

GOD, THE CREATOR OF THE WORLD

Genesis 1:1

As you begin your study of the Bible, notice Who is the first Person to be mentioned, and seek to understand as much as you can about Him. This will help you greatly in all your future studies:

A. The Setting for Creation:

1. When does the Bible story begin? Genesis 1:1a

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2. What is the first event recorded? Genesis 1:1b
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B. The Persons Involved in Creation:

1. Who created the heaven and the earth? Genesis 1:1

NOTE: The Hebrew word translated God in this sentence is a plural noun, Elohim, meaning might or strength.

List the three pronouns referring to God in Genesis 1:26a

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2. Are they singular or plural? _____ What would this indicate? (*THINK!*)

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3. When we see the word God, to whom do we normally consider that it refers?

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4. Who was in the beginning with God the Father? (See John 1:1, 2)

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5. By what name is this Person commonly known today? (See John 1:14 and *THINK!*)

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6. Who moved upon the face of the waters? Genesis 1:2b

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7. What two names are given to this Person in other parts of the Bible?
(See Psalm 51:11; Acts 1:8a) _____

C. The Relationship of the Persons Involved in Creation:

1. Notice that there are two distinct ways in which the word God is used, as illustrated in John 1:1:

- a. In the clause, "the Word was with God," the word God obviously refers to God the Father;
- b. In the clause, "the Word was God," the word God refers to the kind of nature Jesus had in the beginning: God-nature, rather than the nature of a creature, such as an angel or a human being. What other Person is also referred to as God, because He also has the very nature of God? compare Acts 5:3 with Acts 5:4b

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2. Notice, however, that although these three persons are all called God, they are three distinct persons, and not all the same person:

- a. When Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit descended upon Him like a dove, and God the Father spoke with a voice from heaven: Matthew 3:16, 17.

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- b. Jesus said that He would pray to the Father, asking Him to send the Comforter, who is the Holy Spirit: John 14:16, 17.
3. And yet, there is only one God, as illustrated by the following:
 - a. The verb in Genesis 1:1 is singular, although the noun used for God is plural.
 - b. Deuteronomy 6:4 states that, "The Lord our God is one Lord." The word translated one is the word used to denote one thing composed of several parts, rather than the word used to denote one thing all of one part. This word would be used to describe one watch (made of several parts), or one family (composed of several members).
4. Thus we see that there is one God, eternally existing in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; who are equal in their God-nature, and in their divine (di-VINE: of or pertaining to God) characteristics or attributes, such as unlimited wisdom, power, etc., and yet are different in their works (See D. 4). This truth has been given the name trinity or tri-unity: A union of three in one.

D. The Part of Each in Creation:

1. What was the part of God the Father in creation? 1 Corinthians 8:6a

2. What was the part of God the Son in creation? 1 Corinthians 8:6b; John 1:3; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:2b

3. With what quality is the name of the Holy Spirit often associated? Acts 1:8a; Micah 3:8; Luke 1:35; Romans 15:13b, 19a; 1 Thessalonians 1:5

4. Did He have any part in creation? Genesis 1:2b; Psalm 104:30; Job 26:13

Someone has compared the Godhead (divine nature or essence) to an architectural firm: God the Father representing the architect, who plans and initiates each action; God the Son representing the builder, who oversees the construction project; and God the Spirit representing the workers, who actually carry out the work. Notice how this was true in the story of creation above.

E. The Method of Creation:

1. How did God make the various parts of creation? Genesis 1:3a, 6a, 9a, 11a, 14a, 20a, 24a, 26a, and Psalm 33:6, 9

2. What does it take to understand how the worlds were made? (See Hebrews 11:3a)

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. If God did not make the worlds, who did? _____
2. Do I have faith enough to accept God's account of how the worlds were made? Or do I accept some theory of men? (See Psalm 33:6, 9)
