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Genesis: The Epic Story of Beginnings

Lesson One • Genesis 1:1
“In the Beginning God...”

The Importance of Genesis 1-11

Genesis 1-11 lays the FOUNDATION for the rest of the Bible.

“Genesis is the front door to the rest of the Bible. Genesis 1:1 is the knob that turns the door.”
~James Merritt

Background to Genesis

- ❖ The author of Genesis, the first book of the Bible, is MOSES.
- ❖ The purpose of Genesis is to correct and shape Israel’s WORLDVIEW before entering the Promised Land.
- ❖ The theme of Genesis is God’s sovereign GRACE in human history.

“In the Beginning God...”

1. We Are Given the First DECLARATION of God!

Three Great Truths about God Are Declared

- The EXISTENCE of God is declared—refutes atheism (belief that there is no God).

The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God.” Psalm 14:1

- The ETERNALNESS of God is declared—refutes pantheism (belief that equates the universe itself as God).

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God. Psalm 90:2

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. Isaiah 40:28

For thus says the High and Lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy... Isaiah 57:15

- The EXCLUSIVENESS of God is declared—refutes polytheism (belief that there is more than one God).

To you it was shown, that you might know that the LORD Himself is God; there is none other besides Him. Deuteronomy 4:35

2. We Are Given the Foundational DESCRIPTION of God!

The Name “Elohim” Describes Two Truths about God

- “Elohim” points to the supremacy of God’s POWER.

“Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You.” Jeremiah 32:17

- “Elohim” points to the mystery of the TRINITY.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1

The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Genesis 1:2

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. John 1:1-3

3. We Are Given the Featured DESIRE of God!

God’s Desire Revealed

- God’s desire is that we KNOW Him and make Him known.

“And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.” ~Jesus, John 17:3

Where True Wisdom Begins

True wisdom begins with joyful SUBMISSION to “In the beginning God...”

Therefore let those who suffer according to God’s will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good. 1Peter 4:19 ESV