existence, but simply tells us that God created heaven and earth. God's reality is a self-evident fact. To deny it is foolishness (Psalm 14:1 and 53:1). The obvious evidences of God are ignored or denied only by men intent on wickedness and unwilling to admit His existence (Read Romans 1:18-32).

2. The Beginning of Time.

"In the beginning" of what (v. 1)? God has always existed, and His work of creation has brought into existence the things inherent in the reality of the material universe. The dimensions of created things include height, length, width, and even weight. Another dimension involved in creation is *time*. Time puts no restrictions on God Himself. He is above and beyond time. Prophecies of the future are often given in the past tense in scripture. When God began creating the universe, time began!

3. The Plurality of God.

The Hebrew word for *"God"* in Genesis 1:1 has a plural ending, although a singular verb is used with it. This is the first indication of God's plural-singular nature. The New Testament says that He is Three in One (Matthew 28:19). Genesis 1:26 calls God *"us"* and *"our"* while Genesis 1:27 uses the words *"his"* and *"he."* Verse 2 speaks of *"the Spirit of God"* Who seems to be God Himself. John 1:1-5 says that the Word is the Creator and is God, although also *"with God"* which may be seen in Genesis 1:3.

4. The Definition of Creation.

Somehow everything began as an empty, formless mass (v. 2). Then God made something out of it, and He did so by dividing and distinguishing things (vs. 4, 6, and 7). Creation is distinction. Notice the distinction between light and darkness (vs. 4-5), waters above the firmament and waters under it (vs. 7-8), land and sea (v. 10), kinds of vegetation (vs. 11-12), day and night (vs. 14-18), kinds of animals (vs. 21, 24-25), male and female (v. 27). God is the Author of distinction.

5. The Purpose of God.

Genesis 1:4 expresses an important theme that defines God's purpose over the many ages:

"And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the

darkness. ”

When the darkness of evil came into God’s perfect creation, He unfolded a plan to separate light from darkness. Much of the Bible deals with the unfolding and outworking of that plan and that purpose.