

IT'S ALL ABOUT HIM // Genesis 1:1

Morning message from Pastor Jimmy Newkirk

We should read the Bible looking for two things: first, what does the Bible say about God and his character? God reveals himself through the Word, revealing truths that we would not otherwise know. Secondly, we read the Bible to see what it says about ourselves and how we should respond to the truth of who God is—is there a sin to avoid, a promise to believe, a command to obey?

The first verse of the first book of the Bible is a stake in the ground, a reference point for the rest of the building project, the rest of the Bible. All matter, everything in existence begins here. It points to God as sovereign Creator and marks not only a beginning but also projects a future revelation that will have fundamental applications for the believer. We can identify six major truths based on this one verse, seven Hebrew words. The rest of the Bible is based on these truths and so should our lives.

SIX MAJOR TRUTHS

- 1. God exists.** The first step to pleasing God is to acknowledge he exists. We cannot escape this truth. (Romans 1: 18-21, Hebrews 11: 6)
- 2. God existed before creation and will continue after.** (Hebrews 1: 10-12)
- 3. God is the main character of the Bible.** Although humans play a part in the narrative of the Bible, it is to show their relationship with God and how he interacts with his people as Creator and creation.
- 4. Only God creates.** The universe was not self-existent; it was created by the will of God. No human can create in this way.
- 5. God is the creator of what we experience.** All that we know has been created by God. He did not merely manipulate pre-existing matter—he created out of nothing. (Psalm 33, Hebrews 11:3)
- 6. God does not need the universe.** The universe is needy and is sustained by God. (Hebrews 1: 3)
While God created time, space, and matter, he is above and beyond and separate from all that he has created. However, he steps into them to reveal himself; he is actively involved in all we experience.

What does this show us about ourselves? God created man, not the other way around. God created so that he might be known; he announced his presence in terms we can understand.

What does this show us about Christ? Creation finds its focus and climax in Jesus, so that those rightly related to him can be born as children of God. Man was created in God's image, but after the fall that image was tarnished. The Son of God, who has always existed as the triune God, knew that we would rebel and came to seek and save us so that we might be restored (Colossians 1: 15-20), that we might be "new creations" (2 Corinthians 5: 17) and one day be part of a "new heavens and new earth" (Revelation 21: 1).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does it change our reading when we remember that the Bible is a book about God and not about us?
2. How does the very knowledge that God exists change the way we must live and think about ourselves?
3. Why is it good news that God does not need us, does not need the universe?