



How far back can you trace your family tree? Where did your ancestors come from? Take a moment and share something of your family history.



Genesis 1:1 'In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.'



God, existed in three persons— Father, Son and Holy Spirit—before creating the world by His Word.



IN THE BEGINNING GOD

Read Genesis 1: 1-3, John 1: 1—5

1. Who was before the beginning?
2. What is God's work in Genesis 1:1? Is it significant that the word 'create' here is used only of God?
3. How are these two passages similar? How are they different?
4. What is the purpose of Genesis 1: 1 in this chapter?
5. What are some implications of saying that Jesus was with God before the beginning?



J. Scott Lindsay shares this quote: 'When we approach the first book of the

Bible, and especially its first few chapters, there are always questions on our lips. Were the seven days of creation 24 hour days? Does the order of creation of square with modern theories about evolution of species? Is there a basic conflict between Science and Christianity? Is this creation account a space-time event or a myth intended to convey a purely religious meaning? There have been fierce controversy. The Atheists hurl barbs at the 'head-in-sand' Creationists. The Creationists retaliate by exploiting the gaps in the evolutionary theory. Other Christians distance themselves from the Creationists arguing that the integrity of the Genesis can be maintained without a 24 hour day, 4004BC creation. And on it goes....

While these questions are certainly legitimate, we must take care that they do not obscure the real message of Genesis. The key to all good research, including Bible research is asking the right questions. If we try to find answers to our questions in Genesis—questions that Genesis does not answer—our search will be fruitless. We do not consult a street directory to find phone numbers. Nor should we consult Genesis to find answers to questions it is not the least concerned to answer.



THINK THROUGH FURTHER



6. Over the last two hundred years atheism has tried to abolish God by saying there is no such thing as right and wrong, good and bad. Yet as the late Philippa Foot said, they still insist on making moral judgements. How does Romans 1: 18—20 help us to understand our (and the atheists’) inconsistency? What are some of the consequences for not acknowledging God as Creator?

7. If the Trinity existed before the creation of the world, what implications does this have for understanding our relationships, and the way we engage in our relationships? Look at the way Jesus describes his relationship with the Father in John 17:1—5

8. How does Genesis equip you to respond to the following situation?

An atheist who believes we are products of ‘time plus chance plus energy’

Putting a question correctly is one thing and finding the answer to it is something quite different.

Anton Chekhov

PRAISE GOD that He is our creator, that when He speaks, order and light dispel darkness and chaos.

CONFESS to God our lack of appreciation of His majesty , love and power.

ASK GOD our relationships will increasingly be other oriented.

PRAY ALSO for wisdom in handling questions re science and Christianity.



Praise God for the challenges raised by God’s Word through this study?

PRAYER

Praying for others in your group:



Discuss majesty of God’s creation.

FAMILY DISCUSSION



For next week—
Genesis 1: 1—25

READ AHEAD