

THE BOOK OF BEGINNINGS

"The truth—and this may sound shocking—is that almost every important church doctrine is found in 'seed' form in the book of Genesis."
 —John D. Currid, *Genesis*

"The Sovereign Power of God"**An Introduction to Genesis:**

- **Genesis is the beginning of the *written*, revelation of God.**
 ⇒ God reveals Himself to us both through His creation and through His Word.
- **Genesis is the *lens* through which the rest of Scripture is to be viewed and understood.**
 ⇒ We cannot properly understand the rest of the Bible if we do not understand the content and message of Genesis.
- **Genesis provides the foundational beliefs and *assumptions* that the people of God are to hold.**
 ⇒ The necessary assumptions for living lives that honor God in the world that He created.

The Theme of Genesis:

- Genesis begins with joy, perfection, and hope but quickly descends in to sin, rebellion, and judgment. Despite this tragic turn, the book ends with a hopeful trajectory.

Gen. 50:20—As for you, **you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good**, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

God's sovereign _____ and _____ will be accomplished for His glory and the good of His people despite the sin and rebellion of mankind!

The Lord of All Creation: Genesis 1:1

Genesis 1:1—"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the Earth"

"God" – אֱלֹהִים – "**Elohim**" → This is the common name for the God of Israel.

- Depending on its use, it can be used to refer to the 'gods' of other nations (Ex. 20:3) or heavenly beings such as angels (Ps. 8:5).
 ⇒ This verse is the _____ of everything else we find in Scripture.
 ⇒ It serves as a polemic against the _____ of the ancient Near East.
 ⇒ It serves as a polemic against the worldview of _____.

The Implications of Gen. 1:1

1. There are, ultimately, only two things that exist: _____ and His _____

- While God's creation is dependent upon Him for its existence, He is self-existent.

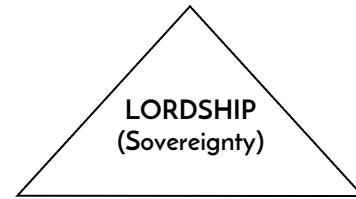
Ps. 90:2—Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, **from everlasting to everlasting you are God**.

Ps. 102:25-27—Of old You founded the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. "Even they will perish, but You endure; And all of them will wear out like a garment; Like clothing You will change them and they will be changed. "But You are the same, And **Your years will not come to an end**.

"God is exclusively from himself, not in the sense of being self-caused but being from eternity who he is, being not becoming. God is absolute being, the fullness of being, and therefore also eternally and absolutely independent in his existence, in his perfections, in all his works, the first and the last, the sole cause and final goal of all things."
 —Herman Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics Vol. II*

2. God exercises _____ over all of creation.

- Authority →
- Control →
- Presence →



Rev. 4:11—"Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created."

Col. 1:16—For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created through Him and for Him.

⇒ God's Lordship over creation should comfort His people because nothing happens outside of His control. His people, therefore, can _____ in Him through any and all circumstances in life.

3. God transcends _____ [Eternality] and yet He also experiences it, filling it with His powerful presence.

Rev. 1:8—"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

Job 36:26—Behold, God is exalted, and we do not know Him; The number of His years is unsearchable.

Is. 40:28—Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth Does not become weary or tired His understanding is inscrutable.

Jer. 31:3—The LORD appeared to him from afar, saying, "I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness."

⇒ God's Lordship over time means that He is not limited as we are by time. However, it also means that He meaningfully works in our lives at specific times and through specific events. The days of our lives have specific meaning and _____.

4. God transcends _____ [Immensity] and yet He is omnipresent within His creation.

1 Kings 8:27—"But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you; how much less this house that I have built!

Is. 66:1-2a—"Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool; what is the house that you would build for me, and what is the place of my rest? All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the Lord."

Ps. 139:7-9—Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.

Acts 17:24-27— The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us.

"For Paul and for David, God's omnipresence is an implication of his lordship. God created everything and determined the course of history so that he would be available to all...God is everywhere present, because he is the source of everything and every person on the earth, and because he is the controller of nature and history. And he has controlled history in such a way that he is inevitably present to all." —John Frame, Systematic Theology

⇒ God's Lordship over space means that though He is not limited by the physical world, His is remains _____ with His people at all times and in all places and in all circumstances.

Behold your God! – Romans 11:33-36