**Invitation to Creation**  
**Genesis 1:1**

**Main Thought** In a bold statement of invitation to the biblical story, the divine creation of the heavens and the earth are asserted as to time, force, action, and scope.

**INTRODUCTION** – Much of the Christian Church have unnecessarily dismissed DIVINE CREATIONISM (LAT = ex nihilo) or INTELLIGENT DESIGN to accommodate scientific theory.

- **EVOLUTION** – Life evolved from a single life form employing mutations, natural selection – the survival of the fittest. It is atheistic (CHARLES HODGE).
- **THEISTIC EVOLUTION** – Genesis 1-11 is considered myth. “...evolution is real, but that it was set in motion by God” (FRANCIS COLLINS, Director of the National Institutes of Health and Director of the National Human Genome Research Institute).
- **PROGRESSIVE CREATIONISM** – “Creation was revealed [pictorially] in six days, not performed in six days, with God intervening periodically to create new root-species which then radiated out (BERNARD RAMM).

**TIME** – “IN THE BEGINNING”
- By this statement the reader is invited into the biblical story.
- An earlier “in the beginning” is in the Gospel (John 1:1-3; Col. 1:15-16; Heb. 1:2).
- This is a SUMMARY statement previewing all six days of creation (Waltke).
- Others believe it was the (1) first event – the creation an unformed mass (2) which was refashioned during the six days (Luther; Calvin); (2) a gap (GAP THEORY – Pember; Scofield) occurred after v. 1 during which Satan fell to earth (Lk. 10:18) explaining the chaos of v. 2.

**FORCE** – “GOD”
- GOD (HEB: Elohim – 2596x in OT) is the force and initiator of creation along with the Son (Col. 1:16) and the Holy Spirit (Job 33:4).
- The plural form of Elohim (-im) is honorific – the “plural of majesty.”
- It emphasizes God’s TRANSCENDENCE (Jer. 23:23 – far away, otherly, beyond).

**ACTION** – “CREATED”
- The word CREATED (HEB: bara – 55x) is used exclusively by God.
- It finds meaning in the end of a process (TOTALITY) in all six days (Waltke).

> "His creation reveals his immeasurable power and might, his bewildering imagination and wisdom, his immortality and transcendence, ultimately leaving the finite mortal in mystery."
>  
> BRUCE WALTKE

**SCOPE** – “HEAVENS AND EARTH” This MERISM (a figure of speech like “night and day” [all the time] and Alpha and Omega [A to Z]) refers to the everything.