**Before the beginning**

**How do we know that Genesis is not the beginning of everything?**

In spite of its name "Genesis," which means "beginning," and in spite of its position as the first book in the Bible, the Book of Genesis isn't the beginning of everything.

Gen 1:1 reminds us, "**In the beginning God**."

So, before we study the basics that are laid down in Gen 1-11, let's acquaint ourselves with what God did before what's recorded in Genesis.

After that, we'll examine what He did that's recorded in Genesis, and finally, what occurred after Genesis.

This will give us the kind of broad overview we need to study the rest of God's revelation in the Bible.

**Before Genesis: redemption planned**

**What was happening before God spoke the universe into existence?**

That may seem like an impractical hypothetical question, like "How many angels can stand on the point of a pin?" but it isn't.

After all, God doesn't act arbitrarily; and the fact that He created something suggests that He must have had some magnificent purposes in mind.

**What was the situation before Gen 1:1, and what does it teach us about God and ourselves?**

God existed in sublime glory.

God is eternal

He has neither beginning nor ending.

He is totally self-sufficient and needs nothing more than Himself in order to exist or to act.

**A.W. Tozer –**

"God has a voluntary relation to everything He has made, but He has no necessary relation to anything outside of Himself."

God needs nothing, neither the material universe nor the human race, and yet He created both.

If you want something to boggle your mind, meditate on the concept of the eternal, that which has neither beginning nor ending.

As creatures of time, you and I can easily focus on the transient things around us; but it's difficult if not impossible to conceive of that which is eternal.

Contemplating the nature and character of the Triune God who always was, always is, and always will be, and who never changes, is a task that overwhelms us.

**"Process theology,"**

An old heresy in modern dress, affirms **a "limited god" who is in the process of becoming a "greater" god**.

**What is the definition of “God”?**

**But if God is God, as we understand the word, then He is eternal and needs nothing; and He is all-knowing, all-powerful, and everywhere present.**

In order to have a "limited god," you must first redefine the very word "God," because by definition God cannot be limited.

**If God is limited and "getting greater," then what power is making Him greater?**

That power would be greater than "God" and therefore be God!

And wouldn't that give us two gods instead of one?

But the God of the Bible is eternal and had no beginning.

He is infinite and knows no limitations in either time or space.

He is perfect and can-not "improve," and is immutable and cannot change.