



Title: "In the Beginning..."

Date: 1.31.10

Series: In the Beginning

Text: Genesis 1,2

Synopsis: What are some of the all time great opening sentences? A Tale of Two Cities begins, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times..." Star Wars begins, "A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away..." The Gettysburg Address begins, "Four score and seven years ago..." Each of these sentences begins a great narrative.

But what about the greatest narrative of all, how does it begin? It begins with, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Ten words that lay the foundation for everything that we will ever need to know. Ten words written by Moses 3,400 years ago divinely inspired to describe for all of humanity the origins of everything.

Yet not much information is given. Only two chapters are devoted to telling the story and chapter two is committed to the creation of man and woman. The creation of the universe, the sun, the moon, the stars, the earth, the continents, the plants and animals and man are all detailed in only one chapter. There is not much description of what life was like. Only that it was good. What was it like to live forever? What was it like to labor without pain? What was it like to have no sickness, death or hate? There is not much technical data either. Only that God created everything by the power of his word. But could we understand the explanation anyway? How does an infinite God describe to finite creatures how he created everything other than the way he described it, "in the beginning I made everything"?

And do we really need to have more information anyway? Could it be that God told Moses only what humanity needed to know at that time in redemptive history? Is it possible that understanding how far humanity has fallen without having the hope of redemption would only crush mankind? Does it really help us to know what could have been if we don't know what's going to be?

The Bible is God's redemptive story. It lovingly unfolds over a period of 1,500 years, 66 books, and 40 divinely inspired authors, with the person and work of Jesus Christ as the main subject of every word.

And it all begins with ten little words, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."