

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” – Gen. 1:1

There is little “introduction” to the bible. It begins with one of the most important sentences in the whole book, and in Christian theology. It sets the tone for the entire narrative, the story of God’s creation and then redemption of the world. Only the famous John 3:16 can match this verse in intensity, scope, and importance.

Throughout the bible and indeed throughout time, God is known as Creator. It shows up in our creeds (“I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth”), in science (“Creationism vs. Evolutionism”), and in our daily lives (who hasn’t looked over a calm lake, or at a rainbow, or a sunrise, and felt the power of God, even if they didn’t know it for what it was?) God’s act of creation was not just setting the scene – it was defining the whole story.

From this small verse, rivers of theology flow. From it, we begin to ponder just what God created the heavens and the earth *from* (the answer, of course, is “He created them from nothing, in complete defiance of science.”) We begin to ask *how* He created them (the answer, of course, is “He spoke them into being.”) And we begin to ask *why* He created them (not because He was lonely, or needed them. God created them because God is the creator and creating is what He does.) These rivers have spawned book after book, article after article, and have been themselves the source of countless theological arguments.

Yet they all can be traced back to this small phrase, “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” The bible begins with a bang, and as we read on, we’ll find that this truth, that God is the Creator, informs everything else we read.