

# Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## “In the beginning, God...”

(Jerry Fite)

**T**his is how the Bible begins. If you were putting in order the scattered pages of the book of Genesis, you would place the page with this statement as page one. The Book of beginnings has its own beginning: *“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1).*

An orderly mind seeks to find the beginning of things, and move logically forward. The book of Genesis certainly feeds such a mind. We go back to the very beginning before the heavens, earth, light, plants, stars, animals and man and prepare for their beginning. Once in place, we see life moving forward as we see it today. Plants, animals and man produce after “its kind” – a statement of fact proven daily for the logical mind. Squash seed continues to produce squash, not a tomato. Male and female dogs still continue to produce dogs, not cats. And a procreating monkey still produces a monkey, not a man.

When the beginning occurred, God is already there. The Hebrew word translated “God” is

“Elohim”, denoting majesty, and power, as seen in what He did in the beginning. The first subject of the first sentence is Almighty God!

What He is doing is creating. He created the heavens and the earth denoting the total universe. The Hebrew word “*bara*”, translated “*created*”, always denotes something new coming into existence (*Isaiah 65:17-18*). And, it is always attributed to God. We know by faith God created the universe out of nothing – it was that new, and only an act Deity can accomplish (*Hebrews. 11:3, Psalm 33:6, 9, Amos 4:13*).

This verse may provide order to the logical mind, but it does not try to accommodate the agnostic mind seeking proof for God’s existence. It hits abruptly with, “*God...*”. But wait, where did He come from? “*God created...*” But hold on. Who created Him? “*God created the heavens and the earth*” Here we are face to face with God who assumes existence from the beginning.

This is instructive, because we know the rest of the Bible is

about man’s relationship with God as He works out his plan of redemption. It is about man knowing of his earthly abode from the beginning before his Creator.

What is not included in the beginning verse or chapter of the Bible is the creation of angels. Could one reason for not recording their creation be that the Bible was written for us and our salvation, something angels look into, but of which they are not apart? (*cf. 1 Peter 1:12, Hebrews 2:16*).

Similarly, God does not go into great detail about what He did in eternity before the beginning, nor give detailed facts to prove His existence. He speaks of salvation and the church as part of His eternal purpose (*Eph. 3:10*), and allows what He has brought into being as powerful evidence for His existence (*Romans 1:20*). But, these things we need to observe in order to come to the One who has created all things and has brought salvation to light through the Gospel. The beginning verse gives us just enough to start us on a journey of faith with God.