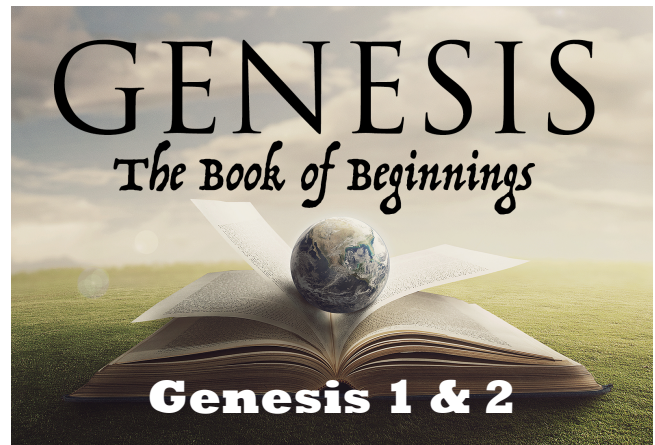


1 • The Beginning of God's Revelation to Mankind

"In the _____." Those are the first words in our Bibles. Every great story has a beginning, and the greatest story of all begins with *Genesis*. In fact, the word *genesis* means "an _____, creation, or beginning." *Genesis* is a big book of beginnings.



"In the beginning, _____." This is important. In the beginning, God was already there. God didn't have a beginning. He is. He has always been. He always will be. As *Psalm 90:2* celebrates, _____ the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from _____ to everlasting you are God.

"In the beginning, God _____." What isn't an accident or a giant coincidence. The heavens and the earth have a Creator. The creatures that fill the heavens and the earth have a Creator. You have a Creator.

But that was a long time ago and we weren't there. We don't have video footage of it all happening, so how do we know what happened "in the beginning"? Our Creator has revealed it to us. *Genesis* is the beginning of his incredible written revelation to mankind.

Okay, how did he do it? How did our Creator do his work of creating? Notice how consistently we read throughout *Genesis 1*, "And God _____." God said, and there was. God said, and it was so.

- * Day 1: _____ (1:3-5)
- * Day 2: the _____ (1:6-8)
- * Day 3: dry _____, seas, _____ & trees (1:9-13)
- * Day 4: _____, moon & _____ (1:14-19)
- * Day 5: _____ creatures & _____ (1:20-23)
- * Day 6: _____ animals & _____ (1:24-31)

"And God _____ everything that he had made, and behold, it was very _____." (1:31)

In *Genesis 2*, God reveals the earliest home, instructions, and boundaries he gave to mankind.

- ❖ The LORD God planted a _____ in _____ and put the man there (2:8)
- ❖ The tree of _____ was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the _____ of good and evil (2:9)
- ❖ The LORD God put the man in the garden to work it and keep it (2:15)
- ❖ Man was warned, "of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall _____ eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die" (2:16-17)
- ❖ The LORD God made "a _____ fit for the man" (2:18-23) and instituted a "one flesh" relationship wherein man and woman could be husband and wife to one another (2:24)

Everything that God had made was good. There was no separation from him and no reason for any shame (2:25). "Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he _____" (2:1-2).

For Class & Family Discussion:

- The Creator of the heavens and the earth could have introduced himself and his revelation to mankind in any number of ways, so why *this* way?
- The Hebrew word we have translated “God” in [Genesis 1:1](#) is *Elohim*, a plural noun. The question is, why? Why not *El*, a singular noun in Hebrew that can also be translated “God”?
- Take the time to reflect on the beginning of *The Gospel According to John*.

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 was not any thing made that was made.

How does [John 1:1-3](#) deepen our understanding of [Genesis 1](#)?

- The apostle Paul makes a very strong statement in [Romans 1:18-23](#) that directly applies to where we are in [Genesis 1-2](#). What should we see and understand from that passage? Why does all of this matter?
- What was unique about God’s creation of man in [Genesis 1:26-31](#)? How should what God has revealed in that passage forever shape the way you think of yourself?
- Why would God put anything in the garden of Eden and then tell the man “**you shall not eat**” of it ([2:16-17](#))?
- What can we learn from what God reveals about the beginning of woman in [Genesis 2:18-25](#)?
- Let’s take a moment to think about big-picture “beginnings” in *Genesis*. What else had its origin, creation, or beginning in the first book of the Bible?