

Jesus was there from the beginning, forming everything according to His purpose.

**John 1:3** – John wrote: “Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.”

What does this mean to you?

### **Five Basic Study Principles**

1. “The Bible presents itself as an accurate, coherent book of history from beginning to end.” Do you see this?
2. “Scripture should be used to interpret Scripture.” How does this work?
3. “A doctrine is a statement summarizing the teaching of Biblical authors on a particular topic.” Different statements in the Bible allow you to come to a conclusion regarding a subject. Do you see this?
4. “Doctrines are directly connected to specific events in history.” Can you name an event that resulted in the formation of a doctrine?
5. “The Bible records events that are beyond our current experience.” Even if we can not understand how something could occur in the Bible, we should not limit the possibility of it happening. What is an example?

### **Ch. 1 “Genesis as a Book of History”**

**Prov. 3:19-20** – Solomon wrote: “By wisdom the Lord laid the earth’s foundations, by understanding he set the heavens in place; by his knowledge the deeps were divided, and the clouds let drop the dew.” What is Solomon telling us?

Divine wisdom guided the creator and now permeates the whole creation. To live by wisdom is to imitate the Lord and conform to the divinely appointed creation order. Have you ever considered the connection between wisdom and creation? What does this tell you about your life?

### **The Doctrine of Revelation**

**Gal. 1:11-12** – Paul wrote: “I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.”

What is Paul saying here about the knowledge he has regarding his teachings? Where does revelation come from?

“Revelation is God’s act of revealing Himself through His words and actions to people throughout the history of the world.” There are two types of revelation:

1. **General Revelation** – God reveals Himself through the physical attributes of the creation itself.  
**Psalms 19** – David says: “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.” Do you see God in creation?
2. **Special Revelation** – God reveals Himself by telling us through the words of the Bible.  
**Psalms 19** – David says: “The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.” Can you see God’s revelation in scripture? How does it affect you?

### **3 Points to Revelation**

1. Men and women were created to perceive God’s power and divinity and worship Him.  
Have you ever considered this as the purpose of life?  
Some people have turned to worshipping the creation rather than the creator. They eventually turn to sexual sin. Have you seen this occur in the lives around you?  
What are some examples of mankind suppressing the truth and turning to the creation to worship it?
2. God spoke to select men to record His words and actions and events.  
**Num. 33:1-2** – “Here are the stages in the journey of the Israelites when they came out of Egypt by divisions under the leadership of Moses and Aaron. At the Lord’s command Moses recorded the stages in their journey. This is their journey by stages:” Why is it important for God’s commands, words, and actions be recorded?  
“We must be careful to base our understanding of history on what God has revealed to us about it.”  
Can you see now that General Revelation does not provide us with history as Special Revelation does? Why?
3. God expects you to know the events recorded in the Bible so you can live your life according to His teachings.  
**Matt. 19:3-6** – “And Pharisees came up to Jesus and tested him by asking, “Is it lawful to divorce one’s wife for any cause?” He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, “Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”  
Why does Jesus quote the account of the first marriage in Genesis 2 to address the Pharisees’ question?  
What is Jesus saying about the story of Adam and Eve?

**Luke 3:37** – Luke wrote regarding the lineage of Jesus – “...the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.”

Why is the story of the creation of man, Adam and Eve, important history to the Christian?