

Basic Bible Stories // Genesis 1 - The Creation of the World

THE SERIES: During Youth Praise for the 2018-2019 year, we'll be covering "Basic Bible Stories." These stories are the ones many of us have grown up learning about in children's Sunday school or VBS or Awana. However, while we may be able to recall some of the stories, it's probably been a long time since we've actually studied them and even though long and hard about what they are actually talking about. So we're going back to the basics and hopefully this time be able to see it in a different light with certain gospel lenses.

OUR HOPE: Our hope during the Youth Praise session is for us to walk through simple elements of gathering together. No matter if you've been going to church all your life or today is the first day, we're going to walk everyone through the steps and guide each of yall towards learning about scripture, church, and christian community.

FIRST STEPS:

1. Youth Praise Notes
 - a. Starting off correctly (preparing your heart to hear and listen)
 - b. Context
 - c. Message notes
 - d. Main Idea
 - e. Unanswered Questions//Things to research
 - f. Application
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GENESIS 1:1

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth"

In the beginning it pleased God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,¹ for the manifestation of the glory of His eternal power,² wisdom, and goodness, to create or make the world, and all things therein, whether visible or invisible, in the space of six days, and all very good³⁴

1. **IN THE BEGINNING:** The Bible takes us to one of life's most important and fundamental questions - "where did we come from?" the other two being - "what am I doing?" and "where am I going?" When we finally stop and actually think about all of this...look around and we go "where did all of this come from?"
 - a. Before you church kids "well of course God!"...I want to push pause and challenge you on this and maybe even address some of our more skeptical friends in here (btw, love that you're here and you're among us...not scared of your questions or doubts)

¹ John 1:2,3; Heb. 1:2; Job 26:13

² Rom. 1:20

³ Col. 1:16; Gen. 1:31

⁴ 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith (Ch. 4, Paragraph 1)

- b. Let's just say you're part of the camp that says, "nope, I don't believe that a God or gods created this world my faith lies in science or chance or something else other than a divine being." You have 2 options
 - i. It just happened. It spontaneously popped out of nothing.
 - ii. The universe has always existed...it's eternal.

Al-Ghazali's⁵ Argument⁶: Argues that the idea of a beginningless universe is absurd.

1. Whatever begins to exist has a cause
 2. The universe began to exist
 3. Therefore, the universe has a cause
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1. Whatever begins to exist has a cause
 - Something cannot come from nothing. Fundamental principle of classical metaphysics. Explanation: why aren't ducks and popsicles popping out of thin air? Why is it only universes that can come into being from nothing?
 - **Objection:** atheist will say that premise 1 is true of everything in the universe but not of the universe. **Response:** that's just the taxicab fallacy
 2. The universe began to exist
 - An Actually Infinite Number of Things Cannot Exist: Ghazali argued that if the universe never began to exist, then there have been an infinite number of past events prior to today. But, he argued, an infinite number of things cannot exist.
 - Infinity: you can't go up or down from infinity. We are at a real point in time so there must be a finite events that led us to now.
 3. Therefore, the universe has a cause...and if you go back to our verse, the Bible already assumes and provides the answer for the cause of all of this - **God**.

GOD

- Is outside of time - eternal
- Only one that has no beginning
- Original word here for God is "Elohim" -> Plural in form.
 - Distinction between the Triune God vs. ancient world versions of creation.
 - Harmony & unity vs. chaos, battle, and conflict

CREATED

- God creates something out of nothing ("ex nihilo") - no preexisting material
- Macro & Micro level
 - Creative - to think of something with no prior knowledge

⁵ Abū Ḥāmid Muḥammad ibn Muḥammad al-Ġaz(z)ālī 1058-1111 CE Islamic philosopher.

⁶ Kalam Argument. Note: shared between Christian-Jewish-Muslim

- Platypus:
 - The fur is waterproof, and the texture is akin to that of a mole.
 - The platypus uses its tail for storage of fat reserves (an adaptation also found in animals such as the Tasmanian devil)
 - The platypus has extra bones in the shoulder girdle, including an interclavicle, which is not found in other mammals
 - While both male and female platypuses are born with ankle spurs, only the male's spurs deliver venom
 - are the only mammals (apart from at least one species of dolphin) known to have a sense of electroreception
- Wisdom - not only to create but how they all work together.
- Wealthy - as much as I want
- Powerful

HEAVENS

- Expanse of the universe
 - Psalm 147:4

EARTH

- In the vastness of the universe, God places us on this insignificant planet on our solar system.

What about the Big Bang?

1920 Russian mathematicians Alexander Friedman and Belgian astronomer Georges Lemaitre studying the expanse of the universe.

1929 American astronomer Edwin Hubble verified Friedman/Lemaitre's theory. Found light from distant galaxies were redder due to them moving away from us.

- Earth is not the center of the universe
- Space continues to expand

The Friedman/Lemaitre's theory became known as the Big Bang theory.

- Misleading because the theory just described the continued expanse of the universe NOT the origin.

SO WHAT?

FALSE NARRATIVES

1. Naturalism
2. Dualism

3. Polytheism
4. Pantheism
5. Deism

Origin: We are created. We are created by a creator. We are not the measure of anything. You're not the point. Although we have a special place in the story, we are not the point. Knowing that i'm not the point helps me.

Purpose: You and I are not floating aimlessly without a purpose. That creator has a purpose in mind. Means you are created with a purpose. You are not a mistake

- Know Him - know your creator
- Enjoy Him - not begrudging submission

Psalm 16:11 English Standard Version (ESV)

11 You make known to me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy;
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

How do I do this? Look towards Jesus who is the image of the invisible God

Hard Part - what about you?

- Implications
- Nah I'm good
- I want that
- I'm in let's go