

# IN THE BEGINNING WAS JESUS

## GENESIS 1:1-3

*1In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*

*2And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep.*

*And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.*

*3And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. ESV*

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### Introduction

The first five books of the Bible are attributed to Moses. The Jew's call these the "Books of Moses" or the "Torah."

The sum of Moses writing has been called "The Law." These five books were written to a Jewish audience, thousands of years before the birth of the Christ. The first of the five books is called Genesis (beginnings).

In its simplest terms, there were two main purposes for why Moses wrote the book of Genesis to that audience.

First and foremost, Genesis is about creation and beginnings. Genesis 1-11 gives us a general history of man. Chapters 12-50 give us the history of Abraham and his descendants; the people of the Covenant.

- a. The beginning of the earth and universe (1:1-2:3)
- b. The beginning of the human race (2:4-25)
- c. The beginning of sin (3:1-7)
- d. The beginning of the Gospel promises (3:15)
- e. The beginning of the human family (4:1-15)
- f. The beginning of evangelism activity (4:16-9:29)
- g. The beginning of nations (10:1-32)
- h. The beginning of languages (11:1-9)
- i. The beginning of the Hebrew or Jewish race, God's covenant people. (11:10-50:26)

*These books were to remind the covenant people that the God they worshiped was the Creator of everything.* Moses was attempting to fix in their minds “that God” to “the God.” He is the one who created the heavens and the earth.

Next, *He wanted to ensure in the minds of Jews that it was, in fact, the God of Israel, YHWH and Him alone, who created the heavens and the earth.* The God of Israel, YHWH, created the heavens and the earth. You see that purpose from the very first sentence of the book of Genesis. Moses says, “In the beginning God [Elohim] created the heavens and the earth.”

The Covenant people are no different than any other nation. They also wanted to worship other gods instead of the LORD GOD Almighty. When Moses was on the mountain top receiving the Law and the commandments from the LORD, the people fell away from worshipping Him and when Moses came down from the mountain, he found the people had built themselves a calf and were worshipping it.

Throughout the history of the Old Testament, Judges and Prophets have to remind the Jews that it’s God, and God alone, who is Creator of the heavens and the earth.

Therefore, we can summarize that one of the main purposes of Genesis *is for you and me to understand that everything, the heavens and the earth were created and it was the God of Israel who did it.*

#### The Gospel

*Genesis, the very first book of the Bible, that is a foreshadowing of the gospel.* From the very beginning, thousands of years before the name of Jesus would ever be spoken, thousands of years before Gabriel would announce to Mary, that she has been selected to carry in her womb the Son of the living God and they were to call His name *Emmanuel*, which means *God with us*,” you begin to see in Genesis 1:3, a glimpse of the gospel.

Purpose number one can be found in Genesis 1:1: “In the beginning God [Elohiym,] created the heaven and the earth.” *’Elohim* is “God,” the Maker of the universe and the Supreme Creator of all life. Use of the Hebrew word *’elohim* emphasizes God’s power and strength which is evident in creating, from nothing, the heavens, the earth and all that is in them (Gen. 1, 2; Pss. 33:6–15; 104)<sup>1</sup>

Purpose two is hinted at immediately after:

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<sup>1</sup> Carpenter, E. E., & Comfort, P. W. (2000). In *Holman treasury of key Bible words: 200 Greek and 200 Hebrew words defined and explained* (p. 74). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

*2And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. 3And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.*

In the very second verse of the Bible, Moses uses specific words to describe the condition of the earth. He said *formless* and *void*.

Scientists have been trying to find life on other planets for the past 100 years. We have rovers searching the planet Mars in the hopes of finding life, and they have failed.

The words *formless* and *void* in the Hebrew carry with them the idea of chaos. Just imagine that this beautiful planet that we live on today could not support life. The earth was in chaos.

Moses was describing this picture of earth as this cold, dark, chaotic, uninhabitable place, until something happened. What happened? God spoke. For the very first time that we know of in all eternity, God opened His mouth and spoke into this lifeless, void, formless, dark, and chaotic place, and when He spoke, light—not the sun, but light. What used to be chaotic was now order. What used to be lifeless now had life. What used to be ugly now was beautiful.

Search your mind’s eye and see if you can find the gospel in that? Do you hear the echoes of the coming Messiah in that? You should. Do you see there from the very beginning that God is orchestrating and setting the stage for greater purpose? The answer is *yes*.

What is the condition of our hearts before Jesus speaks into them and changes us? Genesis 6:5 says, *“The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”*

Over and over and over again, in a hundred places, the Scripture says that our hearts are lifeless. They’re without life, but then God looks at us and He speaks and He shines His light into your heart and into my heart and He gives us “the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ” (2 Corinthians 4:6).

Look at how Jesus, with His own words, would describe Himself and what He does. He says in John 8:12, “Then Jesus spoke to them, saying, *“I am the Light of the world.”* You remember the Old Testament saying, “Then God said, ‘Let there be light’”? Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life” (John 8:12).

## Conclusion

In the very beginning, the very first time God spoke, light shattered the darkness, and we see that God was setting the stage for a day when He would send His Son, who would also speak and shine His

life-giving light into the darkness and the chaos of your heart and change it. From the very first moments of creation, we see the echoes of the gospel.

*John 1:1-18 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was in the beginning with God. 3All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

*6There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. 8He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.*

*9 The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. 10He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. 11He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. 12But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*

*14And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. 15(John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") 16For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.*

*Bob Crowder*