

# THE SOUTHEAST SOWER

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## WHEN DID GOD COME INTO EXISTENCE?

Gene Frost

God did not have a beginning—He is eternal. “Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.” (Psa. 90:2)

“When” is an adverb of time. Time is a physical phenomenon: “the period during which action, process, condition, or the like, continues.” It is predicated of physical things. It follows, then, that before materiality there could be such phenomenon as time. Since God created all things, He created time. The prime designation of time is “beginning” - the beginning commences with the creation of materiality: “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth...” (Gen. 1:1) With the creation of matter time began: It was the “beginning.”

Since God is the Creator of all things, He pre-dates time, hence is timeless. God is superior to matter. “God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.” (John 4:24) He, then, is not circumscribed by material laws but is rather the Author of them. He is unaffected by time. In describing this timeless nature of His Being, He is called “I Am” (Ex. 3:14) - present tense; ever present Being (neither was nor shall be, but IS, eternally present).

To apply physical laws to the spiritual realm is a patent fallacy. To attempt to understand the eternal existence of God or the perfection of His nature through or according to the physical phenomena is to relegate the spiritual realm to the physical, the superior to the inferior.

As time began with the creation of matter, so time will cease to be with the dissolution of matter. “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, and the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved...” (2 Pet. 3:10-11) Thereafter there remains the spiritual realm and eternity. As man passes

from this physical state into the spiritual state he passes into eternity. “As we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.” In death the body is changed. “It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body and there is a spiritual body.” (1 Cor. 15:49, 44) In the resurrection man will pass into eternity: “And these (the lost) shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.” (Matt. 25:46; both “everlasting” and “eternal” are translated from *aionios* meaning, “without end, never to cease, everlasting” - Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon.)

God is before and after the material creation: He is from “everlasting to everlasting.” Man has the blessed privilege of entering this eternal life in His presence through Christ.

Note: Above taken from: Bible Answers, Vol. I, pg., 61-63

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## BEWARE!

Jordon Smith

Halloween is coming upon us and as families decorate their yard and prepare for get-togethers and Halloween parties, one common decoration is a sign that says, “BEWARE!” We see these signs and think little of them, considering them to be just simple, popular

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decoration for the season...which is it. Beware, although on a sign in someone's yard is not all that important to take notice of, when found the Bible, it is very much important to notice what follows. Vine describes, "BEWARE" to mean "to turn one's mind or attention to a thing by being on guard against it. Dog owners often have a sign in their front yard, gate or door that says, "Beware of Dog", and for one who happens to approach that home is cautious and on alert to see that they are not attacked, or overcome, by the dog. In Scripture, we must also take note of what the Lord is instructing us to Beware of. This is so we will not be overcome and surprised by a thing, but will be actively on alert for it.

Matthew records in Matthew 7:15 Jesus teaching to "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves." Be mindful and take caution to false teaching. To do this requires for each individual to have an active pursuit of the truth and wisdom of the Lord's will. Only those who know the truth are able to identify and keep from false teaching. Jesus desires for us to take caution understanding that if we entertain or permit false teachers to enter into the fold, the congregation, it will not be long until they have destroyed or split the congregation. Beware of false prophets and teachers that you may guard and protect your heart, not allowing yourself to be led away from the Lord.

Luke records, in Luke 12:15, Jesus saying "Beware and be on guard against every form of greed; for not even one who has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions." The Lord desires all to lean upon Him, to put their trust in Him. As the Israelites wandered through the desert, they were to rely on the Lord to provide them with the necessities of life. Every time they hungered or were thirsty, the Lord provided for them. They, however, were not always satisfied because they desired to have something other than what the Lord provided them with. The secret to living a happy, good, content-filled life is to appreciate and be satisfied with what the Lord has provided you with, and to not be focused on what the Lord has not provided you with.

Take notice when you see "BEWARE" while reading through the word of the Lord. It is His will that all obey Him. The Lord does everything with meaning, and did not use words as such without reason. Look deeper into the passage and open your eyes to what the Lord is trying to warn you of. Again, we were created to serve the Lord, and He desires that all would pursue godliness and purity, striving for an eternal home with Him. So the Lord has made sure you and I know exactly what we need to do and not do, to obtain the reward of a home with Him.

### Working Together

Author Unknown

While on a hiking trip, a troop of boy scouts came across an abandoned railroad track. Each boy tried to walk the rails but eventually lost his balance and fell off.

Then two of the scouts got their heads together and bet the rest of the troop they could both walk the entire length of the track without falling off. Challenged to make good their boast, the two boys jumped up on opposite rails, extended their hands to balance each other, and walked the entire section of track with no difficulty.

These two scouts illustrate an important principle of life. As human beings made in God's image, we thrive on partnership, companionship, and fellowship. We are more productive and live happier lives when we help one another. Teamwork is one of the great joys of life.