

In the Beginning

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

A. Text: Genesis 1:1.

B. Many bring infantile concepts to the Bible and God that ought to be discarded when one matures.

C. The God of Genesis is the God of the rest of the Bible.

II. In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

A. This answers four fundamental questions.

1. What is all this?

a. It is the heavens and the earth.

b. This is the beginning of true science because the task of science is classification.

c. The Bible says that all things are made of things that do not appear.

2. How did it begin?

a. The Bible is not intended to be a book on science—it is intended to be a book about salvation.

b. God's intention is that man should share his life—this is the subject of the Bible.

c. Nevertheless, the Creationists seem to have the better argument.

3. When did it begin?

a. The Bible simply does not say anything about the age of the earth.

b. Bishop Usher who determined the age of the earth from the Bible did not speak with authority—time is a mystery. (Psalm 80, II Peter)

4. Who is behind it?

a. God is behind it all.

b. Man can never escape the thought of God.

c. God is the grand perhaps behind everything.

d. God is inescapable—in Him we move and have our being.

Application questions:

1. What does the Bible teach us about how the world came together? What does it not teach?

2. Why does the speaker shed doubt on Bishop Usher's dating of the earth?

3. What does it mean that God is the grand "perhaps" behind everything? Explain.
