**Genesis 1:1A In the beginning *God* created the heavens and the earth.**

1. **God created**: This simply declares that the world ***did not*** create itself or come about by ***chance***.
   1. It was created by God who, by definition, is eternal and has always been.
   2. “It is no accident that *God* is the *subject* of the first sentence of the Bible, for this word dominates the whole chapter and catches the eye at every point of the page: it is used some thirty-five times in as many verses of the story.”
   3. If you believe [**Genesis 1:1**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.1&t=NKJV), you really have no problem believing the rest of the Bible.
   4. The God big enough to have **created the heavens and the earth** is big enough to do all the rest the Bible says that He did and does.
2. **God**: This is the ancient Hebrew word ***Elohim***.
   1. Grammatically it is a plural word used as if it were singular.
   2. The verbs and pronouns used with *Elohim* should be in the plural, but when *Elohim* refers to the LORD God the verbs and pronouns are in the singular.
   3. **Adam Clarke quoted Rabbi Simeon ben Joachi,** commenting on the word *Elohim*: “Come and see the mystery of the word Elohim; there are *three degrees*, and each degree by itself *alone*, and yet notwithstanding they are all *one*, and *joined together* in *one*, and are not divided from each other.” Clarke adds: “He must be strangely prejudiced indeed who cannot see that the doctrine of a Trinity, and of a Trinity in unity, is expressed in the above words.”
3. **God created the heavens**: The simple fact of God’s creation is even more amazing when we consider the greatness of God’s universe.
   1. A typical galaxy contains 10 Million to 1 Trillion individual stars;
   2. **Our** galaxy alone (the Milky Way) contains approximately 100 billion stars. (100,000,000,000)
   3. Our galaxy is shaped like a *giant spiral*, rotating in space, with arms reaching out like a pinwheel, and our sun is *one* star on one arm of the pinwheel.
      1. **A spiral galaxy typically has a rotating disc with spiral ‘arms’ that curve out from a dense central region.**
   4. It would take about 20 million years for the pinwheel to make one full rotation. But this is only our galaxy; there are many other galaxies with many other shapes, including spirals, spherical clusters, and flat pancakes.
   5. The average distance between one galaxy and another is about one million light years.
      1. Our closest galaxy is the Andromeda Galaxy, Also known as Messier 31, M31
      2. It’s about 2.537 million light years from Earth.
      3. And said to have 1 Trillion Stars (1,000,000,000,000) (1012)
      4. For every patch of sky the size of the moon, if you could look very deep, you would see about a million galaxies*.*

[**Isaiah 48:13**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+48.13&t=NKJV) ***Indeed My hand has laid the foundation of the earth, and My right hand has stretched out the heavens; when I call to them, they stand up together*.**

1. But God is bigger and greater than all His creation: [**Isaiah 40:12**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+40.12&t=NKJV) ***Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, measured heaven with a span and calculated the dust of the earth in a measure?***
2. **God created the heavens and the earth**: If **God** created the heavens and the earth, then we must forever put away the idea that anything *happens* by chance. “**Chance**” merely describes the statistical probability of something happening. ***Chance*** itself can neither do or perform anything. Assigning such power to ***chance*** doesn’t make sense. **Chance** has no power.
   1. For example, when a coin is flipped, the chance it will land heads [is 50](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=is+50&t=NKJV)%; however, *chance* does not make it land heads.
   2. Whether or not it lands heads or tails is due to the strength with which the coin is flipped, the strength of air currents and air pressure as it flies through the air, if it lands on the floor, or if it’s flipped over once it is caught. ***Chance*** doesn’t *do* anything but describe a probability.
   3. Therefore, when someone says the universe or anything else came about by ***chance***, one may say that despite their expertise or skill in other areas, when it comes to this subject, they are ignorant, superstitious, or simply repeating a tired theory that has been disproved before, yet still accepted by many.
3. **God created**: According to Hugh Ross in his book *The Fingerprint of God*: God is an *intelligent designer*. Only an intelligent designer could create a *just-right universe*, not by **chance**. Our universe is a just-right universe.
   1. The universe has a just-right gravitational force.
   2. *If it were larger*, the stars would be too hot and would burn up too quickly and too unevenly to support life.
   3. *If it were smaller*, the stars would remain so cool, nuclear fusion would never ignite, and there would be no heat and light.
   4. The universe has a just-right speed of light.
      1. *If it were larger*, stars would send out too much light.
      2. *If it were smaller*, stars would not send out enough light.
   5. The universe has a just-right average distance between the stars.
      1. *If it were larger*, the heavy element density would be too thin for rocky planets to form, and there would only be gaseous planets.
      2. *If it were smaller*, planetary orbits would become destabilized because of the gravitational pull from other stars.
   6. The universe has a just-right polarity of the water molecule.
      1. *If it were greater*, the heat of fusion and vaporization would be too great for life to exist.
      2. *If it were smaller*, the heat of fusion and vaporization would be too small for life’s existence, liquid water would become too inferior a solvent for life chemistry to proceed, ice would not float, leading to a runaway freeze-up.
      3. We could conclude that there is *no* ***chance*** that such a universe could create itself, apart from an intelligent designer.
4. **In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth**: This tells us that God used no pre-existing material to create the earth.
   1. The ancient Hebrew word *bara* (**created**) is specific. It means *to create out of nothing*, showing that God created the world out of nothing, not out of Himself.
   2. God is separate from His [creation. Unlike Eastern and pantheistic perceptions of God, the Bible teaches the universe could perish yet He would remain.](http://www.apple.com)
   3. Man *cannot create* in the sense the term is used in [Genesis 1:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.1&t=NKJV).
      1. We can *only form* things out of existing material.
      2. The closest we come to creating is in reproducing ourselves sexually.
      3. Perhaps that is the reason why Satan wants to pervert and destroy God’s plan and standard for sexuality; it is deeply connected to our being made in the image of God.
5. **The Bible’s clear teaching of God’s creation and the uncertainty of modern science.**
   1. Some scientists often act certain in their knowledge about the origin of the universe, but their continually revolutionary discoveries prove they are, in some way, feeling their way along in the dark.
   2. *Honest* scientists, those who resist pride or arrogance, appreciate how little they do know, and hold their present discoveries with a sense of humility.
   3. Some scientists may be overly sure when it comes to what can be known of the universe, but we do not have to accept such arrogance.
   4. The constantly changing scene of science is illustrated by a sidebar to a science article many years ago in the *Los Angeles Times* titled, “The Big Bang and What Followed It”: In the beginning, there was light – but also quarks and electrons. The Big Bang spewed out energy that condensed into radiation and particles. The quarks joined into protons and careened wildly about in a hot, dense, glowing goop as opaque as a star. Time (300,000 years or so) passed. Space expanded. Matter cooled. The electrons and protons, electrically irresistible to each other, merged into neutral hydrogen, and from this marriage, the first atoms were born. Space between atoms became as transparent as crystal – pretty much the way it looks today. The rest, as they say, is history. Atoms merged to form dust clouds, which grew into stars and galaxies and clusters. Stars used up their nuclear fuel, collapsed and exploded in recurring cycles, fusing elements in the process. Occasionally, a stable planet condensed around a second-generation star, where carbon-based life forms grew into, among other things, cosmologists, the better to contemplate it all.
   5. In 1913, an astronomer in Arizona discovered that stars appeared to be moving away from the earth at tremendous speeds, up to two million miles an hour.
   6. In 1919, another American astronomer named Edwin Hubble used this information to develop a theory of an expanding universe, which is the foundation of the “Big Bang” idea. Early on, other scientists discovered background radiation from all parts of the universe, which they suppose is the leftover “noise” from the first great explosion. But scientists are really not much closer at all to knowing anything about this instant beginning to the universe.
   7. In fact, the more they find out, the more they discover how much they ***don’t know***.
   8. There was a time when astrophysicists were faced with another challenge: trying to figure out what “dark matter” is.
   9. Dark matter is a term some scientists use to explain an enormous apparent excess of gravity in the universe.
   10. Dark matter may make up 99.9% of everything in the universe, but no one knows what it is.
   11. Though suggestions are offered, they are only suggestions. David O. Caldwell of the University of California at Santa Barbara said, “When it comes to dark matter, the only thing that we are *convinced of at the moment* is that it’s there.”
   12. The biggest mystery, however, strikes even scientists as so astonishing that 99% of the universe, according to some estimates, is made of totally unfamiliar stuff. Commonly known as dark matter, it is actually mostly transparent; it neither shines nor casts a shadow.
   13. Whatever it is, it is not like us… According to some theories, it also is the glue that holds the universe together, and keeps it from expanding forever into endless space.
6. **God did all this in the beginning, yet there was much before the beginning.**
   1. **In the beginning, God**: God Himself was before the beginning: ***Your throne is established from of old; You are from everlasting*** [**Psalm 93:2**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+93.2&t=NKJV)
   2. Some People are troubled by questions like, “*Where did God come from*?” and “*Who created God?*”
   3. [**Psalm 90:1-2**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+90.1-2&t=NKJV) ***LORD, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God***
   4. ***God*** *is the uncreated Being, eternal – without beginning or end.*
   5. J. Edwin Orr used a memorable definition of God, which was thoroughly Biblical: *God is the only infinite, eternal, and unchangeable spirit, the perfect being in whom all things* ***begin****, and* ***continue****, and* ***end****.*
7. **In the beginning, God**: At some time before the beginning, God created the angels, because they witnessed the creation of the heavens and the earth
   1. [**Job 38:7**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Job+38.7&t=NKJV) **as the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?**
8. **According to their kind**: Again, all animal life is created **according to its kind**. God deliberately structured plenty of variation within a kind, but one “kind” *does not become another*.
   1. **Example**, structure among dogs is diverse. The teacup poodle is very different from the Great Dane, but they are both dogs. However, they won’t become mice, no matter how much breeding is done.
9. **God plans to make man in His image.**
   1. **Gen 1:26 And God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”**
10. **Let Us make man in Our image**: The repeated use of the plural (**Let Us… in Our image, according to Our likeness**) is consistent with the idea that there is One God in three Persons, what we know as the Trinity.
11. **In Our image**: An understanding of who man is begins with knowing we are made in the image of God.
    1. Man is different from every other order of created being**.**
    2. This means there is an *unbridgeable* gap between human life and animal life.
    3. Though we are biologically similar to certain animals, we are distinct in our moral, intellectual, and spiritual capabilities.
    4. This means there is also an *unbridgeable* gap between human life and angelic life.
       1. Nowhere are we told the angels are made in the **image** of God.
       2. Angels cannot have the same kind of relationship of love and fellowship with God that we can have.
    5. **In Our image**: There are at least three aspects to the idea that we are made in the ***image******of God***.
       1. It means humans possess ***personality***: knowledge, feelings, and a will. This sets man apart from all animals and plants.
       2. It means humans possess ***morality***: we are able to make moral judgments and have a conscience.
       3. It means humans possess ***spirituality***: man is made for communion with God. It is on the level of spirit we communicate with God.
    6. **Let them have dominion**: Before God ever created man, He decreed that man would have ***dominion*** over the earth.
12. **God’s creation of man and initial commission to Adam.**
    1. **Gen 1:27-28 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and *replenish* the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.**
    2. We are plainly told God created man *fully formed*, and created him in *one day*, ***not gradually over millions of years of progressive evolution***. The idea that a slow, progressive evolution could produce a complex mechanism like the human body just doesn’t hold up.
    3. **Male and female, He created them**: This should not be construed to mean Adam was originally some type of androgynous being, being both male and female.
    4. Men are not women, and women are not men. *One of the saddest signs of our culture’s depravity is the amount and the degree of gender confusion today.*
    5. It is vain to wonder if men or women are superior to the other. A man is absolutely superior at being a man. A woman is absolutely superior at being a woman. But when a man tries to be a woman or a woman tries to be a man, you have something inferior.
13. **Then God blessed them**: the first thing God did for man was to bless him. Without the goodness of God’s blessing, human life would be not only unbearable but also impossible.
14. **Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion**: God also gives man a job to do: fulfill God’s intention of man’s exercise of dominion over the earth.
    1. Inherent in this command is that man should **be fruitful and multiply** and **fill the earth**. Man cannot fulfill God’s plan for him on the earth unless he populates it.
    2. Additionally, God gave mankind a desire for sex, which would make the populating of the earth quick and likely.
    3. However, many have thought that being fruitful and multiplying was God’s only or main purpose for sex, but this isn’t the case. The primary reason God created sex was to contribute to the bonding of a ***one-flesh*** relationship.
15. **God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good**: God’s final analysis of His work of creation is that it was **very good**. God was pleased with His creation.
    1. At the time, it was entirely **good**; there was no death or decay on earth at all.