

ILL: Describing to Ella that where lived before she was born.

If it is difficult for us to imagine a time before ours when time was, it is going to be difficult to imagine when time was not.

God's words do not leave much for man to assume. In fact, I would say God has answered almost every significant question mankind may have. However, in Genesis 1:1, God requires mankind to assume.

Turn with me to Genesis 1:1 where Moses records this, "**In the beginning God.**"

As we start to read God's distinct/holy Words for mankind, **God starts with this assumption, BEFORE CREATION, GOD WAS.** In other words, "God was, before, creation." The Truth that God was before creation is revealed throughout God's Words to mankind. Although God begins His words with that assumption, God reveals he was later.

### **GOD WAS ETERNAL BEFORE CREATION.**

**Psalm 90:2** "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from *everlasting* to everlasting you are God."

**Isaiah 40:28** "Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the *everlasting* God, the Creator of the ends of the earth, He does not faint or grow weary."

**1 Timothy 1:17** "To the King of ages, *immortal*, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever, Amen."

**Revelation 1:8** “I am the Alpha and Omega,” says the Lord God, “Who is and who *was* and who is to come, the Almighty.”

These verses indicate that God **was everlasting, before creation**. Our English language by nature is not a precise language. It lacks much of what the Hebrew and Greek convey through accurate timing. When we think of everlasting in the English, we typically assume everlasting forward or future. Namely this is because we have the same syndrome that Ella had on Thursday. **We assume time is the beginning**. However, both in the Hebrew and in the Greek, the words *everlasting*, *immortal*, and *was* use language that reflects NO BEGINNING, or not time. It speaks to what scholars call, **God’s eternity**. **FROM THE BEGINNING, GOD WAS.**

**There is not time in which God was not.** He has always been. As time dominated people we struggle with this concept because we are limited by time. **God is not limited by time, he is the creator of time,** and time does not constrain him.

God’s everlasting pre-existence is conveyed in His Words. “*In the beginning God,*” and it forms the foundation for life, **God’s existence**.

However, God was not passive before creation.

### **GOD WAS ACTIVE BEFORE CREATION.**

God shares some of those acts which He did before creation throughout His Words to mankind. **God’ activity before creation consist of 3 acts that prepare for eternity future.**

a. God was preparing his eternal plan.

- i. **1 Peter 1:**<sup>20</sup> **He was foreknown before the foundation of the world** but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you <sup>21</sup> who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.
  - ii. **John 17** <sup>24</sup> Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me **because you loved me before the foundation of the world.** <sup>25</sup> O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. <sup>26</sup> I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”
- b. In eternity past, God was preparing his eternal people.
- i. **Ephesians 1:**<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love <sup>5</sup> he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, <sup>11</sup> In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,

- ii. Revelation 13:<sup>8</sup> and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.
- iii. Revelation 17:8 The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction. And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because it was and is not and is to come.
- iv. Romans 9:<sup>22</sup> What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction,<sup>23</sup> in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory—<sup>24</sup> even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles?

We find that before creation, in eternity past, God was preparing not only a plan but a group of people to be his own in an eternal Kingdom.

c. In eternity past, God was preparing His Eternal Places.

Matthew 25:<sup>31</sup> “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup> Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the

sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. <sup>34</sup> Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, **inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.**

**Matthew 25:41**

"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

The invitation from the Father, results in God's prepared Kingdom for the future. Provided to His people by His plan. It is key to remember that God had a plan before the beginning.

We might liken God's activities to the activities of engineer and architect in eternity past.

- God played the role of engineer as he devised the material, structure, and system to PRODUCE his plan.
- God played the role of architect by using the material, structure, and systems he engineered to DESIGN his plan. This means, God had prepared for the future, even before the beginning.

This should not cause us alarm, but rather should cause us comfort. The future is already named and prepared.

Before building Ella's playhouse.

Before God set any of this in motion, he had prepared for everything, ... YES, God had prepared for everything in eternity past.

Listen to Gods Words to us from **Isaiah 46:8-13**

**<sup>8</sup>"Remember this and stand firm,  
recall it to mind, you transgressors,**

<sup>9</sup> remember the former things of old;  
for I am God, and there is no other;  
I am God, and there is none like me,  
<sup>10</sup> **declaring the end from the beginning  
and from ancient times things not yet done,**  
saying, 'My counsel shall stand,  
and I will accomplish all my purpose,'  
<sup>11</sup> calling a bird of prey from the east,  
the man of my counsel from a far country.  
I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass;  
I have purposed, and I will do it.  
<sup>12</sup> "Listen to me, you stubborn of heart,  
you who are far from righteousness:  
<sup>13</sup> I bring near my righteousness; it is not far off,  
and my salvation will not delay;  
I will put salvation in Zion,  
for Israel my glory."

Last, God was TRINITY before creation. Trinity, one God manifested in three persons or personalities. One God with three distinct roles and responsibilities **working together in complete unity; totally dependent and yet totally interdependent of each other.**

When God said, in the beginning God, in the Hebrew Moses wrote, in the beginning ELOHIM. ELOHIM is a plural noun with singular meaning. It refers to not to God's plurality but to God's unity. We saw this in John 17 when Jesus prayed about eternity past.

We do not have the time to study this in-depth however, when God chose to describe himself to mankind before and after creation, he

used a plural noun with singular meaning, *ELOHIM*. In fact according to the an exhaustive concordance, God uses the term over 2200 times to describe himself. We will look more at Trinity in a little but for now it is sufficient to know the God tells us in His Words that **GOD WAS, BEFORE CREATION, ETERNAL, ACTIVE, AND TRINITY.**

**WELCOME!**

Take your bible with me again and turn to Genesis chapter one.

In Genesis chapter one God reveals how everything came to be.

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

The Bible says, “GOD CREATED.” There are several Hebrew words God could have chosen to use to describe how the heavens and the earth came to be. God choose to use the Hebrew word *bara*, which means to **miraculously make something from nothing**. God is the only one who has ever *bara*. God’s work of *bara* reveals God alone is all powerful, all knowing, and perfect in existence by himself.

God’s Word says that when God made the heavens and the earth, no substance was used in forming the heaven or earth. There was no dense particle that God manipulated to explode in a big bang. **Everything we see was *bara*, made from nothing. This *bara* signifies the beginning of time, space, and material.** However, what we see is not God’s first creation.

### **1. GOD CREATED ALL THINGS INVISIBLE.**

As mentioned earlier, in eternity past God was preparing for creation. One of those things he was preparing was eternity future. Not that God needed time, remember God is outside of time, space, and material, but before time and space came to be, God was actively preparing for space and time. In that plan, God created invisible things that are spiritual. God’s Words tell us this in the N.T. book of **Colossians 1:16-17,**

*<sup>16</sup> For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.*

God does not tell us exactly when he created the invisible things. But we know it was before the physical. If God does not tell us then we are not responsible to know. What God does tell us is that God created everything visible and invisible.

Part of the invisible which was created that God tells us, were God's messengers called angels.

Psalm 148:1-2, 5 “1)Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights! 2)Praise him all his angels; praise him, all his hosts ... 5)Let them praise the name of the LORD! For he commanded them and they were created.”

God created countless angels to serve Him and worship Him. Among those angels that God created were Michael the archangel, Gabriel, and Lucifer the anointed cherub. All angels are created by God.

Angels are created beings, although they exist within the space of their being, they do not seem to be limited by lengths of space. Second, although they exist within time, they do not seem to be concerned or limited by time. God shares numerous times where angels are in the heavenly spiritual realm as well as those times when angels are on the earthly physical realm.

**IT IS ENOUGH FOR US TO KNOW, GOD'S WORDS SHARE,**

## GOD CREATED ALL THINGS INVISIBLE.

### LIKEWISE, GOD CREATED ALL THINGS VISIBLE.

Genesis 1:1, tells of God's creation or *bara*, in the beginning.

Throughout the first two chapters of Genesis, God shares the acts of creation with us so that we might know our creator.

Verses 3-5 share several explanations regarding God's act of creation, *bara*.

<sup>3</sup> And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. <sup>4</sup> And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

1. *God said* - Gods Words explain how God created. God spoke everything into existence. This is true of those things which are visible and those things which are invisible.
  - I. Ps 148:5 For he commanded them and they were created.
  - II. Hebrews 11:3 "By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.
  - III. Ps. 33:6 "by the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their hosts ... 9) For he spoke and it came to be, he commanded and the it stood firm."
2. *God saw ... was good* – God's Words explain that everything God created was good. God's creation spoken into being was good. This

is repeated again in v. 10, 12, 18, 21, & 25. As God observed what he created he declared it good.

3. *God called* – The Bible explains the origin of creations foundations are distinctly Gods. He names the foundations in verses 5, 8, & 10 because he is their creator/owner. Not only are they good but they are God's. The Hebrew Word used here is used many times in relation to a parents naming of a child.

I. Gen. 4:25 “she bore a son and called his name Seth.”

The term refers to originator. John Cross calls this the creator-owner. As creator, God is the rightful owner of his creation to with as he has willed. Creation is distinctly Gods.

4. *And there was evening and there was morning* – The Bible says there is order in God's creation. This order is the Hebrew order. As Moses wrote, the Hebrews started significant days as sun down, not sun up. Evening was the beginning of the day not the end. God used order, prepared in eternity past, to create. Order is the foundation for ALL God created.

Today is NOT a refute of evolution. I am NOT presenting arguments that debunk evolution. I am presenting what God's Words share because they are trustworthy and provide Gods scientific laws containing order. Yet, order is the significant variant this world provides that evolution cannot debate against. Chaos does not bring order, even in the smallest of settings.

Order is a foundation for all of God's creation.

5. *The first day* – God's Words explain that with creation came time. Time is noted by evening and morning, a period of 24 hours consisting of light and dark. Time is not consisting of earthly

revolution, at least at this point because the earth has nothing to revolve around, the sun is yet to be created. Time is of God, not of the created. Therefore time is created and enacted before the realities of time that are seen. This affirms God's creation with order. Time, preceded those things which are manipulated by time such as the earth, sun, moon, and stars.

This statement of time is re-iterated after each of God's creative days in verses, 5, 8, 13, 19, 23, & 31.

God created all things visible and invisible.

1. In the first 24 hour, day one, God spoke and created heaven, earth, light and dark, day and night.
2. In the second 24 hour, day two, God spoke and created atmosphere. Literally, the waters separated from the waters. One he called heaven.
3. In the third 24 hours, day three, God spoke and created sea and land. This is important because from the physical material of land God formed creatures.

Gen. 2:19 "Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens."

God spoke and created plants and trees that would produce, signifying there was mature age in God's creation. Each plant, tree, and vegetation was unique in creation so that it's seed would reproduce itself, not a hybrid form or evolved form.

4. In the fourth 24 hours, day four, God spoke and created, the sun, moon, and stars. In verse 14, God tells us that these were created

- to designate the time that God had already enacted on day one. Also, they would provide the earth with seasons.
5. Day Age is kicked out by the truth the sun was created after the plants. How do plants survive without sun. Also, Genesis 2:5 says nothing had re-seeded itself by day 7 or 8.
  6. In the fifth 24 hours, day five, God spoke and created all sea living creatures, all birds and flying insects. God created these from land with age so they could reproduce and multiply immediately. Once again, God's creation began with a mature age.
  7. In the sixth 24 hours, day six, God spoke and created all land creatures. Each creature was unique to its own kind, from the livestock to the creeping insects. God did not morph these out of one another but God created them unique from one another to maintain their own traits and material properties.

On day six, after speaking into creation the land creatures, God created man. Chapter two says, God created man differently than the rest of his creation. God created man by forming dust from the ground and breathing life into him.

Man is distinct from creation because we have the breath of God.

Man is not an animal, because man has the breath of God in him revealing the image of God according 1:27.

The Bible says woman was created by God from the rib of the man. Woman was the perfect complement and companion for man.

After creating the heaven and earth, light and dark, time and space, sea and land, vegetation and universe, sea, air, and land creatures, and after creating man and woman, the Bible says 1:31, “And God **saw everything that he had made**, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.”

In six, 24 hour days, God had created all things visible and he declared it very good. But that’s not the end.

8. During the seventh, 24 hour period, the bible says God rested. Rest in Hebrew is *shabath*, similar to Sabbath. It means to cease from work, put down, rest, or celebrate. The idea behind God’s rest is not because he was tired but rather his work was completed. It was time now for him cease and celebrate. He does this through declaring day 7 holy.

I mentioned last week that holy in Hebrew is “qadosh.” It means distinct, set apart, or unique to serve a purpose. Look at 2:3 “So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.”

**God blessed** – to receive blessing is to receive favor. When you complete a project typically there a pause to favor it and enjoy it. To celebrate its completion. This is what God did when he was finished with creation. How did he bless it?

**Made it holy** – in celebrating the completion of all his work he had done in creation God declared that day to be distinct for a purpose. There are many ways in which this day was distinct but the most obvious is that there was **no work** because God was

celebrating the completion of creation. It's purpose was a reminder that God's creation was complete.

Furthermore, you will notice God is not done working, but God was done with his work of creation. One of God's many works is creation but creation was not and is not God's only work. God is active in this world because he is sovereign over this world.

God reminds us of His creative work in the beginning throughout his words to us.

Within the ten commandments in Exodus 20:11 **“For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in in them and rested on the seventh day.”**

Isaiah 42:5 **“Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it:”**

Before God's heavenly throne, Revelation 4:11 **“Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”**

The Bible teaches that God created out of nothing by speaking everything we see and do not see.

### **Finally, God's creative work, reveals Trinity.**

I will admit Trinity is difficult for us to understand because God is one being, just like you are one being. However, God reveals himself to mankind in three distinct ways. The members of the Trinity work together in complete unity, totally dependent and yet totally

interdependent of each other. This is noted as we have mentioned by the his name, **Elohim**.

- **God the Father ~ the sovereign ruler of the entire universe, everything operates because of and to fulfill his eternal plan.** It is God the Father who was the master engineer and architect within creation. From eternity past until day 7 when God called it holy, the plan enacted is attributed to the Father. Time, space, order is all of the Fathers will.

This is similar to my earthly father who was my sovereign ruler while I was a child. On Saturday's he would plan days with projects and destinations. Those plans would be communicated and come to pass.

- **God the Son took the Fathers plan out of eternity and brought it into time, administering the various aspects of the plan. In creation God the son administered God the Fathers plan yet God the Father and God the son are one.**

We see this truth found in Colossians 1:15-17 "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities, all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together."

Using the same example of my dad, He did not accomplish his plan through barking orders. He could have but rather he

accomplished this through selfless service. If it was leaf raking day, Dad made sure we had rakes, bags for leaves, gas for the mowers, the bagger for the mower was always cleaned out and set beside the mower. He administered what he had been prepared to do.

The Son's role in creation as God was to administer the plan of the Father to personally confirm its completion. The son continues to affirm it's completion by holding all things together.

- **God the Holy Spirit took this eternal plan and made it a reality to mankind. The Holy Spirit is the worker making real, both the physical and nonphysical of the Fathers plan, administered by the son, put into reality by the Holy Spirit**

Genesis 1:2 “And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the water.”

Same analogy: Dad planned a day of raking, Dad administered a day of raking through preparation, finally Dad led the work of raking. He motivated us to rake after empowering us to rake. He raked alongside us guiding us, helping us bag, then mowed bagging all the leaves we missed. Dad made it a reality through his own efforts.

The Holy Spirit made creation a reality by his presence hovering over creation at the spoken word of God.

Trinity is important as we continue through the Bible because we will see God is distinctly one. His will and plan are always one. Yet the fulfillment of that plan is described through His Trinity.

This is true in the works of God from beginning to end. Look for aspects of Trinity as move in our study.

God is the creator of ALL things. This fundamental and foundational truth affects ALL other truths in this world. We will see this more and more in the coming weeks.

**You can be confident, “in the beginning God created!” Are you?**

Do not be deceived by those around us, the beginning and foundation of God’s Words is God created. Let us take a moment in silent prayer, to affirm and thank God for creating.