

In the Beginning

¹In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day."
Genesis 1:1-5

"In the beginning" is the right place to start because key elements of the Truth, and fundamental principles that are foundational throughout the Bible are found early in Genesis. Some are simple and others more complex. Much concerning the nature of God is revealed.

Right from the start we are made aware of the complexity of the Triune God. No, it is not entirely clear from the words in the passage alone that we see the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. When we consider John 1:1-5, however, an important piece is put into place.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. ⁴In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. ⁵The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it." ..."¹⁴And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."

"In the beginning was the Word..." On paper "Word" is just another word. Like all of the other symbols, (letters and numbers combined to create words), on this page. We have learned to interpret words/symbols and derive meaning for communication of information, ideas and concepts.

Because we know the sounds to attach with each we can relate the words we see to the sounds of words that we speak. They link together in our brain and become a unified set of thoughts; one word connected with another. Structures made of information interconnecting to form concepts. Each one just waiting for the possibility to be connected with something else, to create something new for us to discover and understand.

We might assume that words existed prior to the creation of the world. God surely communicated with His angels. (Job 1:6; 2:1) Also we know that God used words to communicate with people in the Bible, and some of us may have sensed God using words to talk to us in the past.

Words facilitate communication; the transfer of information that serves as the building blocks of knowledge. They can serve as the pathway to experiences that touch us deeply as we conceive their meaning, and personally connect with their implications. As a means of communication, words can be powerful.

None of those concepts, however, explain the “Word” that John refers to in his opening statements. This “Word” does not just relay meaning, it retains a distinctive personhood, which is one of three persons that coexist within the unity of one person, God. This Word causes things to come into being. Only God can speak such words from and through His Word. God spoke and it happened! This Word is not a what, it’s a Who.

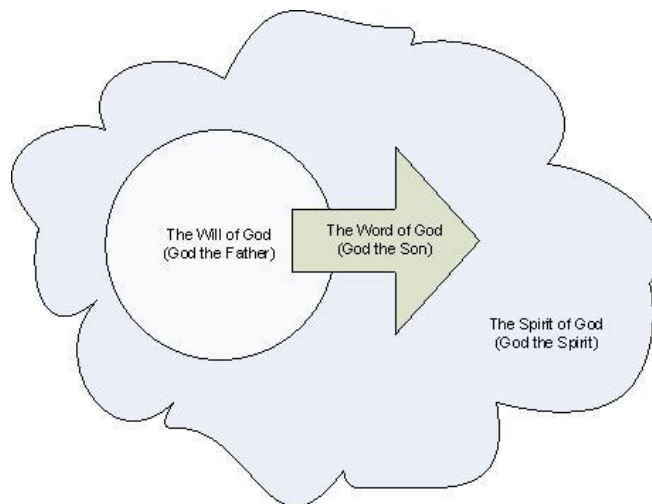
More About God

At this level of existence we cannot logically separate the Word from the One Who speaks it. The Word is not just the act of God speaking what He is thinking. God’s Word does more than relate what God intends to communicate. His Word creates. Where there was no light in existence, God speaks it into being through the Word. The desire within God’s heart, being expressed through His Word, and the event of creation are all one and the same.

If we think about this in depth, we may temporarily become silent, because all of our words seem like nothing in comparison. Let’s each consider letting our mind absorb this, and if we do, we may find ourselves drawn a bit closer to the one true Living God. He is Who truly loves us: Father, Son, Holy Spirit.

In the Gospel of John, he states that when God spoke the creation into existence the “Word” of God at that time was the same “Word” of God that became flesh, the Son of God, Jesus, our Lord.

So, in the beginning was the “Word”, and “God said, ‘Let there be light’” and the Spirit was moving over the surface of the waters. Where the Spirit and the Word are present we must have the “Father” because they are united; they are eternally One. The only living true God that was, is, and shall ever be.



It helps me to think about the Father in this passage as the “Will” of God. The Son is the expressed “Will” of God, as the Word speaks this light into being in unity with the Father, and Holy Spirit.

The Spirit is the “Power” of God creating according to the will of God through the spoken “Word”. In this way God is acting in complete unity and yet we have the first suggestion of the three persons of God’s triune existence. One God, Three Persons; the Trinity: God.

It is interesting that among some Native Peoples the idea of words having power is not a new idea. This is a part of their culture, tradition, and oral history. Some believe that we must take care in what we say, because the very act of saying it somehow contributes to the actual events that we experience in life.

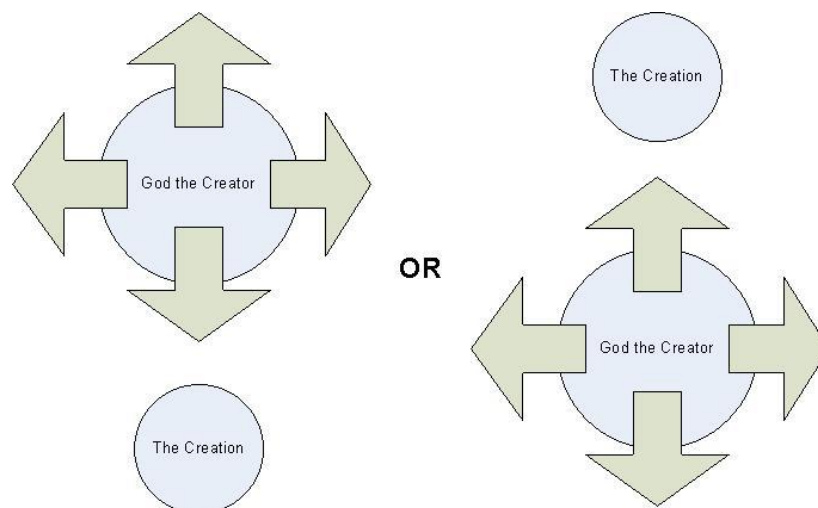
If we talk about someone possibly having an accident, then our words might contribute directly to the cause of an accident. Talking about good things help make good things happen. While some might challenge that concept, clearly John is saying that it was God speaking, the manifestation of the Will of God through the Word of God, that caused all things to be created that have been created.

This concept of the Trinity being One, yet also being three Persons is eternal Truth; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit = God. While this Truth may seem to be reaching beyond complete human comprehension, it is not beyond our ability to form a basic understanding. Sure, any example that we choose falls short of the eternal Truth, but can still be helpful “after a fashion”.

The egg is often used as an example: shell, white, yoke = one egg. Water can be a solid, liquid, or vapor: ice, water, steam = H₂O or water. This concept of multiple Persons being One Person, while retaining their unique “personhood”, is a principle that impacts the Bible from the first page to the last. This is unique to God: Father – Son – Holy Spirit = One God in absolute unity as three Persons = One Person.

Another key element of Truth presented here is that God is the “Creator of All Things”. This Truth does not just address the origin of creation, but with equal importance it declares God as the “Originator”. The light came into being because God spoke it into being. This light was derived from Who God is; its substance came directly from God. All things not only came from God, He caused them to come into being by His Will (intentional choice to act), His Word, and His Spirit. God is the Origin and Originator.

So, which is greater the Creator, or that which was created?



My vote is that the Creator is greater than that which is created. The opposite is not logical. Because the substance and life came from God, the Creator, it does not mean what was created is God. Even Adam and Eve who enjoyed a Holy unity with God were not gods. Being one with God does not make us gods, because God is One: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Only He is God.

God is greater than His creation and that establishes God's preeminence over all of creation. In other words, God is the Creator, Owner, Ruler, the One Who has sole authority over and above all. That includes everyone and everything anywhere.

The importance of this fact cannot be emphasized enough. It is not just a piece of information. It is an eternal fact that exists because God exists. God is the One that all creation has mostly lost sight of and chooses to ignore. Still, this Truth will be finally established without question in the future.

That makes it all the more important. It is a fact that should permeate our thoughts, perspectives, attitudes, actions, hopes, and dreams. God holds the right to control absolutely everything. He and He alone is God. He alone is the owner of everything. He alone is ruler over everyone and everything even though people seek to claim this right where their lives are concerned.

What's It Mean?

About ¼ mile west of exit 530 on highway 90 in south-central Montana was a little shop owned by Bea and her husband Phil.



Now let's say that Bea had a really busy summer selling handmade gifts at her little yellow shop. So she decides to hire someone to help; maybe a guy named Randy. Everything goes along great so she tells Randy that one half of the store will be his responsibility to manage. He is to keep it stocked with the items selected, everything price marked, and assist any people shopping in his area of the store. She will manage the other half.

Then Bea goes on a short trip for a week and leaves Randy in charge. While she's gone Randy decides that having a section of the store that sells hardware might pick up business a bit by diversifying the

product line. So he orders new products, stocks some shelves and awaits his expected set of new customers.

About that time Bea returns. What do we suppose she will have to say about this change to her well known gift shop? Randy quickly discovers that Bea let him carry out his assigned tasks, but did not give up her authority over the entire gift shop. After all she created it, she owns it, and she's the boss. It is not acceptable to usurp that authority, act like the owner, and go beyond the tasks that were given him to perform. Unfortunately, the shop closed years ago, so this is all for illustration purposes only.

As we will see later on, we, and the rest of humanity have a lot in common with Randy on a much grander scale. God's absolute right to have full authority over all of creation, as the owner of all His creation, is a core element of eternal Truth, and is a fundamental aspect of the Bible. We can expect the fact that God created the world to be challenged without end, even though it is an eternal Truth.

Why? Because conceptually if we remove God as creator we remove His ownership and authority over all that exists. We change His position from that of Origin and Originator to a God that intervened for His own purposes, and demanded to be worshiped after the existence of all things occurred without Him. In reality, whatever humankind may think does not change the Truth, or the absolute and eternal rights of God as Creator of all things.

How Does It Work?

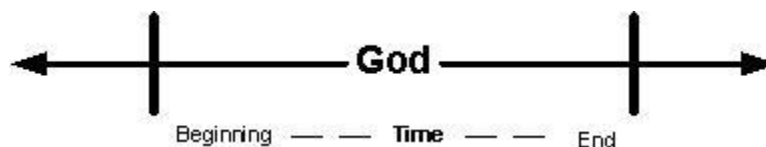
Let's switch things up a bit and add some drawn illustrations as we continue. It's time to begin diagramming some of we've said is a part of the fundamental Truth of God. Let's start just before the passage from Genesis chapter one and say that in the beginning was God, and God is eternal. The arrows indicate no beginning and no end; eternity.



In verses three through five above in Genesis 1, God speaks light into being. The words used mean that God spoke and it happened; instantaneously. Speaking and creating was a singular event.

Next, He saw that the light was Good, He separated the light from darkness, called the light day and darkness night, and that was the first day for the planet that we call Earth. It's interesting that the Sun did not exist during the first day at all.

In fact, it wasn't until the fourth day that the Sun was even created. (cf. Genesis 1:14-19) When that first day occurred something new had been added; time. God knew before He created the first day that there would be a last day; a beginning and an end with God knowing the time in between the two.



Since the Creator is greater than what He created, He's not limited by that which He created, so God is not limited by time. He is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, simultaneously. Actually, He goes way beyond the beginning and the end because He is eternal. Only God can call Himself the Alpha and the Omega.

Why? God didn't give an order, "Let there be light", thus putting forces into action creating some process that used some substance separate from God to make light and create the existence of time. God spoke and the Word through which He spoke extended Himself into the existence of light through the Holy Spirit. How? Because God is light; the source, the Origin and Originator of light. As the Origin of light God created days and nights by which the dimension of time came into existence.

My perspective is God can be at any point in time, any time He wishes through His omniscience, and omnipresence. He knows everything about all things in the past, present, and future. His knowledge is so absolute that it is the same as Him being present at any moment in time from the beginning to the end regardless of what day it may be today. Not only are all the hairs on our head numbered (Luke 12:7), but He knows how many hairs each of us will have by the end of the day tomorrow, a month from now, or any time in the future.

That tends to be a bit of a mind twister for us because we are so time bound. Our beginning in this world is most often marked by a day and usually a specific time of our birth, and so it will be with our physical death. God moves beyond these boundaries; He is not limited by them. It is a good point to remember.

When God was having a conversation with Moses from a burning bush in Exodus chapter three, He referred to Himself as "I AM". In verse six God tells Moses that He is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Moses knew about the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and this statement made it quite clear who Moses was speaking with during this experience. This statement clarified God's identity and absolute authority.

For every moment in time conceivable by Moses, God was saying that He is "I AM WHO I AM." Thus, Moses was to tell his enslaved people in Egypt that "I AM" had sent him to them. From the beginning to the end God is Who He is, and will be for all eternity. He's always the One that has the right to be in control, being unlimited in power, and possessing authority that is absolute; the eternal "I AM". As people we can ignore His authority, but that doesn't change God's rights as Creator or His Truth, at all.

Who to Believe?

As we've seen throughout Genesis chapter one, everything is spoken into existence by God. The act of speaking is something we understand from our own perspective. Very young children can make themselves understood even before they learn how to speak words. Once they learn words, look out!

We are used to the idea of our words having some effect on our immediate circumstances much of the time. Certain words evoke specific results from others even though, or perhaps because we are people separate from one another.

What God did was eternally different. Please remember when God spoke, His Word not only created light, the actual light came from Who God is, and will always be. God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit through which, and from which all things were created.

Yes, the issues of "creationism" and "evolution" are important issues to some who will read this book. Please do not allow those issues to keep any of us from understanding what the Bible is saying about God, and the fundamental Truth established by the two beginning chapters of the Bible. God is the Origin and Originator of all that exists. His authority is absolute. His power is absolute. We are here because of what and who He created.

We tend to value what we think we know, more than the Truth God has provided concerning God's authority, and His Word (Jesus) Who is Truth. To some degree this is because we believe ourselves more than we believe God. So, we make all kinds of excuses, and develop a diversity of theories about why the world was created the way we think, and not by God's spoken Word as the Bible states.

Our chosen theoretical truth is the evidence we choose to use to interpret information about creation. We use what we think we know, what others have said, and the knowledge our understanding of the same generates. God's Truth is Genesis chapter one and two concerning creation.

We may insist that cannot be. "Look at the evidence." What that really means is look at our current understanding about creation, and our judgement that's based on the same. By this we have created our own perspective.

That is not something that garners my confidence, and certainly not something that causes me to justify discounting Scripture written under God's direct leading. Please just remember: God is not limited by what He created. He certainly is not limited by what we think about that creation process. Whether what we think agrees with the Genesis account, or conflicts with the Scriptures doesn't change God's Truth one little bit.

Do we really think God didn't know what a world would look like if created over a period of 100 million years, or 100,000 billion years? Do we think He had to make that happen incidentally over our defined and projected timelines? We can easily manage to mislead ourselves with what we think we know.

Did you notice that in Genesis 1:2 the following is recorded? "And the earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters."

How long had the earth been formless and void? What does that mean for the age of the earth? This and other questions remain unanswered. There's lots of ideas, and theories of all kinds.

Do we really want to trust theories based on what some of us have decided must be correct because of what little we can observe? From my perspective, the age of the earth is not something we must know to fulfill the will of God while we are on this earth.

Also, for clarity it's probably important for me to say that the origin of the earth that was formless and void, came from God as well. No matter what theory we may choose the state of absolutely nothing cannot exist. Logically, for there to be nothing there always must be something.

The original "something" wasn't a thing at all. It was a Who. In fact, it was God. So, there never was nothing because God has always existed. He is eternal. God truly is the Origin and Originator of all that exists anywhere that we can ever become aware of as existing at all.

If we are not ready to accept the idea that God could have created the world in any amount of time He wanted, including instantly, then our idea of God is very, very small. It is so absurd for us to think that we can determine what God did by observing what is left of creation, and our subsequent thoughts.

What if we let scripture speak for itself, and stop trying to prove if its right or wrong based on our observations of a world radically changed by Sin. That's right, what we observe today is not what God created in the first two chapters of Genesis. The world God created was perfect. Sin dramatically changed God's perfect creation. Those changes were probably more dramatic than we can imagine.

"Well that's just ridiculous!" Sorry for being abrupt, but what is ridiculous is our conviction that God must operate in accordance with what we think. Somehow we've decided to believe what we think determines what God did, or either proves or disproves what Genesis 1 and 2 tells us.

When our understanding is the baseline and foundation for gaining knowledge from information, we have a problem. Why? Because our understanding is flawed. If not for any other reason, it is flawed because we have set ourselves up as an authoritative judge, with the self-appointed power to decide what God's Truth is, or is not.

We act as though we have the authority over defining, and determining what is truth, and what is not truth. Also, we extend our self-appointed authority to include the Scriptures. From this self-approved, and self-selected position of power we decide when our idea of truth is superior to God's stated Truth.

So, we might choose to believe our ideas concerning the creation of the world, and all that lives upon it, more than what God has had recorded for us in Genesis. When this begins to happen then we may start interpreting the Scriptures in a way that supports, or aligns with the world's popular perspectives.

That, of course, is exactly what we've done. Humankind has always been replacing God with our own, self-created god. Ultimately, whether it is an idea, or an idol makes no difference. It all adds up to the same thing. It's always about us being a god unto ourselves, and assuming God's rightful place as Creator/Owner.

Thus, that understanding becomes the foundation of what we know about the Bible. In essence, it is a foundation of Sin, rather than the only True Foundation Who is God.

Just because we tell ourselves and others that what we think we know is superior to God's Truth, it does not prove we are right. In fact, it proves we are wrong. Even if we get a majority of the people on this earth to think the same way as we do, it doesn't make our ideas the Truth. They are intrinsically flawed.

God's Truth is not a what, it's a Who! That Who is Jesus and no other. God is the only One Who can reveal what is Truth. This only happens by the Holy Spirit making us aware of God's Truth, and then guiding us in correctly understanding it.