**The Key to Understanding the Bible**

**Introduction:**

The key to properly understanding the Bible is the very first verse of the Bible. Genesis 1:1 “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” NKJV Without an accurate understanding of this verse, the mysteries of the Bible cannot be unlocked. So what can we learn from this verse?

**Body:**

1. **God Exists**

* This verse affirms the existence of a Supreme Being who is infinite and all-powerful.
* The word translated “God” is the Hebrew: “Elohim,” which is used more than 2500 times in the Old Testament.
* God uses this plural noun “Elohim” to refer to the Godhead [Trinity].
  + God the Father (I Peter 1:2) “elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.” NKJV
  + God the Son (Romans 9:5) “of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen.” (Titus 2:13) “looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,” NKJV
  + God the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:3-4) “But Peter said, ‘Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.’ ” NKJV Note the use of the term “Godhead” in Colossians 2:9. “For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;” NKJV
* This means that God exists in one divine essence which is composed of three distinct personalities: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. They are all equal, none superior to the other.

1. **The Beginning of Time**

* Time began at creation. (John 1:1) “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” NKJV When the world came into existence, time came into existence.
* Time has both a beginning and a planned ending.
  + (II Timothy 1:9) “who has saved us and called us with a holy calling not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,”

(Titus 1:2-3) “in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began, but has in due time manifested His word through preaching, which was committed to me according to the commandment of God our Savior;”

* + (II Peter 3:10-13) “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.” NKJV
* These verses teach that time is not the same as eternity, but a part of it.

1. **Creation Out of Nothing**

* This verse (Genesis 1:1) is a straight forward declaration of the fact of absolute creation.
* The Hebrew word created (Bara) is only used of divine action and is never used of pre-existing matter. It is creation from nothing.
* Note the inspired words of David in Psalm 33:9. “For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.” NKJV Genesis 1:1 describes God’s creating nine times with the phrase: “God said.” The Hebrews writer also makes this claim. (Hebrews 11:3) “By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.” NKJV

1. **The Heavens and The Earth**

* Space and matter – all things and everything (Ecclesiastes 11:5) “As you do not know what is the way of the wind, Or how the bones grow in the womb of her who is with child, So you do not know the works of God who makes everything.” (Isaiah 44:24) “Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, And He who formed you from the womb: I am the Lord, who makes all things, Who stretches out the heavens all alone, Who spreads abroad the earth by Myself;” NKJV
* This includes the entire universe, even all the galaxies.
* Both the Old and New Testaments attest to God being the Creator of all things, including man. (Psalm 139:14) “I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are your works, And that my soul knows very well.” (Psalm 146:5-6) “Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help, Whose hope is in the Lord his God, Who made heaven and earth, The sea, and all that is in them; Who keeps truth forever,” (Revelation 4:11) “You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created.” NKJV

**Conclusion:**

* Genesis 1:1 “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” refutes all other explanations of origins. It declares that atheism, naturalism, materialism, evolution, etc. are all false.
* Since God exists, His instructions as found in the Bible must be followed if one expects to live eternally in heaven.

For more Information, see W. Terry Varner, Sufficient Evidence, Vol. 6. No. 1

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