

The Foundations of Reality

The opening chapter of the Bible identifies three fundamental truths that we must recognize if we want to make sense of our lives.

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. . . . So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply’” (Gen. 1:1, 27-28).



Studies of Genesis One often get bogged down in disputes over the age of the earth, the creation chronology, and so forth. But these squabbles obscure a far more important set of truths that deserve more of our attention. These deeper principles constitute the foundations of a life that is grounded in reality—if we are willing to accept them.

Start with the very first words, “In the beginning.” In contrast to the great minds of science throughout the ages, Genesis claims that everything we see had a distinct beginning *ex nihilo*, “out of nothing.” In recent years, advances in physics have uncovered evidence that cannot be explained by theories positing an eternal or cyclical universe. Even skeptical scientists are now admitting that “all the evidence we have says that the universe had a beginning” (Alexander Vilenkin, quoted in Lisa Grossman, “Why Physicists Can’t Avoid a Creation Event,” *New Scientist*, Jan. 11, 2012).

The next two words in the Bible—“God created”—identifies the intelligent First Cause for this beginning. God is the chief architect and master craftsman, the creator who brought this physical universe into being by the word of His power. Skeptics mock this explanation, but what is the alternative—that this universe literally popped into existence by itself? To assert that absolutely everything came from absolutely nothing requires a far greater leap of faith than any believer has ever managed. To accept the reality of a spaceless, timeless, immaterial deity who created the material cosmos is the most reasonable response to all we see around us.

Finally, part of God’s handiwork involved creating mankind as “male and female.” The most basic distinction in humanity is not race (black and white), size (short and tall), class (rich and poor), or a host of other artificial classifications. The only physical trait that Genesis singles out for mention is that we are *gendered* creatures. That difference is embedded in our DNA, and we cannot deny that reality without denying our very identity. The fact that everyone of us is either a male or a female governs how we relate to each other and how we view ourselves.

In summary, the opening chapter of the Bible affirms three bedrock truths about us and our world that constitute the foundation of our existence. If we want to make sense of our life, we must order our thinking and our behavior to align with these basic truths. But growing numbers of people in our culture are attempting to reshape reality by denying all three of these truths. They insist that we live in a meaningless universe that “just happened”; that there is no God, therefore no higher purpose for our lives; and that gender is merely a social construct that can be changed or ignored on a whim. By embracing these distorted beliefs, every other detail of their lives becomes corrupted. Their self-image, their ethical conduct, their relationships, are all twisted into an unholy mess.

We are free to believe whatever fantasies we choose to create for ourselves. But the *real* world doesn’t care what we believe or feel, and in the end, reality will reassert itself in our lives. When it does, we will have to pay the price for our foolishness.

— David King