

***“Right From the Start”:  
The Relevance of Genesis  
for Today (#3)  
Genesis 1:1***

***Wednesday, January 25, 2012***

**Name of Book:  
Genesis = Beginning**

**Author of Book:  
Moses  
(under God’s direction)**

<sup>45</sup> “But do not think I will accuse you before the Father. Your accuser is Moses, on whom your hopes are set. <sup>46</sup> If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. <sup>47</sup> But since you do not believe what he wrote, how are you going to believe what I say?”

John 5:45-47

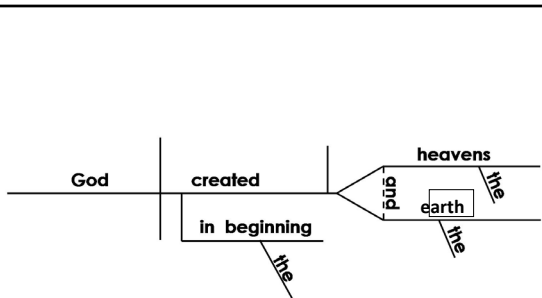
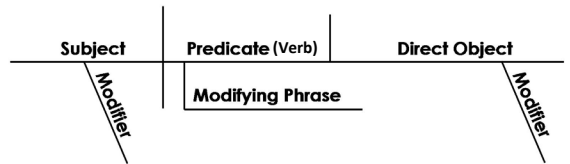
**Purpose of Book:  
“To explain humanities  
origins and predicament”**

**Outline of Book:  
Chapters 1-11 =  
Human History  
  
Chapters 12-50 =  
Hebrew History**

**<sup>1</sup> In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.  
Genesis 1:1**

- I. The Subject: "God"  
Hebrew "Elohim" 250 plus times in Old Testament
- A. Philosophically, What Is God?  
Aristotle: "unmoved mover, uncaused cause"  
Anselin's definition: "God is that which nothing greater can be conceived."

"Let me hear and understand the meaning of the words: In the Beginning, you made heaven and earth ... Since then, I cannot question Moses ... I beseech you, my God, to forgive my sins and grant me the grace to understand those words, as you granted him, your servant, the grace to speak them." Saint Augustine  
The Confessions Book XI:3



- B. Theologically, Who Is God?  
The Bible Is God's Self-Revelation to You  
The Bible Does Not Attempt To Prove God's Existence  
The Bible Gives Us The Names and Attributes of God

## **II. The Verb: “Created”**

### **A. What This Word Means:**

**Hebrew “Bara” [to bring into existence] usually understood to mean “creation ex-nihilo” or “creation out of nothing” as opposed to “yatsar” Gen. 2:7 “formed” [to fashion, to devise, to frame, to produce] and “asah” the refinement of what is created**

For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm. Psalm 33:9

He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.  
John 1:10

### **B. How This Process Happened ...**

## **III. The Adverbial Phrase: “in the beginning”**

**Hebrew “Re ‘shith” [the first, the start, the beginning of a fixed period of time”**

**IV. The Direct Objects: “the  
Heavens and the Earth”  
Hebrew “shamayim” [that  
which is lofty”  
Hebrew “erets” [the earth,  
the physical planet”**

- Elohim used 2,570 times
- El – 4 compound names  
(Elyon, El Roi, El Shaddai, El Olam
- Adonai “Master, Lord”
- Jehovah “the self-existent one,  
the God of the covenant” most  
common name occurring 6823 times
- 9 compound names for Jehovah