

Bedrock Principles of Liberty

PRINCIPLE ONE

God exists, has established an ordered and moral universe, and holds humanity accountable.

Let's consider Scripture and highlight several key points of overlap between biblical teachings and the Founders' ideals.

FIRST —The Bible Assumes God's Existence

The Bible acknowledges God from the start without trying to present intellectual arguments that He exists. Later, as we will see, Scripture does present evidence for God.

Genesis 1:1 states simply and forthrightly, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

Likewise, the men who signed the Declaration of Independence also assumed God's existence. And as we will see, the God they acknowledged is the God the Bible upholds and reveals.

We need to be aware that the first part of Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning God..." has some very profound implications.

The late Dr. Mark Corts and the late James M. Boice make numerous observations about the Bible's first statement, which is God's introduction of Himself in His Word. Genesis 1:1 says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." This declaration *refutes* atheism, materialism, polytheism, humanism, relativism, and pantheism. It *affirms* God's authority, supremacy, and eternity. God's immutability—the fact that He does not change and therefore can be trusted to remain as He is—flows from His eternal nature. Genesis 1:1 further testifies that God is self-existent and has no needs. Instead, we need Him! Also, God is the source of all that is. He is both originator and initiator—not of evil, of course, for God is holy and cannot be the source of evil.
(<https://bit.ly/2zI7CTx>)

Much of what Scripture implies in Genesis 1:1, it reveals more fully on subsequent pages.

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What might be inferred from Scripture's not arguing for God's existence right off the bat, but assuming it?

2. The above paragraph affirms that the phrase "In the beginning God" refutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • atheism, • materialism, • polytheism, • humanism, • relativism, and • pantheism. 	Moreover, it <i>affirms</i> God's <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • authority, • supremacy, • eternity, • immutability, and • self-existence. 	Furthermore, God <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has no needs, • is the ultimate initiator and originator, and • is the source of all that is, with the exception of evil.
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Do you see how the specific wording of Genesis 1:1 infers these denials and affirmations? Explain.

3. What might be some other truths about God that are inferred in Genesis 1:1?