



# GOD THE FATHER – IN THE BEGINNING (1)

## START HERE:

The first words of the Bible are so familiar - even to people who don't read or believe them - that it's easy to miss how surprising they are.

You might expect the Bible to start with something powerful and strong: **"This is the astounding and amazing account of the one true God of the Universe who reigns over everything. Prepare to be amazed!"** Or maybe something heartwarming and emotional: **"God is Love. Love is God. This is the story of how much he loves each one of us."** Or maybe something stern and bold: **"This book contains important information and facts. It was written, researched, and edited by hundreds of trusted experts. You must believe it."**

But instead it starts like this:

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

**In the beginning.** God is first in all things.  
**God created.** God is the source of all things.  
**The heavens and the earth.** God is the ruler over all things.

God creates. This is the Bible's first declaration about God. We must know God as creator if we are to really know him. God is, and so God causes other things to be. More importantly, God brings order to chaos. Read the creation account carefully today. See how God takes a world that is "formless and empty" and transforms it into a breathtaking universe of beauty, purpose, structure, and order.

**READ THIS:** Genesis 1 . Isaiah 40:12-31

## THINK ABOUT:

What do the Bible's creation accounts show you about God's plans and character?

What part of God's natural creation has the strongest effect on you? Why?

Copy a verse(s) from today's' reading, or draw/design a truth from the verses. Spend slow and careful time with the words of God.

## AM/PM:

Think about what you've read and learned about God the Father. Then finish these sentences below or in your journal.

(AM - about the day ahead)  
"Today, I will..."

(PM - about the day finished)  
"Today, God did..."

## EXTRA THINGS

Genesis 1 contains a perfectly structured poem. On days 1-3 God created the **different spaces of the universe**. Then on days 4-6, he filled those spaces with custom-made inhabitants.

**1: light & dark**  
4: sun, moon, & stars

**2: sea & sky**  
5: birds & fish

**3: land & plants**  
6: humans & animals

. . . . .

Before God brought order to the universe, it was "formless and empty."

The original phrase is **tohu wabohu** (TOH'-hoo wa-BOH'-hoo) that looks like this in Hebrew (read R to L):

תוהו ובוהו

The ancient Hebrew alphabet had only consonants. The dots and dashes above and below the letters were added later to indicate vowels sounds.

## EXTRA VERSES

Job 38-39  
Psalm 33  
Psalm 44

## EXTRA STUFF