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Genesis 1:1

Psalm 33:1-11; Acts 17:22-31

What Christianity is NOT –

- Christianity, no matter what the world says, is NOT a religion.
- Christianity IS a LIFESTYLE LIVED fully out for the glory of God.
- Christianity IS NOT how we worship but how we live.
- Our belief in the ONE GOD of the universe **determines** how we live and everything we do.

Knowing the One True God

- God boldly declares that there is NO OTHER god besides Him.
 - Isaiah 37:20; **43:10-11**; 44:6, 8; 45:6, 21, 22; Deut 4:35, 39; **32:39**
- One must believe in the REVEALED GOD of the Bible in order to be saved. (Romans 10:9-10)
- Many believe that there is a god but do not know the REVEALED GOD of the Bible.
- Many have opinions of who God is but do not know the REVEALED GOD of the Bible.
- The ONLY way to know God is by Him revealing Himself to you. (Matthew 16:13-17; 11:15-27) and He reveals Himself in **His written** Word.
- God reveals Himself to those whom He saves. (Jeremiah 31:33-34; Hebrews 8:11-12; 2 Corinthians 4:6)
- Eternal life (salvation) is knowing God (John 17:2-3)

The Seriousness of Knowing God

- What you believe about God determines . . .
 - . . . your love for God.
 - . . . how you serve God.
 - . . . how you parent your children.
 - . . . who you marry and how you love your spouse.

- . . . how you serve your employer/professor.
- . . . how you define sin and grace.
- . . . how you obey His Word.
- . . . how you view yourself.
- Having an incorrect view of God leads to a life of serving and worshiping Him in vain. (Matt 7:21-23; 15:1-9; Luke 13:23-27)
- Having an incorrect view of God leads to a life of serving Him in a way that is an abomination to Him instead of pleasing Him. (Luke 16:15; Matt 25:14-30)
- Having an incorrect view of God leads to worship that makes Him sick. (Isaiah 1:11-15; Amos 5:21-23) We are commanded to worship HIM - who He IS not who we believe Him to be.
- Having an incorrect view of God leads to the corruption of all other doctrines taught in the HIS WORD - since they are His doctrines. (John 7:16, 17; 8:28; 12:49-50)

Genesis 1:1 - The Most Important Verse in the Bible

- The Word of God is TRUTH. (John 17:17; Psalm 119:160)
- ALL Scripture is GOD-BREATHED. (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 2:19-21)
- We are commanded to live our lives on/by EVERY word that comes from the mouth of God. (Luke 4:4; Deuteronomy 8:3)
- God's Word is TRUTH. Man does not like TRUTH. (John 8:44-45; 1 John 2:4, 22; 4:20; 5:10; Galatians 4:16; 2 Timothy 4:3-4)
- God's Word/His Gospel begins with Genesis 1:1.
- Genesis 1:1 is the **beginning** of God's revelation of Himself.
- Genesis 1:1 is the **foundation** of the rest of God's Word.
- If we get Genesis 1:1 wrong or if we reject Genesis 1:1 the rest of the Bible is meaningless.
- Deny all that Genesis 1:1 reveals of God is to reject God.

No Argument for His Existence

- Here in Genesis 1:1, at the beginning of God's revelation of Himself, God give no argument for His existence. He does not need to prove to anyone who He is and that He exists. He simply begins His revelation of who He IS.
- Similarly, Paul, when addressing pagan philosophers at Athens, does not give any argument for God's existence.
- No where in the Bible do we find an argument for God's existence.

In the Beginning GOD . . .

- The first thing we learn about God is that He existed **before** the beginning - before there was space, matter, and time God existed.
- Immediately, God reveals to us that He is **ETERNAL**. He "inhabits eternity" (Isaiah 57:15). More on this below . . .

- Immediately, God reveals Himself as someone/thing that is not at all like us!
- **A finite mind cannot fully know an INFINITE being.** Therefore, we are dependent upon God revealing Himself to us.
 - Psalm 145:3; 147:5; 139:6; Romans 11:33; Isaiah 55:9
- Though God is incomprehensible **THIS DOES NOT MEAN WE CANNOT KNOW GOD!**
- The English word “incomprehensible” has the Biblical meaning of “having or subject to limits”.
- **BUT** this Infinite Being, GOD, **has** revealed Himself to the **finite**.
- And what He has revealed we are **accountable** to live. (Deuteronomy 29:29) - our children are accountable to all that God has revealed. (Psalm 78:5-8)
- The people of Athens worshiped an *unknown god* and Paul introduced them to the God who can be *known*. (Acts 17:22-34)
- Before Genesis 1:1 -
 - ➔ God existed in His Triune nature. (John 1:1; John 17:5, 24)
 - ➔ God existed in His **aseity** (self-sufficiency, self-containment, self-existence; independence; self-satisfaction). (Acts 17:24-25; Psalm 24:1; 50:10-12; 89:11; 1 Chronicles 29:10-12)
 - ➔ God knew all of His works that He would ever do within His creation. (Acts 15:18; Isaiah 46:24, 26-27)
 - God knows/knew the end from the beginning - and everything in between). (Isaiah 46:10-11; 44:6-7; 45:21; Ephesians 1:11)
 - Every event in history is planned and fits into God’s **eternal purpose** and **plan**. (Isaiah 46:10-11; Psalm 33:11; Prov 19:21)
 - NOTHING happens outside of God’s plan. (Lamentations 3:37-38)
- Genesis 1:1 tells us that God is **UNIQUE** - there is **none** like Him. (Isaiah 40:25-26; Job 23:13)
 - “unique” means “one of a kind.” There are no degrees of uniqueness. One cannot be “more” or “less” unique.
 - Since God is UNIQUE He cannot be compared to anything or anyone. If He is so, then He is to be feared. (Jer 10:6-7; Psalm 113:5-6; Isaiah 40:12-18, 25; 46:5; Psalm 89:6-8; Exodus 15:11)
 - **God is NOT like us.** (Psalm 50:21). It is sin to “re-create” God into a being that we can understand and control.
 - God can only be understood by what He reveals about Himself - to think of Him any differently is to make Him an idol - something less than He is.
- Genesis 1:1 tells us that God is **ETERNAL**. Again, **try** to meditate on this. (Isaiah 57:15; 40:28)
 - He is “Yahweh El Olam” יהוה אל עולם - the Everlasting God. (Genesis 21:33; Psalm 90:2; Jeremiah 10:10; Deut 33:27; Psalm 93:2; Romans 16:26; 1 Timothy 1:17)

- We are LIMITED by TIME - the past, present, and the future.
- We experience everything in a series of events.
- BUT GOD is UNIQUE in that He does not live “in time” - God created (defined; determined, directs) time!
- Time does not affect God. GOD affects time!
- “I AM THAT I AM” (Exodus 3:14) God is ALWAYS “I AM” - Technically, He never was and He never will be.
- Consider Isaiah 41:4 - God **is** with the first and He **is** with the last - He says, “**I AM!**”
 - ➔ God does not predict the future - He is already there!
- Genesis 1:1 reveals to us that God is ETERNAL, and therefore, God is UNCHANGING! **GOD DOES NOT CHANGE! GOD IS THE SAME TODAY, YESTERDAY, AND TOMORROW.** (Hebrews 13:8; Mal 3:6; Job 23:13)
 - ★ The God of the Old Testament is the SAME God of the New Testament. He has NOT CHANGED!

Those Who Know God

- (Psalm 9:10) Those who KNOW God put their whole trust in Him.
- (1 John 2:3-4) Those who KNOW God obey His commandments.
- (1 John 4:6) Those who KNOW God hear God’s messengers. (See Matthew 7:24-29)
- (Hebrews 11:6) Those who KNOW God seek Him diligently and are rewarded by Him.

Those Who Do Not Know God

- (Exodus 5:2) “Who is the LORD, that I should obey His voice . . .?”
- (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9) Christ will come “in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel”
- (Titus 1:16) They profess to know God but in their works (obedience) they deny Him. (See also Job 21:14-15; **Isaiah 30:9-11**)

Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty man glory in his might, Nor let the rich man glory in his riches; But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I am the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the LORD.

(Jeremiah 9:23-24)

"Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.

(Isaiah 45:22)