

Let Me Introduce Myself -- I Am God

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

In Genesis 1:1, we have an introduction that gets our attention. It is an introduction that not only gets our attention but also holds it throughout the Bible and throughout the ages. God suddenly steps out of eternity and introduces Himself. God steps into history and says to humanity, **"I AM GOD!"**

The word "*Genesis*" means "*beginnings*." In Genesis we see the beginning of all things. We see the beginning of such things as the universe, the human race, marriage, the family, death, human government, nations and races, languages, trades, occupations, and labor, along with many other things.

The book of Genesis covers about 2500 years of human history -- from the creation of Adam to the death of Joseph. It basically gives us the history of 3 families, the families of Adam, Noah, and Abraham. In Genesis we see the beginning of the human race and the Hebrew race. But the most important fact about the book of Genesis is that we meet God for the first time.

In our first study we want to consider the first four words of Genesis. ***"In the beginning God."*** These four words are not just the first four words of the book of Genesis and the first four words of the Bible. They are first and foremost a revelation of God.

In the first 31 verses of Genesis, God is mentioned 32 times. Add the personal pronouns, God is mentioned no less than 43 times. Genesis 1 is more than a revelation of creation. It is a revelation of the Creator. Creation is the object of Genesis chapter 1, but God is the subject.

Let's notice 3 truths about God in this introduction.

I. WE HAVE THE FIRST DECLARATION OF GOD.

The first statement in Genesis and in the Bible, is a statement about God. We see God revealing Himself, making Himself known. In this opening statement there are 3 great truths about God that are declared. FIRST WE SEE:

A. The Existence of God.

We are told that there is a God. At the very beginning the matter of ATHEISM (the belief that there is no God) is answered. Genesis 1:1, does not seek to prove the existence of God. It seeks to proclaim the existence of God. It does not argue the existence of God; it assumes the existence of God.

The Russian astronaut, Titov, said after his return from space: "*Some*

people say there is a God out there...but in my travels around the earth all day long, I looked and didn't see Him...saw no God nor angels...I don't believe in God."

George Barna states that more than nine out of ten adults (93%) say they believe God exists. (98% 20 years ago.)

The Bible says in Psalm 14:1, "*The fool hath said in his heart there is no God.*" Men can doubt and deny the existence of God if they choose. The Bible calls them a fool.

An atheist was once complaining to a Christian that Christians had all the holidays but atheists didn't have any. He said, "*You have Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas, National day of Prayer, and others.*" The Christian said, "*You do have a holiday. April Fool's Day.*"

The natural assumption of the human heart and mind is that there is a God. Ecclesiastes 3:11 says: "*He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, He has put eternity into man's heart.*" It is unnatural to the heart and mind not to believe in a God.

An atheist is someone who chooses to believe there is no God. He chooses to doubt the existence of God and deny the existence of God in spite of what his heart and head tells him. The atheist cries, "*Prove to me there is a God.*" We say to the atheist, "*Prove to me there is no God.*"

The atheist may proclaim that there is no God, but he cannot prove that there is no God. There is much proof that there is a God, but no proof that He does not exist. Atheism is a choice.

SECOND, WE SEE:

B) The Eternalness of God.

In this opening statement we not only have the answer to atheism, but we also have the answer to PANTHEISM (the belief that God is nature and in nature). We find a beginning but not a beginning of God. God is not nature for He was before nature. God existed before anything or anyone.

We read in John 1:1: "*In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*" It is hard for us to imagine something without a beginning. Yet, God had no beginning. Furthermore, He will have no end.

We read in Isaiah 57:15: "*For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: 'I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite.'*"

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

God has ever existed and will always exist. He is the Eternal God.

THIRD, WE SEE:

C) The Exclusiveness of God.

We not only see that Atheism and Pantheism is answered in the opening statement of the Bible, but also POLYTHEISM (the belief that there is more than one God).

Genesis 1:1, declares that there was a time when there was nothing but God. He was not one among many gods; He was the only God. There was nothing else and there was no one else.

If there is more than one god, then the God of the Bible had to create them. Yet, no where do we read in the Bible that God ever created other gods. The many gods of this world were created by man, not by God.

We read in Deuteronomy 4:35: *"To you it was shown, that you might know that the Lord is God; there is no other besides him."*

Man has made gods out of the sun, moon, stars, trees, rivers, and almost all of creation. They have imagined and designed gods of wood, stone, and marble. Yet there is only one God, and He is the Lord God of Genesis 1:1.

We not only see the first declaration of God, but also:

II. THE FOUNDATIONAL DESCRIPTION OF GOD.

Genesis 1:1 is not only important in that we see God revealing Himself, but it is also important in HOW God revealed Himself. As God introduced Himself, He simply revealed Himself as **"God."**

There are many names for God in the Bible. Each name is a revelation of God's person. In each name something about God is revealed or taught. When God first revealed Himself, he could have revealed Himself as Jehovah, Father, LORD, or by one of His many other names in the Bible. But when He first made Himself known He did so as **"God."** In so doing so, He was laying the foundation for all that He would reveal about Himself.

In any phase of Bible study there is what is called *"The Law of First Mention."* By that we mean that the first mention of a person, place, doctrine, or word in the Bible gives us an understanding of that truth through-out the rest of the Bible. When God revealed Himself as **"God"** it was foundational. At the very beginning God wanted us to know Him as **"God."** He wanted us to know that He was >b>"God."

The name **"God"** is the Hebrew word *"Elohim."* Elohim is a compound of two names, *"El"* and *"Alah."* It is found some 2,500 times in the Old

Testament. The name teaches us two great truths about God.

A) He is a God Whose Power Is Unlimited.

The name "EL" literally means "*strong one or Almighty.*" The very first thing God revealed about Himself was that He was the "*Strong One,*" the "*Almighty One.*" He was declaring that in Him was fullness of might. God was telling us that there was nothing impossible for Him to do. He was a God of unlimited power. We read in Jeremiah 32:17, "*Ah, Lord God! It is you who has made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you.*"

In the beginning God declared Himself to be a God of unlimited power and throughout the rest of the Bible and history He displayed Himself to be a God of unlimited power.

There are many examples of His unlimited power. Job said in Job 38:22, "*Have you entered the storehouses of the snow, or have you seen the storehouses of the hail?*" Job said that there were certain treasures to be found in the snow. One of the treasures we find is that the snow is a demonstration of God's unlimited power. God wanted us to know that He was able! He said, "*I am God. I am a God of unlimited power. There is nothing too hard for Me. There is nothing impossible for Me.*"

We also see that:

B) He Is A God Whose Promises Are Unquestionable.

The other half of the name, "ALAH" means "*to swear, to bind with an oath, or to make a covenant.*" In the beginning God was declaring that He was a God Who always keeps His word. His word is unquestionable. Anything and everything He says is true. God was letting us know at the start that He never lies. Hebrews 6:18, tells us that is impossible for God to lie. He is a God that can be trusted. His Word is truth!

A preacher noticed a group of boys standing around a small stray dog. He walked up and asked, "*What are you doing boys?*" "*Telling lies,*" said one of the boys. "*The one who tells the biggest lie gets the dog.*" The preacher was shocked. He said, "*Boy's when I was your age, I never thought of telling a lie.*" The boys looked at each other and finally one shrugged his shoulders and said, "*I guess he wins the dog.*"

God was letting us know at the start that He never breaks a promise. He will do what He said. He is God! God wanted us to know at the start that everything else He was going to say in the Bible was true. That's so important for it tells that what God said about creation, sin, salvation, Heaven, Hell, and Jesus is true.

In the beginning we see that He is God! This is foundational to all else that is said about Him and by Him. Third, we not only see the first declaration of God and the foundational description of God, but also...

III. THE FEATURED DESIRE OF GOD.

In these first four words of the Bible there is a desire of God that is featured and emphasized. He makes Himself known, but the truth is He didn't have to reveal Himself. He is a self-sufficient and self-sustained God. Back in eternity past, God never had a need for anything for anyone. He needed nothing to exist. He needed no one to survive. He could have existed in eternity without ever having to make Himself known. But He wanted to be known as God. He wanted others to know that He was God. So He began time as we know it and created a universe.

In that universe he created a particular planet called earth. He prepared that earth for a human race. On that planet he put man and it was to man He revealed Himself.

Why did God reveal Himself to man? First, we see that:

A) He Revealed Himself That We Might Know Him Intellectually.

He wanted to bring us to a mental realization of Himself as God. He wanted us to learn of Him and about Him. He gave man a mind to seek Him out in creation. He gave man the ability to think, reason, and conclude so that we would be filled with wonder. The great tragedy of mankind is that they spend a lifetime learning about science, history, and humanity and miss God in it all.

Furthermore:

B) He Revealed Himself That We Might Know Him Intimately.

He not only wanted us to know about Him, He wanted us to know Him. He not only wanted a mental realization of God, but a personal relationship with God. We read in Genesis 3:8, that Adam and Eve heard the voice of God walking in the garden in the cool of the day. Adam and Eve enjoyed personal and intimate fellowship with God. God wants to be more than a fact of science and history. He wants to be a personal God that we know and are intimate with. Here is the great truth of Genesis 1:1. This God that has revealed Himself we can know in a personal way.

I am so glad that He introduced Himself! Aren't you?