

## In the Beginning...

April 25, 2010

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

Genesis 1:1

Pastor Mark W. Turner

### In the Beginning God created...

- Just 7 Hebrew words – 10 typically in English
- God is both subject & author of all that follows
- Foundational – for understanding...
- Bible begins with God – so too must we begin with God

### The Foundation – Is it Scripture?

- NT references Genesis over 200 times
- Jesus taught Genesis as Scripture! Mt 19:3-6
  - answering a question concerning divorce
  - assumes God to be Creator
  - shows God established marriage covenant
  - show Jesus believed Genesis

### In the Beginning God – A Challenge

- NRSV In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth
- Makes 1<sup>st</sup> clause dependent... Unlike other Hebrew sentences! “Desperate”
- Attempt to make Bible like other Creation literature
- Correct reading: “In the beginning God created...”

### Created - bara

- God only One who creates (bara). God is always subject preceding this verb
- Out of nothing – bara is never used with reference to materials used

### In the beginning God Created - Denies

- Atheism - there is a God who created!
- Materialism - There is more than material – there is God!
- Pantheism - God is not matter or IN matter, God is Creator

### In the beginning God created - We Learn God is:

- Self-existent - He is the ultimate cause of all things
  - Unknowable – beyond our causal ability to wholly define
  - Answerable to No one – God does not need give an account to His creation
- Self-sufficient - He is the ultimate cause
- God Gives YOU value – God created you so you have tremendous value. You will only know that value as you come to know the God who created you and gives you value!

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