



A Lesson in Vocabulary

Genesis 1:1^a

One phrase tells us ...



- God exists
- Only one God exists
- The universe had a beginning
- God did not have a beginning
- Matter was created and is not eternal
- God is distinct from creation



God as “Elohim”

“In the beginning, God created ...” (Gen 1:1^a)

God (*Elohim*)



- It is used **2,597 times** in the Old Testament
 - It is based on the root “El”—meaning God.
 - The singular form of “Elohim” is “Eloah” which means strength or might.

God (*Elohim*)



- **Elohim is a plural noun**, but is always used in conjunction with singular verbs, adjectives, and articles.

Hebrew plural words for singular objects *genesis*

- The **ocean** is a plural form of sea (*Hamayim*)
- A **great mountain** is a plural form of mountain (*Mayim*)
- The **immensity of space** is a plural form of heaven (*Shamayim*)

Psalm 19:1



“The heavens declare the glory of God, and
the sky above proclaims his handiwork.”

(ESV)

Hebrew plural words for singular objects *genesis*

- The ocean is a plural form of sea (*Hamayim*)
- A great mountain is a plural form of mountain (*Mayim*)
- The immensity of space is a plural form of heaven (*Shamayim*)
- The **all-powerful God** is a plural form of god (*Elohim*)

Genesis 1:1-2



“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth ... And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.” (ESV)

John 1:1-3, 14



“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made ... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” (ESV)

Colossians 1:16-17



“For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. (ESV)

Genesis 2:7



“Then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.”

YHWH Elohim

YHWH is used 6,826 times in the Old Testament

Exodus 3:14



“God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM.’ And he said, ‘Say this to the people of Israel: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” (ESV)

Deuteronomy 6:4-5



“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.” (ESV)

Isaiah 43:10



“You are my witnesses,” declares the LORD,
and my servant whom I have chosen, that
you may know and believe me and
understand that **I AM HE**. Before me no god
was formed, nor shall there be any after
me.” (ESV)

Isaiah 45:5



“I am the LORD, and there is no other,
besides me there is no God.”

(ESV)



God as Creator

“In the beginning, God created ...” (Gen 1:1^a)

Create (*bara*)



1. Initial creation

“In the beginning God created ...” (1:1)

2. Creation of conscious life

“So God created ... every living creature that moves ...” (1:21)

3. Creation of man

“So God created man in his own image ...” (1:27)

Connotations of ***bara'***



- **It describes newness**

Connotations of *bara'*



- It describes newness
- **It describes effortlessness**

Connotations of **bara'**



- It describes newness
- It describes effortlessness
- **It describes instantaneous action**

Connotations of **bara'**



- It describes newness
- It describes effortlessness
- It describes instantaneous action
- **It describes Divine activity**

Hebrews 11:3



“By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.” (ESV)

Genesis 1:3



“And God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light.” (ESV)

(See also: 1:6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24)

2 Peter 3:5



“They deliberately overlook this fact, that
the heavens ... and the earth were formed ...
by the word of God” (ESV)

Psalms 33:6, 9



“By the word of the LORD the heavens were made ... For he spoke, and it came to be.”

(ESV)

Colossians 1:16



“For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.” (ESV)

Psalms 148:5



“Let them praise the name of the LORD! For he commanded and they were created.”

(ESV)

Isaac Watts



I sing of the goodness of the Lord,
that filled the earth with food.
He formed the creatures with His word,
and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how Thy wonders are displayed,
where e'er I turn my eye.
If I survey the ground I tread,
or gaze upon the sky.



A Lesson in Vocabulary

Isn't it time you turn your life completely over
to the maker and designer of the universe,
and let him have the reigns of your life?

Next Steps



- I will make time to reflect on the greatness of the LORD God.
- I will entrust my life to the all-powerful Creator God.
- As I read the Old Testament, I will look for “LORD” in my Bible.
- I will pray for _____ to put their faith in the God of all creation.