

## Foreword

Despite being the first book in the Bible, Genesis is generally not the first book within that you should read. Our modern Christian faith usually starts with exposure to the gospels of the New Testament (NT), progressing through Revelation. However, many people (Christians or not, old or new) don't read the Old Testament (OT). Why?

I've discussed the answer to this in detail in previous studies, but a short list is as follows:

1. We're rarely encouraged to. In some circles, we're told it isn't even necessary anymore.
2. "The OT God is different than the NT God."
3. "The OT God is too mean!"
4. "It's booring!"

The Bible is jam-packed with immensely-important information and I can't list it all here (Nor do we ever stop learning new things when we re-read His Word, amen?). Further, I can't give you every possible opinion on topics that are up for debate. The intent here is to get you interested in digging into God's Word and strengthen your relationship with Him. Further, an increased knowledge of God's Word will help you recognize the false teachings that abound in our world.

Remember: God's Word is The Truth. My commentary here (personal or compiled), or the footnotes in your study Bible or even your pastor's sermons do not hold the same, perfect, holy authority as the Bible itself. We compare everything to the Word of God to separate the truth from the lies (2 Cor 10:4-6).

## Background

Genesis ("The Beginning") was written/compiled by Moses, through the inspiration of God. Despite secular belief, the book only spends two of its fifty chapters describing creation. The rest is filled with history that sheds light on the Trinity, the fall of man, God's plan for a Savior for both Jew and Gentile, marriage, sex, and parenting, among others. Further, we'll see how the nation of Israel (and its modern enemies) came to be, and why they're such important players in the world today.

Note: You may want to bookmark the website [www.answersingenesis.org](http://www.answersingenesis.org) as it contains a plethora of scientifically/archaeologically-backed information on many of the tough questions we won't have space to cover here. In fact, you may notice a familiar name from the Lightner family among article credits there.

## Read Genesis 1

**v1** "In the beginning" refers to human time. As we'll see elsewhere in Scripture, God has always existed and it appears that angels had already been created. Further, it looks like Satan's rebellion had already taken place (or would be, shortly).

**Q (v2):** Who created the heavens and the earth?

**Q (v2):** What form did earth have to start?

**Q (v3):** What is the true source of light?

**v4** is the first of many mentions that God's original creation was good. It was healthy, it was whole, it was acceptable in His righteous, perfectionist sight. Everything God created was good at the start.

**v5** Note that the first day started with night. While our new "day" typically starts at sunrise, the Hebrew "day" starts at sunset. Further, God's naming of his creation indicated His authority...we'll come back to this later.

**Q:** Did God create the universe in six days or six billion/trillion/really big number of years?

**v6-8** The translation of the word "vault", "expanse" or "firmament" can be misleading here. It's referring to the sky. God created a container of water in the sky, separated from the water below. The earth is now a ball of water, with an atmosphere that may have been very cloudy and dense with moisture. This theory (again, we don't know for sure) will come into play later.

**v9-10** Here God creates the land, making note of its distinction from the seas. "Seas" in Hebrew is always plural, so we're not really sure if there were multiple bodies of water, or just one massive continent and one massive ocean around it.

**v11-13** Plant life is created on the third day; each according to its kind, with reference to reproduction through seed.

**Q (v14-19):** For what reasons did God create the sun, moon and stars?

**v20-23** Air and sea life are created on the fifth day. The word for "birds" is literally "fliers," likely including flying insects and some dinosaurs. The sea life includes mention of "great sea creatures," again likely referencing aquatic dinosaurs, which possibly lead to references to the Behemoth or Leviathan elsewhere in Scripture. These "mythical" beings fascinated and terrified the ancient world and intrigue us today...and yet creating pseudo-Godzillas was just another day for God. No big deal for the Creator of the universe.

Like plant life, these creatures were also made according to their kinds, and given a blessing to reproduce.

**v24-25** Here God creates the land-based animals, with the repeated emphasis on their kinds and encouragement to reproduce, spread out and fill the earth.

**Q:** So does this chapter prove that evolution is a load of...garbage?

**Q (v26):** What does it mean that we were created in God's image/likeness?

In any case, we were created to rule over the earth as his regents. This does not mean He encourages us to trash the place...we are expected to care for His property wisely. Further, it shows us our value...God sees Himself in us. This is why murder is such an offense to God.

**v27** is actually written as a poem in the original Hebrew. It's unfortunately lost in translation for us.

**Q (v27):** What genders are part of God's creation?

**v28** Once again, mankind is given the order to reproduce (more on this later) and fill the earth. However, man is not described as being created "according to their kinds." Mankind is an encompassing group of equal worth. Black, white, tall, short, disabled...God sees them the same.

**v29-30** Man and beast all started out as vegetarians. (Note that the Bible supports eating meat elsewhere, but it wasn't part of His original plan. The book of Isaiah indicates that we will all return to being vegetarians in the new Earth after the end of time.)

**v31** Again, God sees that all that He has made is good.