



Genesis is not like any other book ever written and contributing to its uniqueness is the opening verse. This first proclamation is the subject of today's study: *"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."* We immediately notice that \_\_\_\_\_ attempt is made to tone down, dilute, or even prove that God is. The author, writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, plainly declares these words as an \_\_\_\_\_ certainty. No other book can open with this type of declaration while speaking with authority. Only someone actually present at *"the beginning"* is capable of making the statement with total credibility. Today, we begin our expositional study of Genesis by examining...

**A most unique opening verse – Genesis 1:1**

1. Unique because it presents the major elements of \_\_\_\_\_ – 1 Ti. 6:20-21a; Heb. 11:3
  - *In the beginning* – \_\_\_\_\_
  - *God* – \_\_\_\_\_
  - *created* – \_\_\_\_\_
  - *the heaven* – \_\_\_\_\_
  - *and the earth* – \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. Unique because it refutes all the world's most popular \_\_\_\_\_ – Colossians 2:8
  - In the BEGINNING...
    - This refutes the philosophy of *materialism* as it concerns the eternity of \_\_\_\_\_
  
  - In the beginning GOD...
    - This refutes the philosophies of *Atheism* – there is \_\_\_\_\_ god(s), *Agnosticism* – God cannot be \_\_\_\_\_, *Polytheism* – there are an \_\_\_\_\_ number of gods.

- In the beginning God CREATED...
  - This refutes the philosophy of *evolutionism* which says that all things \_\_\_\_\_ from something else and are traced back to an \_\_\_\_\_ catastrophic event.
  - This also refutes *theistic evolutionism* which says that God created things \_\_\_\_\_ an evolutionary process.
  
- In the beginning God created the HEAVEN AND THE EARTH...
  - This refutes the philosophy of *pantheism* which says that God is a \_\_\_\_\_ that is found within nature, that God is \_\_\_\_\_ separate from natural things...
  - This also refutes the philosophies of *existentialism* and *fatalism* in that God has purposefully intervened in the elements of \_\_\_\_\_ and space, and that God has an \_\_\_\_\_ interest in his creation.

3. Unique because its author could \_\_\_\_\_ be God

- No \_\_\_\_\_ for the Genesis 1:1 creation is given
- It was not written from the perspective of any \_\_\_\_\_ or individual premise
- It begins as an assault on man's \_\_\_\_\_