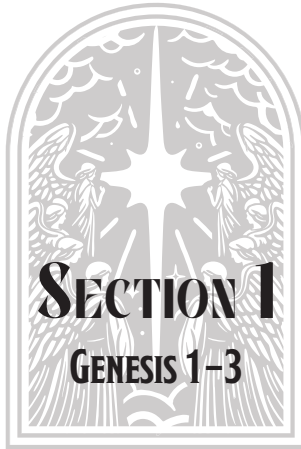




MEMORY VERSES:

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

Genesis 1:1

*I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel.*

Genesis 3:15

The Lord will come to judge
Each nation, tongue, and race.
Though none can plead their innocence,
Yet many thrive in grace.

Planned before creation,
Before there was an earth,
The Son of God agreed to bear
The mystery of birth.

A virgin did conceive
And bear within her womb
A sinless child of innocence
With pow'r to rob the tomb.

“God with us” was His name,
A Savior, Christ the Lord;
Jesus, the one who felt our tears,
Took to Himself death’s sword.

No wonder kings brought gifts;
No wonder angels praise.
Their Master took the lowest place
That sons of God be raised.

TOM NETTLES





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

Genesis 1:1



“IN THE BEGINNING, GOD”

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration, better known as NASA, says, “According to the theories of physics, if we were to look at the Universe one second after the Big Bang, what we would see is a 10-billion degree [Kelvin] sea of neutrons, protons, electrons, anti-electrons (positrons), photons, and neutrinos.”³

But the real question is, what would you see one second *before* the Big Bang—you know, *in the beginning*? Where did those neutrons, electrons, positrons, photons, and neutrinos come from? What gave them their form and substance?

Speculative physicists contemplate what was before the Big Bang, but they know—just as every honest scientist knows—that pure science cannot give an answer. That is not a put-down of science; it is simply a recognition of its limitations.

3. NASA, “The Big Bang,” Space Daily, January 18, 2011, https://www.space-daily.com/reports/The_Big_Bang_999.html

At the heart of the scientific method is objective observation. And the simple fact is that, *in the beginning*, no one was there to objectively observe what took place. No one, that is, except God.

If you have ever heard me preach, then you have probably heard me say that Genesis 1:1 is the most important verse in the Bible. It sets the stage for how you understand everything else in the Bible and in your life. There was a time when nothing outside of God existed. Everything that is not God had a beginning. That means the world is not the result of random chance nor the product of impersonal forces. This truth provides us numerous, vital insights about God. However, I want to focus on just one: God's eternity.

God is eternal. The Bible repeatedly teaches us this truth about God. In Genesis 21:33, Abraham "called . . . on the name of the LORD, the Everlasting God." Revelation refers to God as "the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end" (21:6; 22:13). This is a hard concept for us to conceive because we are time-bound creatures.

We often run out of time to get things done that we want to do, but God never runs out of time. Time itself is a creation of God, which means that He is not bound by time. He created time and uses it to fulfill His eternal purposes. Our God sees the end from the beginning. He is never in a hurry and is never late. Though He is eternal and exists outside of time, He sees what to us is past, present, and future with perfect clarity.

He fully understands the succession of seasons and moments that we experience because He created them, but He is not bound by them.

“Has it ever occurred to you that nothing has ever occurred to God?”⁴ That is a question worth pondering. He can enter time, and He has done exactly that when at just the right moment—what the Bible calls “the fullness of time” (Gal. 4:4)—He sent His Son, the Lord Jesus, to be born of a virgin as a human. All that Jesus accomplished in space and time was to provide salvation for everyone who turns from sin and trusts in Him. In Jesus Christ, God, the Creator—the self-existent, self-sufficient, eternal, transcendent, and immanent God—has come to us to dwell with us by becoming one of us.

QUESTIONS:

1. Why do you think some people believe that everything came from nothing, instead of believing that God created everything?
2. What are some reasons that Genesis 1:1 is such a crucial verse for us to understand?
3. Why should Christians be comforted that our God exists outside of time?

4. I first remember hearing this question from Tom Nettles around thirty years ago.



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Genesis 1:1