



## How It All Began

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

Genesis 1:1

### How did the world come into existence?

This question is foundational to all other questions that shape one's worldview and corresponding views of God and human life. While a myriad of opinions exist on this matter, there are **five predominant non-Christian categories** of thought:

- Deism**                      **God creates, but is not present in the workings of His creation.**
- Pantheism**                **God is part of His creation.**
- Panentheism**            **Everything is God. All is one.**
- Process Theology**      **God is in process, growing in knowledge with His creation.**
- Naturalism**                **Matter and life are created by chance from natural processes.**

**"I now believe that the universe spontaneously popped into existence from nothing."**

Stephen Hawking

The above views of creation fail both philosophically and biblically. Pantheism/Panentheism both have a god that is part of the creation, making it impossible for Him to be the creator. Their god remains either transcendent (Other) or immanent (Personal), but not both. He is unable to rule the creation he is part of. Matter is usually an illusion; matters of evil and good are seen as relative, and part of the same god nature.

Other systems of belief struggle with how the universe is created. Naturalism and/or Materialism leave us with an infinite regress of cause and effect, or the incredulous doctrine that everything we see came out of nothing with no causal force or purpose.

The biblical creation story tells us that an eternal, **necessary first cause** (God), created the universe, and all that is in it. The law of causality demands that all effects (Matter) need a cause, and that these changes take place in the current space dimension in which we live. God is eternal (Ps. 90:2) and is subsequently apart from His creation as the necessary first cause.

Evolutionary theory recognizes that man came from matter already existent on the earth, but it is unable to determine how that process took place. Biblically, we realize that God's power was able to do what is naturalistically impossible: bringing forth life from lifeless matter. God created the substance (matter) of the universe ex nihilo. The Hebrew word BARA (arb) is used, while the word ASAH (hvu) is used for the creation of man. Genesis 2:7 uses the word YATSAR (rxy) meaning "formed", depicting the formation of a substance already present (i.e. the earth or dirt). Thus, man's first name is ADAM (mda), meaning red clay or ruddy.

The creation narratives of humanity all have similar elements to them, highlighting God's revelation of Himself to all men of all cultures through the course of time (Ps. 19:1; John 1:9; Rom. 1:18–25). It also is a byproduct of oral tradition passed on from generation to generation (Gen. 11:1–11).

## What do the Scriptures say about Creation?

The following verses help shed light on the fact of creation:

**Exodus 20:11** For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

**Nehemiah 9:6** You alone are the LORD. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you.

**Job 38:4** “Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation? Tell me, if you understand.”

**Psalms 19:1** The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

**Psalms 96:5** For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

**Ecclesiastes 11:5** As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother’s womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things.

**Hebrews 11:3** By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

*For a further study of the Scriptures on creation, here is a more comprehensive list of verses to help you mark these sections of Scripture in your Bible for reference.*

### Old Testament

Genesis 1:1–28	Genesis 1:31	Genesis 2:1–25	Genesis 5:1–2	Genesis 9:6
Exodus 20:11	1 Samuel 2:8	2 Kings 19:15	1 Chronicles 16:26	Nehemiah 9:6
Job 9:8–9	Job 10:3	Job 10:8	Job 12:7–9	Job 26:7–13
Job 28:23–26	Job 37:16	Job 37:18	Job 38:4–38	Psalms 8:3
Psalms 19:1	Psalms 19:4	Psalms 24:1–2	Psalms 33:6–7	Psalms 33:9
Psalms 65:6	Psalms 74:16–17	Psalms 78:69	Psalms 89:11–12	Psalms 89:47
Psalms 90:2	Psalms 95:4–5	Psalms 96:5	Psalms 102:25	Psalms 103:22
Psalms 104:2–3	Psalms 104:5–6	Psalms 104:24	Psalms 104:30–31	Psalms 119:90–91
Psalms 121:2	Psalms 124:8	Psalms 136:5–9	Psalms 146:5–6	Psalms 148:5–6
Proverbs 3:19	Proverbs 8:26–29	Proverbs 22:2	Proverbs 26:10	Proverbs 30:4
Ecclesiastes 3:11	Ecclesiastes 7:29	Ecclesiastes 11:5	Isaiah 17:7	Isaiah 37:16
Isaiah 40:12	Isaiah 40:26	Isaiah 40:28	Isaiah 42:5	Isaiah 44:24
Isaiah 45:7	Isaiah 45:12	Isaiah 45:18	Isaiah 48:13	Isaiah 51:13
Isaiah 51:16	Isaiah 66:2	Jeremiah 5:22	Jeremiah 10:12	Jeremiah 10:16
Jeremiah 51:19	Jeremiah 27:5	Jeremiah 31:35	Jeremiah 32:17	Jeremiah 33:2
Jeremiah 51:15–16	Jeremiah 10:13	Amos 4:13	Amos 5:8	Amos 9:6
Jonah 1:9	Zechariah 12:1			

### New Testament

Mark 10:6	Mark 13:19	Acts 4:24	Acts 7:50	Acts 14:15	Acts 17:24–26
Romans 1:20	Romans 11:36	1 Corinth. 8:6	1 Corinth. 11:12	2 Corinth. 4:6	2 Corinth. 5: 5
2 Corinth. 5:18	Ephesians 3:9	1 Timothy 6:13	Hebrews 1:1–2	Hebrews 2:10	Hebrews 3:4
Hebrews 11:3	Hebrews 11:10	Revelation 4:11	Revelation 10:6	Revelation 14:7	

## The Trinity and Creation

The Trinity is involved in the creation of the universe. God the Father devises the plan, God the “Word” orchestrates His plan, and God the Spirit brings it forth with the power of His might. That is why the Scriptures clearly teach that Jesus Christ (John 1:3, 1:10; 1 Cor. 8:6; Eph 3:9; Col. 1:16–17; Heb 1:2, 1:10; Rev 3:14), as well as the Holy Spirit (Gen. 1:2; Ps. 33:6, 104:30; Isa. 40:12–14) is the creator of all things.

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