

Know the God of Scripture

Volume 1

Week 1: Hello God! - Answer Guide

Below is the answer guide for this week's lesson. By no means are the answers complete or the only possible responses to each question. They are a guide to fully understanding the intent of the questions posed.

1. The Torah consists of the first five books in the Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. It was originally written in ancient Hebrew. The original Hebrew of the Torah contained only 22 consonants. The Masoretes, a distinguished group of scholarly priests and scribes, around 600 BC, added vowels and cantillations to help future Jewish generations in pronunciation and interpretation. What they produced was a clearer interpretation of the original Hebrew called the Masoretic Texts.

2. The Hebrew word for “in the beginning” is בְּרֵאשִׁית = *bereshit*. The Jewish Bible has *Bereshit* as the first book of the Torah. The Hebrews named the books of the Bible by the first significant word in each book. Genesis is the Greek translation from the Septuagint, a Greek translation of the Old Testament used in Jesus' day, that means “beginning.” From the “beginning” we are introduced to the Creator of ALL things.

3. As the Hebrew alphabet evolved, it became pictographic where each letter depicted something useful or specific to their culture. The first word, *bereshit*, is broken down into its representative meanings and picture representations as shown: (Ref: hebrew4christians.com/Grammar/Unit_One/Pictograms/pictograms.html)

ב	- Bet = House	Symbol is house
ר	- Resh = Head, Person, First	Symbol is head of a person, Bet + Resh = Bar = Son
א	- Alef = Ox, Strength, Leader	Symbol is an ox, generally associated with Father (God)
ש	- Shin = Eat, Consume, Destroy	Symbol is “teeth” with connotation of completely destroying
י	- Yod = Arm & Hand, Work, Deed	Symbol is (right) arm & hand, strength of king
ת	- Tov = Mark, Sign, Covenant	Symbol is two sticks making the sign of a cross

4. Combining the first two letters creates “bar,” a Hebrew word meaning son (e.g., Barabbas is “son of Abbas”). It is interesting to note that when the pictographs of the letters in the first word of Genesis are combined a remarkable concept appears: “The Son (bar) of the Father (alef) was destroyed (shin) by His own right hand (yod) on the cross (tov).” Is this coincidental? Maybe, but is it also possible the Father, in His infinite wisdom and providence, was trying to convey His future plan of salvation in the first word of His Word?

5. In the beginning (time) God created the heavens (space) and the earth (matter). God is not affected by time, space or matter, and is outside the realm of each. If He were, He wouldn't be a God worth worshipping! God is the uncreated Creator of creation who existed before time, space and matter. *Bara*, in Hebrew, means ex-nihilo, or made out of nothing. The world of physics agrees that all three entities must have been created simultaneously to exist. The video reference below best explains this concept.

Reference <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dWrEczFaygk>.

6. El is the singular form of “god” used throughout the Hebrew Bible. Elohim is the plural for God in Hebrew (the ending “im” signifies plurality much like an “s” in English does). The plural God mentioned in Genesis 1:1 must be the Trinity which fits nicely with the way Jesus is described in Colossian 1:15-20. It should be very clear that God the Father (Elohim), God the Son (Colossians 1:15-20) and God the Spirit (Genesis 1:2) were all present at the creation of the universe.

7. The 4th Hebrew word in Genesis 1 is מִן , “*et.*” It is unique in that it is deliberately ignored and not interpreted in any current Bible translation. This may be because many scholars believe it is an article pointing to the heavens and earth that are being created. Like the phrase, “kind of blue,” the preposition “of” is sort of meaningless but needed. However, another view of interpretation is recognizing the word contains the first and last letters of the Hebrew alphabet, as if to say the Aleph and Tov (or in Greek, the Alpha & Omega) did the creating. This Creator we are introduced to seems to be the all-encompassing Being later named *I AM* atop Mt. Sinai (Exodus 3:14). He has no beginning. He has always been, is, and always will be, God!

8. Answers will vary. Examples include:

Psalm 8 – Supports Genesis 1:28 dominion over creation

Psalm 19 – God’s handiwork in creation is evidence of His great power

Psalm 29 – The very breath (voice) of God was employed in creation and endures even today

Psalm 33:6-9 – Supports, basically reiterates, parts of Genesis 1

Psalm 104 – Emphasizes God is the creator of all things

Romans 1 – Claims the “Book of Nature” as evidence of God’s greatness

9. Genesis is not the only creation story that was around in ancient days. In fact, it appeared relatively late on the scene and employs various parts and pieces of other creation stories. For a good comparison of various others go to:

<https://www.learnreligions.com/ancient-creation-myths-117871>

and

<https://historycollection.com/16-incredible-ancient-creation-stories-from-around-the-world/10/>

Unlike other creation accounts, the Biblical account has one God, Elohim, as its creator and sustainer. Man is marred by sin and in need of redemption that is provided by forgiveness, grace and restoration from God. In other creation accounts the gods are angry and subject mankind to their demanding desires. Man has to please the gods through works to appease their compassion.

Additional Questions:

1. We are introduced to a loving God who cares to redeem His fallen creation. He is forgiving, merciful, patient, kind, wrathful when requiring justice, etc.

2. God’s holiness prevents Him from being in the presence of sin, for where there’s light there cannot be darkness. He cannot sin for He is pure, holy and righteous, the very essence of good.

3. Einstein was a Jew who believed in a Creator of the universe for he claimed that stuff cannot come from nothing. There is no evidence that he surrendered to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, however. There are several prevailing views from the Science world. Most adhere to the thought that mass came from energy via the Big Bang Theory. Some views of the Big Bang Theory, for the most part, line up with the authority of Scripture. Some don’t!

