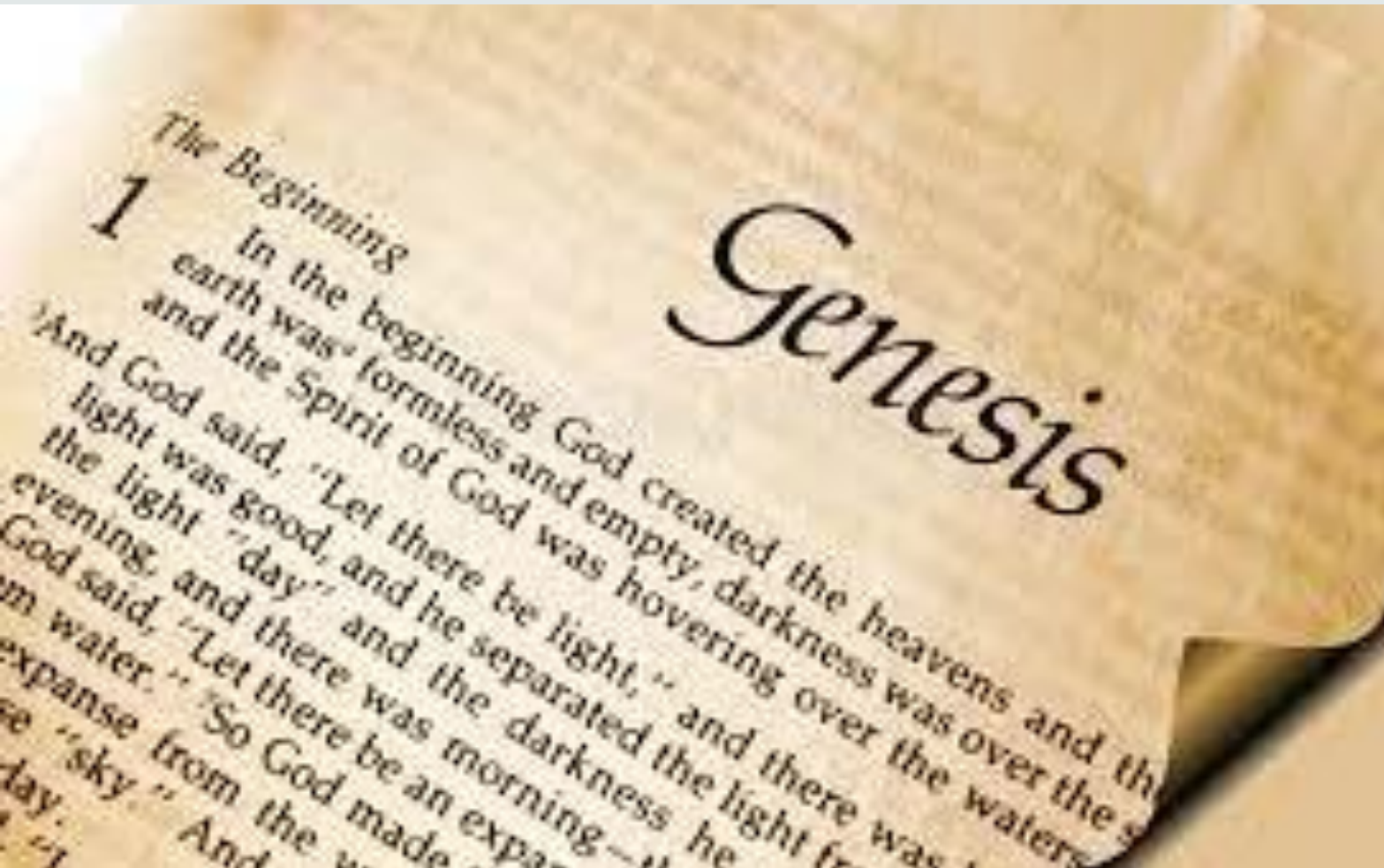


The Book Of Genesis

Introduction & Chapter 1



Introduction



- How do we even begin to unpack the Beginning?
- The Bible is actually non-human intelligence expressed through human faculties and experience
- It is from outside our realm
- All Scripture is given by inspiration of God
2 Timothy 3:16

INTRODUCTION

- The Bible begins before the World starts and then goes beyond our known future.
- The Bible records and shows what really matters to God. It is NOT a detailed history of mankind.
- The Bible tells us what went wrong with our world and what can be done to fix it.



Origin...

- The Name Genesis is the Latin translation of the Greek word ORIGIN.
- The original Hebrew manuscripts were titled “In Beginning” or *Beresit*.
- Without the Book of Genesis, the Bible loses its foundation and meaning.



Origins...

- It is the Book of Origins
- Origin of matter, space and time and the planets or known universe
- Origin of creation, Man, gender, marriage, arts, culture, sin, life, death, murder, sacrifice
- It thus helps to answer the key questions of mankind or of everyman.



Origins...

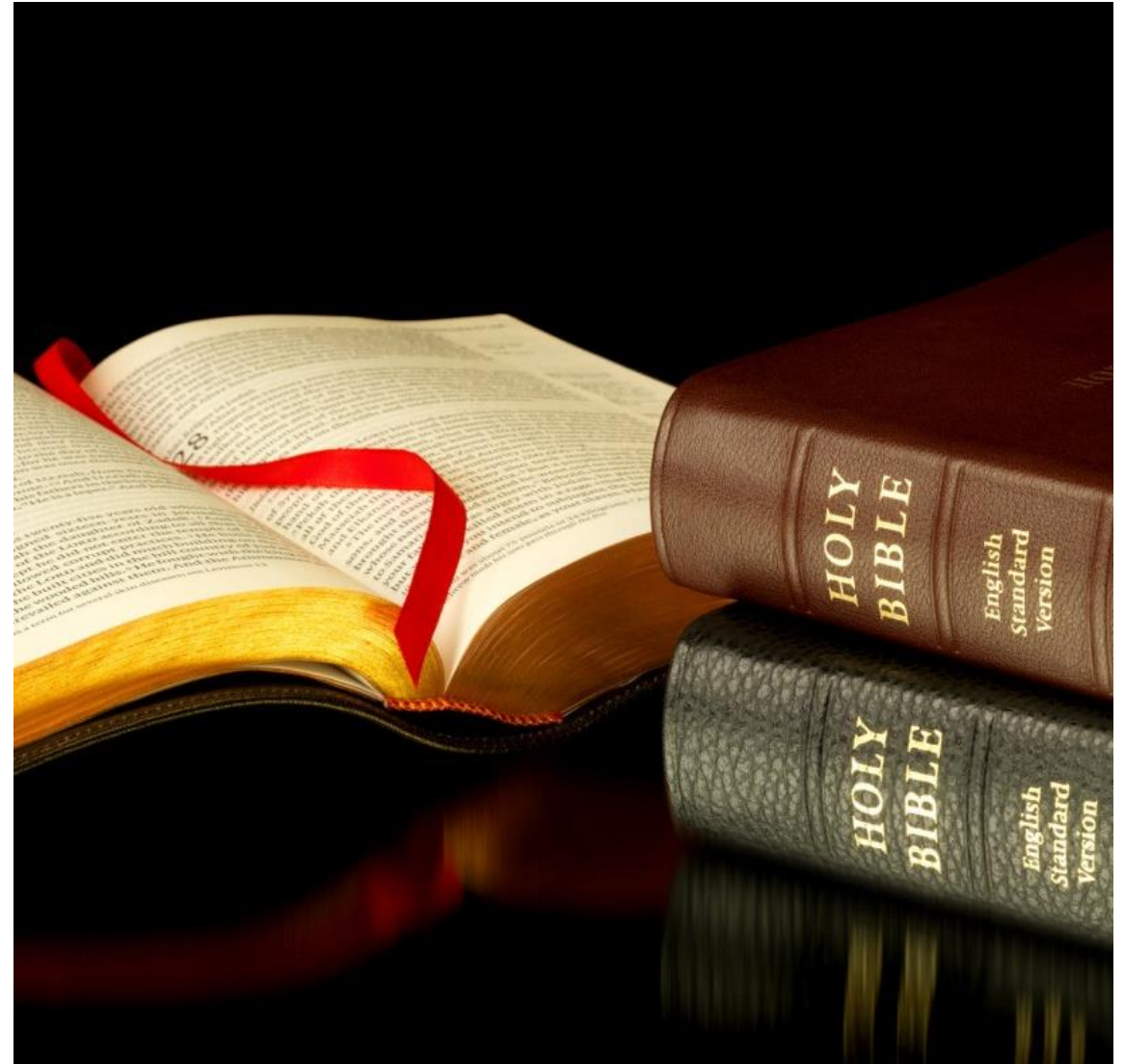
- Why are we here?
- Who or what created all these?
- Where did our universe come from?
- Where do we go when we die?
- Why do we have to die?
- Where does evil come from
- Is there alien life or other life apart from ours?



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Origins...

- Historians can't answer these questions.
- Scientists can't either
- Philosophers can only speculate on these questions.
- The Human Mind cannot fathom the answers to these very crucial questions.
- **ONLY GOD HIMSELF CAN!**



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Origins...

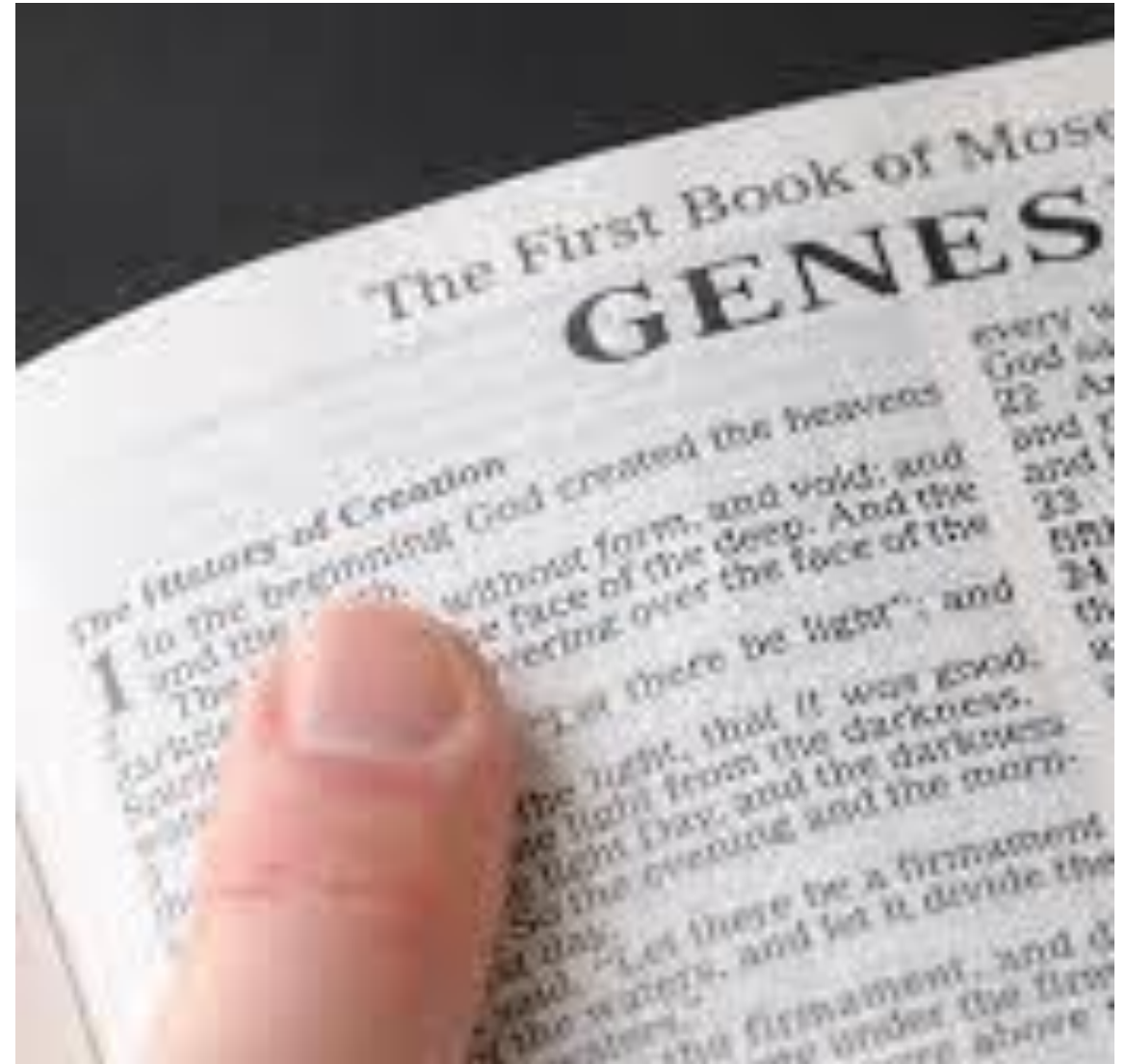
- When you open the Bible, you are reading the Mind and Heart of God
- One key component of the Scriptures are that they regularly speak from outside the realm of time to leave the fingerprint of a mind not bound by time and space.



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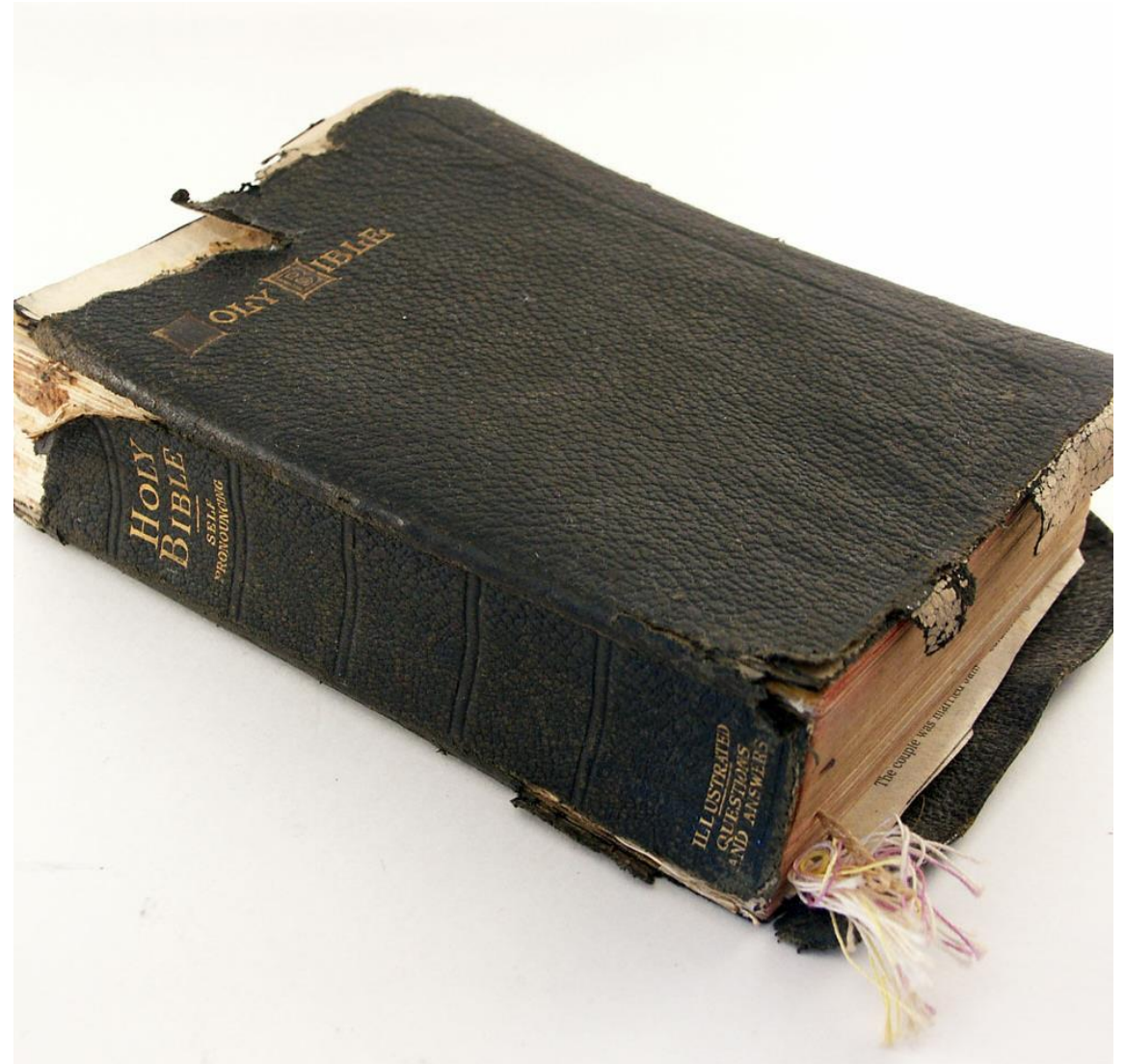
Genesis...

- **3. We come to the Bible knowing the copies we have in our hands are *reliable* duplicates (though not perfect duplicates) of the exact writings, which God perfectly inspired.**
- a. We can know this about the Old Testament by seeing the incredible care and reliability of the ancient Jewish scribes, demonstrated by the Dead Sea Scroll discoveries.
- b. We can know this about the New Testament by knowing that because of earlier manuscripts, and a greater number of ancient manuscripts, the New Testament is by far the most reliable and exhaustively crosschecked ancient document we possess. Really, no more than one one-thousandth of the New Testament text is in question



Genesis...

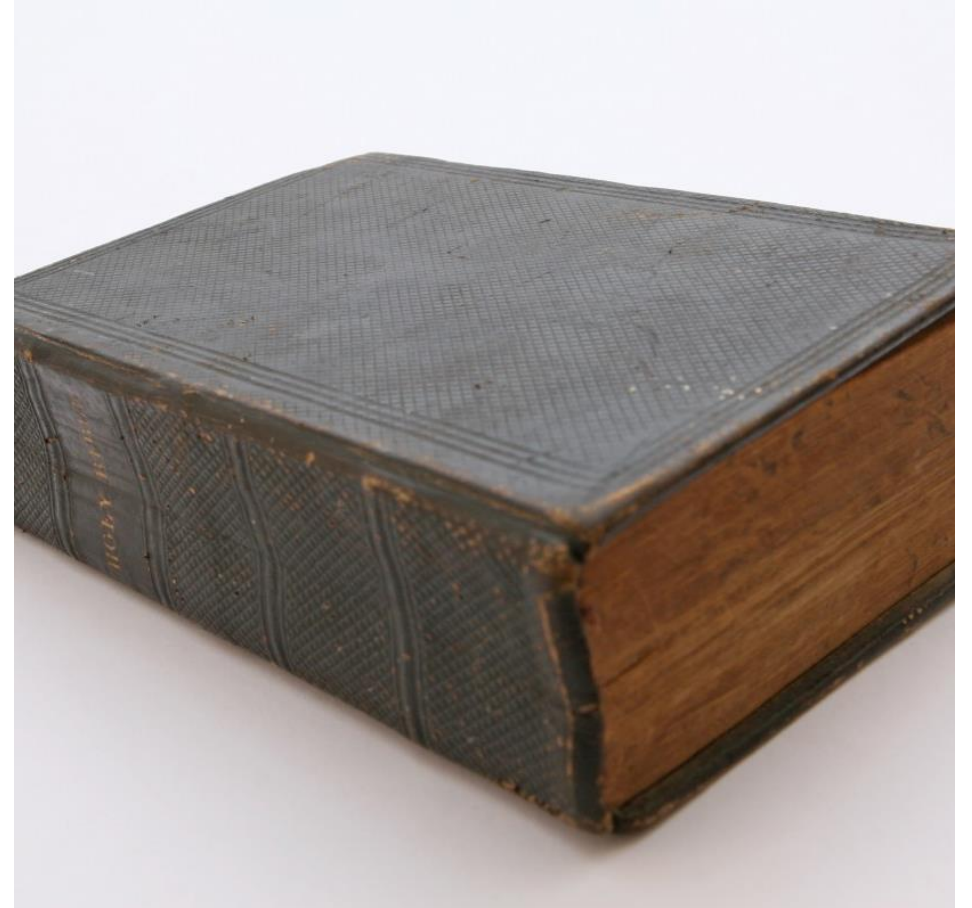
- Genesis is important to the New Testament. There are at least 165 passages in Genesis either directly quoted or clearly referred to in the New Testament; many of these are quoted more than once, so there are at least 200 quotations or allusions to Genesis in the New Testament.
- i. In [John 5:46-47](#), Jesus spoke of the importance of believing what Moses wrote: *For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?*
- We can't truthfully and consistently say we believe in Jesus if we don't believe in the Book of Genesis.



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Genesis...

- [Luk 24:44 KJV](#) - 44 And he said unto them, These *are* the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and *in* the prophets, and *in* the psalms, concerning me.
- Moses wrote the Book of Genesis and what the Israelites called the Torah or first five books of the Bible.





Chapter One Verse 1...

- 1:1 בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ:
- 1:1 ἐν ἀρχῇ ἐποίησεν ὁ θεὸς τὸν οὐρανὸν καὶ τὴν γῆν
- In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth

In the Beginning....

- . **God created:** This summary statement will be detailed in the following verses, but the Bible simply and straightforwardly declares the world did not create itself or come about by chance. It was created by God who, by definition, is eternal and has always been.
- i. "It is no accident that *God* is the subject of the first sentence of the Bible, for this word dominates the whole chapter and catches the eye at every point of the page: it is used some thirty-five times in as many verses of the story." (Kidner)
- ii. If you believe Genesis 1:1 you really have no problem believing the rest of the Bible. The God big enough to have **created the heavens and the earth** is big enough to do all the rest the Bible says that He did and does



In the Beginning....

- . **God**: This is the ancient Hebrew word *Elohim*. Grammatically it is a plural word used as if it were singular. The verbs and pronouns used with *Elohim* should be in the plural, but when *Elohim* refers to the LORD God the verbs and pronouns are in the singular.



In the Beginning...

- **God created the heavens:** The simple fact of God's creation is even more amazing when we consider the greatness of God's universe.
- i. A typical galaxy contains billions of individual stars; our galaxy alone (the Milky Way) contains 200 billion stars. Our galaxy is shaped like a giant spiral, rotating in space, with arms reaching out like a pinwheel, and our sun is one star on one arm of the pinwheel. It would take 250 million years for the pinwheel to make one full rotation. But this is only our galaxy; there are many other galaxies with many other shapes, including spirals, spherical clusters, and flat pancakes. The average distance between one galaxy and another is about 20 million trillion miles. Our closest galaxy is the Andromeda Galaxy, about 12 million trillion miles away.
- ii. For every patch of sky the size of the moon, if you could look very deep, you would see about a million galaxies.



In the Beginning....

- **In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth:** This tells us that God used no pre-existing material to create the earth. The ancient Hebrew word *bara* (**created**) is specific.
- It means *to create out of nothing*, showing that God created the world out of nothing, not out of Himself. God is separate from His creation. Unlike Eastern and pantheistic perceptions of god, the Bible teaches the universe could perish yet He would remain.
- i. Men cannot *create* in the sense the term is used in Genesis 1:1 We can only *fashion* or *form* things out of existing material. The closest we come to creating is in reproducing ourselves sexually.

In The Beginning....

- **In the beginning, God:** God Himself was before the beginning: *Your throne is established from of old; You are from everlasting* (Psalm 93:2).
- Some are troubled by the questions, “Where did God come from?” and “Who created God?” The answer is found in the definition of God — that God is the uncreated Being, eternal — without beginning or end.
- *LORD, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God* (Psalm 90:1-2).



A hand is shown reaching out from the left side of the frame towards the Earth, which is visible on the right. The hand is positioned as if it is about to touch the planet. The background is a dark, starry space. The Earth is shown in a curved, partial view, with blue oceans and green landmasses. A bright light source, possibly the sun, is visible behind the Earth, creating a lens flare effect.

In The Beginning...

- **In the beginning, God:** God was in three Persons before the beginning, and the Persons shared a relationship of love and fellowship:
- *“O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was... for You loved Me before the foundation of the world”*
(John 17:5, 17:24).

In The Beginning...

- **In the beginning, God:**
Before the beginning, there was an *eternal purpose* in the heart of God (Ephesians 3:11)
- to *gather together in one all things in Christ* (Ephesians 1:10).
- God's purpose was to "resolve" or "sum up" all things in Jesus as if Jesus Himself were the answer to a great and complex problem God wrote out on the "blackboard" of the universe.



Before The Beginning...

- The mission of Jesus was foreordained before the foundation of the world: *He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you* (1 Peter 1:20).
- Eternal life was promised before time began: *in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began* (Titus 1:2).



Before The Beginning....

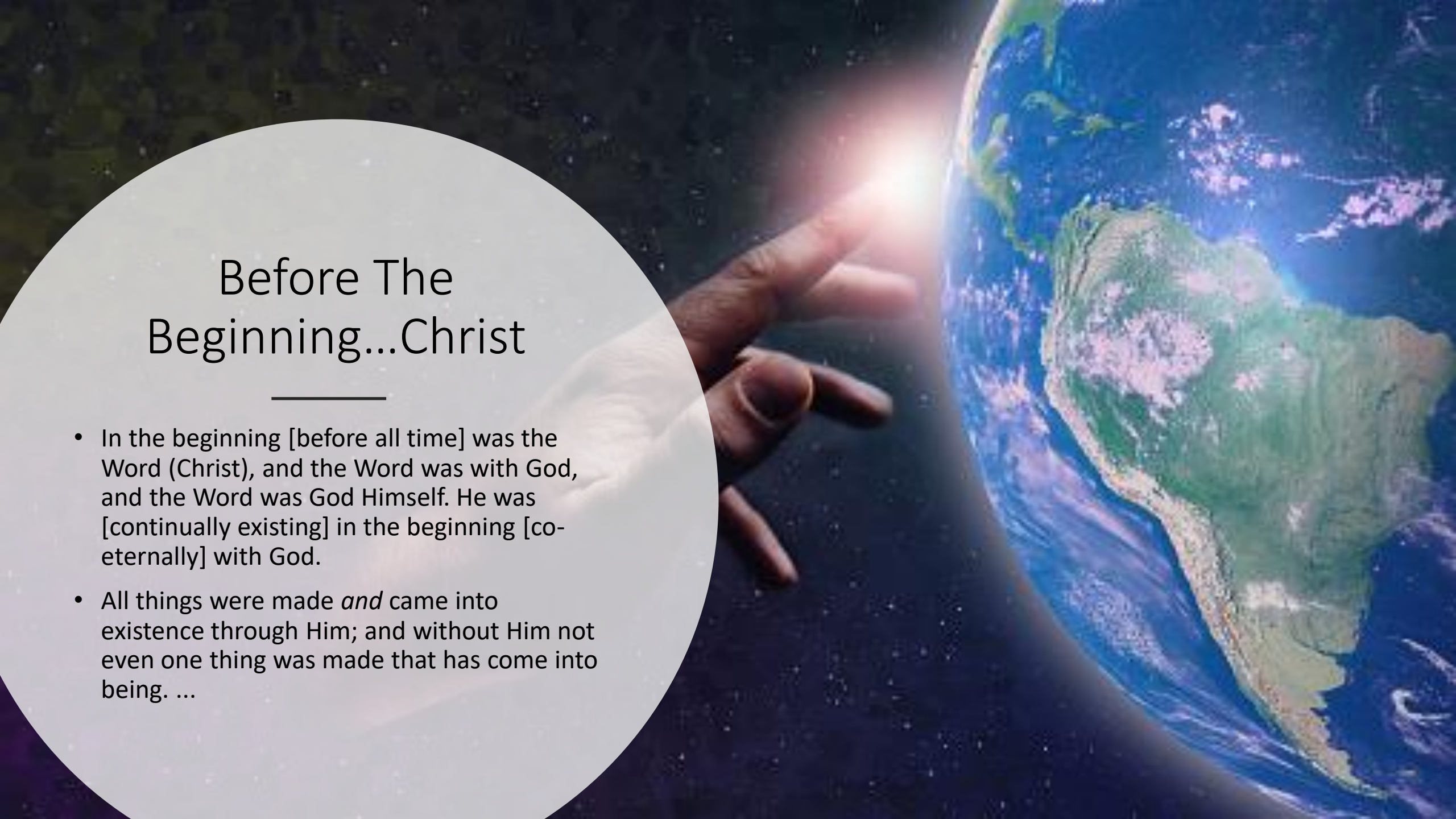
- The mystery of the gospel (the cross) was foreordained before the ages: *But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory* (1 Corinthians 2:7).
- The grace given unto us was given before the world began: *who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began* (2 Timothy 1:9).



A hand is shown in profile, pointing towards a globe of the Earth. The background is a dark, starry space. The text 'Before The Beginning....' is written in a white, outlined font on the left side of the image.

Before The Beginning....

- **In the beginning, God:**
- At some time before the beginning, God created the angels, because they witnessed the creation of the heavens and the earth (Job 38:7).

A hand in a white space suit glove reaches out from the left side of the frame towards the Earth on the right. The Earth is shown in a curved perspective, displaying the Americas. The background is the dark void of space with a bright light source creating a lens flare effect.

Before The Beginning...Christ

- In the beginning [before all time] was the Word (Christ), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God Himself. He was [continually existing] in the beginning [co-eternally] with God.
- All things were made *and* came into existence through Him; and without Him not even one thing was made that has come into being. ...

In The Beginning...God



And The Earth Became....

- **The earth was without form, and void:** Some translate the idea in this verse as **the earth *became* without form and void**. Their thinking is the earth was originally
- created ***not* without form and void**, but it ***became* without form and void** through the destructive work of Satan. However, this is not the plain grammatical sense of the ancient Hebrew.





But The Earth Became...

- Those who follow this idea look to Isaiah 45:18:
- *For thus says the LORD, Who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did not create it in vain, Who formed it to be inhabited: "I am the LORD, and there is no other."*
- The idea, here, is God says He did *not* create the world *in vain* (the Hebrew word is the same as the word for *void* in Genesis 1:1).

So the Earth Became...



- Based on these ideas, some have advanced what has been called the “Gap Theory.” It is the idea that there was a long and indefinite chronological gap between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2
- . Most gap theory advocates use the theory to explain the fossil record, assigning old and extinct fossils to this indefinite gap.

And The Earth Became...

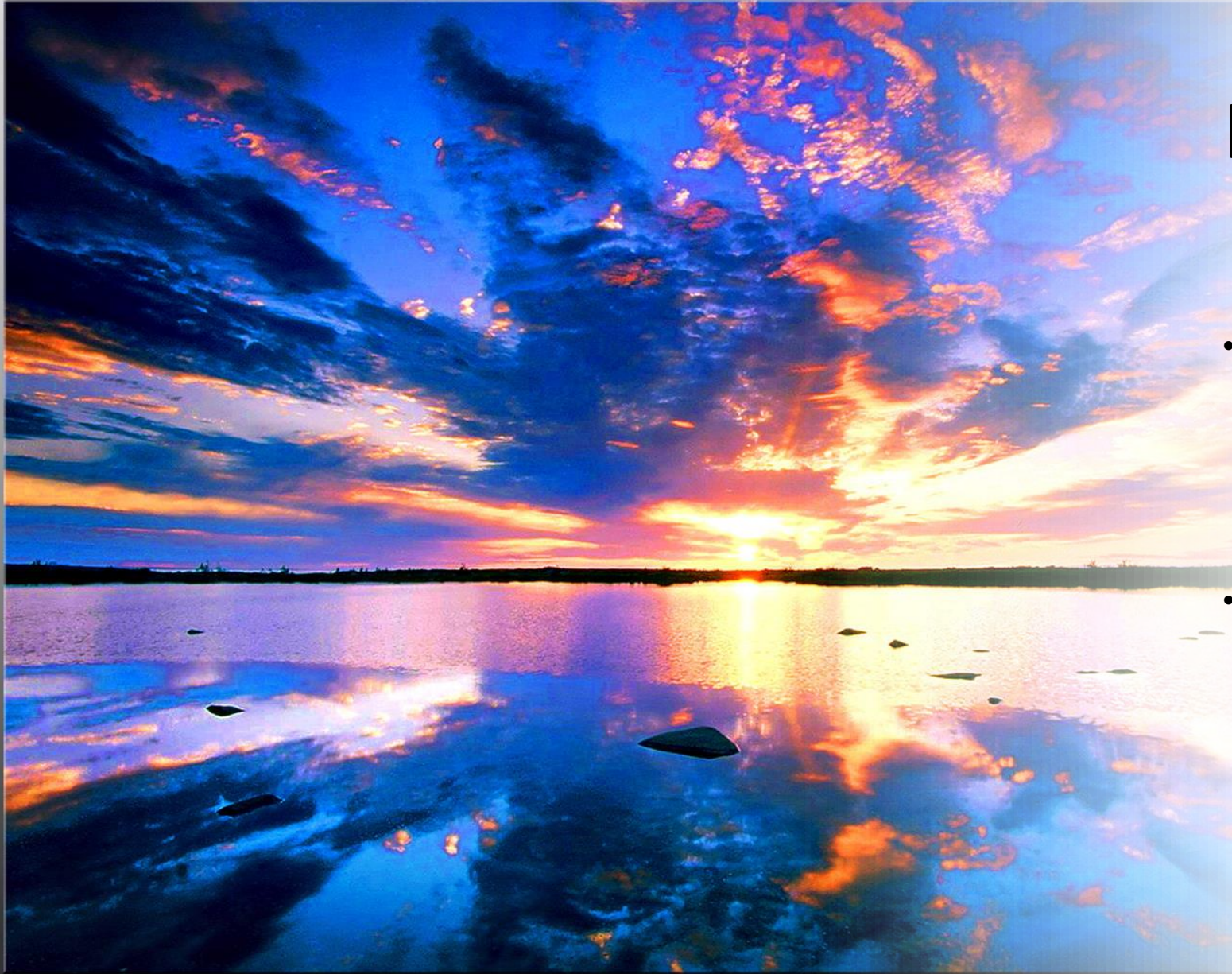


- Whatever merit the gap theory may have, it cannot explain the extinction and fossilization of ancient animals.
- The Bible says plainly death came by Adam (Romans 5:12), and since fossils are the result of death, they could not have happened before Adam's time.

Over The Waters...

- **The Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters:**
When God began to transform the earth into something beautiful and compatible with His great plan, He started with the work of **the Spirit of God**. The Holy Spirit begins every work of creation or re-creation.





Hovering over...

- “The first divine act in fitting up this planet for the habitation of man was for the Spirit of God to move upon the face of the waters. Till that time, all was formless, empty, out of order, and in confusion.
- In a word, it was chaos; and to make it into that thing of beauty which the world is at the present moment, even though it is a fallen world, it was needful that the movement of the Spirit of God should take place upon it.” (Spurgeon)

Suggestions...

Start listening or reading Genesis slowly and meditatively.

Do not try to rush the reading of the Scriptures

We will progress as the Holy Spirit helps us.

We will be praying for you and available for any questions or discussions outside these sessions



Suggestions...

- Set Your heart and mind on the Lord in this season
- Don't let anyone or anything distract or discourage
- Do not set unrealistic goals around your reading
- This is NOT a race, it's a journey
- Pray for me and the team and everyone on this journey.

A person with a backpack is walking away from the camera on a dirt path that leads towards a sunset over a lake. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow and long shadows. The sky is filled with dramatic, dark clouds. The water in the lake reflects the sunset and the surrounding landscape. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

Next Week..

To be continued...

Genesis Chapter 1