

“No God But God”
Genesis 1:1

“In the beginning....” (bēreshēt)

What does this phrase mean? In the beginning of what?

What is the connection to:

John 1:1

Colossians 1:15-17

Proverbs 8:22-31

Isaiah 40:19-22

Isaiah 41:4

Isaiah 46:10

This small phrase notes something newly created as well: The creation of _____ (from humanity’s point of reference).

“God...”

The Hebrew term used here is “Elohim.” The “im” on the back of a noun makes it a plural. It is called a _____ plural or a _____ plural denoting the fact that there is only _____ God in essence, but He is found in plural person. This is also known as the _____.

Contextual Cultural Assumptions:

Psalm 14, “The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no _____.’” Cp. Ps. 53

The New Jewish Publication Society more accurately interprets the verse: “The fool says in his heart, ‘God does not care.’” [Practical Atheism]

The Jewish Study Bible, Oxford, New York. Oxford University Press, 2004.

The culture did not hold to a _____ but to a _____ or to a form of worship called _____. _____ was not heard of in that culture.

So the question, "Is there really a _____?" was not a question at all for those receiving this revelation. This is why portraying a _____ God to those in third world countries where animism, _____ or polytheism are prevalent is still an effective means of evangelizing.

Pantheism versus Panentheism:

In Pantheism, God is found _____ everything - some characteristic, some reflection.

In Panentheism, God _____ everything and yet transcends everything.

Historical Proofs: (2)

In the Western Hemisphere, we are called to _____ the existence of God. We have reasoned out our _____ heritage because of the Enlightenment (17th/18th c.). In Third World (Majority World) countries it is still _____.

As Trinitarian Monotheists, we are *not* biblically called to "prove" God. God has given Himself _____ witness. We need to reverse the challenge: "You" [atheist] prove that God does *not* exist.

Our primary text is Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning...God." It is the first, _____, revelatory piece of information given to us about our Creator without explanation or expansion, i.e. where did He come from, are there other "gods," who created "God?"

Thomas Aquinas (Roman Catholic Doctor of Theology, A. D. 1265): First Cause

Q. Can God's existence be demonstrated?

A. Yes. He is the primary cause of everything and even if we cannot see that primary cause we see the _____ which are evidence enough.

Q. Does God exist? 5 Proofs

A. Yes.

1. We know God exists because of _____. A first cause of change which is not _____ by anything else is known as God.

2. We know God exists because of the _____ of efficient causes. There was a first _____ in the efficient sequence of things. This first cause is known as God.

3. We know God exists because of the nature of _____ and _____. If nothing had ever existed, it would be impossible for _____ to exist, and there would now be nothing at all. We are then bound to understand that something necessary in itself, which does not owe its _____ to anything else, did exist. This is God. [Self-existent; Aseity]

4. We know God exists because of the _____ of things. There are things that are noble and good and things that are of lesser desirability. There is therefore something which is the cause of those gradations [and stands at the highest level].

5. We know God exists because of the _____ of things. All things are found to be with a particular design, purpose, and operation. The thing in itself may not know what it's design, purpose and operation is but that which is the primary designer does.

Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury, England (A. D. 1033-1099)

Ontological View: It is self-contradictory to deny that there exists a greatest _____ being. Thus, on this general line of argument, it is a necessary truth that such a being exists; and this being is called, "God."

Complexity to simplicity = no composition

Unchangeable = unable to become something else

Divine actuality/no potentiality = not becoming more...

Modern Day Arguments:

1. Intelligent Design
 - a. Cosmological
 - b. Biological
2. Morality
3. Teleological – purpose

Great resource: "The Existence and Attributes of God" by Stephen Charnock (1625-1680)

Other: Key Scriptures

Psalms 19:1-4

Jeremiah 10:12-15

Titus 1:16

Romans 1:18-25

Acts 14:15-17

Hebrews 11:6

Three types of atheism or denial of God:

1. _____ atheism – total denial of the existence of God.
2. _____ atheism = A denial of God's care or concern for the things of the world He created, and as a result, living as if there were none; also known as a form of French Deism.
3. _____ or secret atheism – A denial of one or other of the perfections due to a denial of his full nature. e.g. A denial of his justice due to an inflated view of his love.

Truth: no man is _____ from some form of atheism whether it be in belief or in action due to the depravation of his person.

“Created...”

The word used here is “bara” and is only used of God. Only God can create. Only God can create something out of _____ or “Ex Nihilo.” Cf. Rom. 4:17

Man can _____ things or _____ things, but he cannot create anything. The act of making or forming things consist of using materials already in _____.

“Anthropic Principle” = The Anthropic principle asserts that non-physical and physical evidence seems to point to humankind as being the _____ theme of the cosmos. Cp. Isaiah 45:18; Psalm 104:14-15

“Mediocrity Principle” = The Mediocrity Principle asserts that humanity is not _____ in any way and that human origin and development have likely been duplicated on billions of other sites throughout the cosmos.

“The Heavens and the earth...”

The Bible speaks of three heavens.

The Earth’s _____

The first heaven, in terms of distance from us, is the earth's atmosphere. It's where clouds form and from where rain falls.

*Luke 4:25 “But I tell you truly, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elijah, when **the heaven** was shut up three years and six months, and there was a great famine throughout all the land;*

*Luke 17:24 “For as the lightning that flashes out of **one part under heaven shines to the other part under heaven**, so also the Son of Man will be in His day.*

Outer _____

The second heaven, in terms of distance from us, is outer space. It's where the stars are.

*Mat 24:29 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the **stars will fall from heaven**, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.*

*2 Pet 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the **heavens** will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.*

*Rev 6:13 And the **stars of heaven** fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind.*

God's _____

The third heaven, cannot be found in terms of spatial distance from us, but of differing dimension. It is not "out there." It's where God dwells.

*Mat 5:34 "But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by **heaven, for it is God's throne**;*

*Acts 7:49 '**Heaven is My throne**, And earth is My footstool. What house will you build for Me? says the LORD, Or what is the place of My rest?*

*2 Cor 12:2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago; whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows; such a one was caught up to **the third heaven**.*

Genesis 1:1 is speaking about the lower two heavens since His eternal _____ is connected to an eternal _____ and the subsequent revelation is in physical relationship to man in his temporal state.