

INTRODUCTION

“Genesis” means “beginning.” The first eleven chapters of the first book of the Bible explain how things began.

“Beginnings” covered in Gen 1-11:

Beginning of the universe
Beginning of life
Beginning of human beings
Beginning of marriage
Beginning of sin and suffering
Beginning of God’s judgment and plan of salvation
Beginning of children and families
Beginning of languages and people groups
Beginning of God’s chosen people – the Jews

Today: Genesis 1:1: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

I. SCRIPTURE: GENESIS 1:1

A. “In the beginning GOD...” God exists outside of time and space.

God is...

- Omnipotent (all _____)
- Omniscient (all _____)
- Omnipresent (all _____ / everywhere)

B. “...God CREATED” God purposely created all we see out of nothing.

(1) God created everything we see out of nothing.

See podcasts and lectures by Dr. William Lane Craig – [Creatio Ex Nihilo](#)

(2) The atheist believes nothing created something. That’s impossible.

See Frank Turek book and podcast, [“I don’t have enough faith to be an atheist.”](#)

C. “...God created THE HEAVENS & THE EARTH.” It’s all designed.

Why did he do it? The Bible says he did it to glorify his son.

[Col 1:16-17, 19-20 NIV] 16 For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. 17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ... 19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

The story of the Gospel somehow brings Jesus such joy and honor that God created all this with his help, for his glory.

II. WHAT ABOUT “SCIENCE”?

A. When people say, “I just believe in science,” what do they mean?

The scientific materialist refuses to accept anything outside the material universe. Any explanation that involves a spirit world or the supernatural is rejected. But this belief is not “science,” it’s a philosophy or a religion called “materialism.” Materialism is the belief that nothing exists except the “material” universe.

B. But what if the most logical explanation is a supernatural cause?

C. The universe is more fine-tuned than a rocket.

See documentary: [Universe Designed](#)

[Psa 19:1-4 NIV] 1 The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. 2 Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. 3 They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. 4 Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

Richard Dawkins, possibly the most famous atheist of our time, wrote in the beginning of his book *The Blind Watchmaker*: "Biology is the study of complicated things that give the appearance of having been designed for a purpose." Later in the book he admits that the living results of biology “overwhelmingly impress us with the appearance of design as if by a master watchmaker, the illusion of design and planning.”

D. The evidence has sparked the “Intelligent Design” movement.

“Intelligent Design” proponents include the following people:

- Dr. Michael Behe, Biochemist from Lehigh University in PA. His book *Darwin’s Black Box* introduced the concept of irreducible complexity.
- Dr. Stephen C. Meyer, Philosopher of Science, Cambridge University. His book *Signature in the Cell* was *Times of London* book of the year in 2009. The book explains that the DNA coding in one cell points to an intelligence.
- Dr. William Dembski – Mathematician & philosopher, Univ. of Chicago. Proves mathematically it’s impossible for random chance to produce the universe.
- Dr. Henry Schaefer – Quantum Chemist, University of Georgia.
- Dr. Ann Gauger, Biologist, MIT & Harvard.
- Dr. Derk Bergsma, attendee of New Day Christian Church: PhD in molecular genetics from University of Illinois, over 70 publications, cited over 18,000 times by scientists.

E. Why do the majority of scientists still dismiss the evidence?

Is it possible that the reason scientists dismiss the idea of God has nothing to do with science?

[Rom 1:18-23, 25 NIV] 18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, 19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. 20 For since the creation of the

world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. 21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles. ... 25 They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator--who is forever praised. Amen.

II. APPLICATION: WHY IT MATTERS

Our two choices:

God created by his power the heavens and the earth. Or Nothing formed by chance the material universe.

If God created...

Our existence is intentional

Right and wrong exist ("It is good")

Life has purpose and meaning

There is the possibility of life after death (hope)

If nothing formed it by chance...

Our existence is accidental

Nothing is good or evil (amoral)

Life has no purpose or meaning

The future is "nothingness" (despair)

CONCLUSION: PASCAL'S WAGER

One of the smartest men ever to exist, Blaise Pascal, suggested that belief in God is not only the most rational conclusion but the safest wager.

INVITATION

You must choose by faith to believe in God or nothing.

[Heb 11:3, 6 NIV] 3 By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. ... 6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Can you choose to believe that he exists and rewards those who seek him? Turn to him today and be saved!

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. The Nature of God

In the outline, God is described as omnipotent (all-powerful), omniscient (all-knowing), and omnipresent (everywhere). Which of these three attributes of God do you find most comforting during difficult seasons of life, and why?

Scripture Reference: Genesis 1:1 (NIV) "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

2. Purpose and Creation

The sermon notes suggest that God created the universe "through" and "for" Jesus. How does it change your perspective on your daily tasks (work, family, chores) to view them as being part of a world created for His glory rather than just random events?

Scripture Reference: Colossians 1:16 (NIV) "For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him."

3. Evidence of Design

The outline quotes Richard Dawkins as saying biology gives the "appearance" or "illusion" of design. When you look at the natural world—whether it's the complexity of DNA or the vastness of the stars—what specific "evidence" makes it hardest for you to believe that the universe happened by accident?

Scripture Reference: Psalm 19:1 (NIV) "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands."

4. Addressing Doubt and "Science"

The outline discusses "materialism," the belief that nothing exists except the physical universe. Why do you think many people today feel they have to choose between "science" and "faith," and how can we respond to those who feel that believing in God is unscientific?

Scripture Reference: Romans 1:20 (NIV) "For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse."

5. Intentionality vs. Accident

The "Application" section compares two choices: an intentional existence or an accidental one. If a person truly believes their existence is just an "accident," how might that impact their mental health and their sense of right and wrong?

Scripture Reference: Romans 1:25 (NIV) "They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen."

6. Stepping Out in Faith

The conclusion mentions that we must choose by faith to believe in God or "nothing". Can you share a time in your life when you had to rely purely on "faith" for something you couldn't see, and how did God reward your seeking of Him in that moment?

Scripture Reference: Hebrews 11:3 (NIV) "By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible."