



# 1 | GENESIS 1:1-5

## IN THE BEGINNING, JESUS

*Since everything that is, and everything we are comes from God, we should live a life of submission to our Creator and Redeemer.*

### Outline

1. JESUS IS THE SOVEREIGN CREATOR (1:1)  
Sovereign in His Person  
Sovereign in His Creative Power  
Sovereign in His Purpose
2. JESUS IS THE TRANSFORMING CREATOR (1:2)  
By the Spirit  
By the Word
3. JESUS IS THE OMNIPOTENT CREATOR (1:3-5)  
He Creates Instantaneously  
He Creates Lovingly  
He Creates in an Orderly Way

### Call to Worship

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul! <sup>2</sup> I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being. —Psalm 146:1-2

### Songs

*All Creatures of Our God and King*  
*I Sing the Mighty Power of God*  
*Indescribable*  
*Only a Holy God*  
*How Great Thou Art*

### Announcements

**WELCOME:** We are glad you are here! Be sure to grab a Welcome Packet if you are visiting with us.

## Introduction

At the heart of the city of London is a crossroads where all the main London roads meet, called the Charing Cross. It is the very center point of the great city of London with the ultimate intersection. All distances across the city are measured from this central point. Locals refer to it simply as “the cross.” One day a child became lost in the busy city. A city police officer came to the child’s aid to try and help him return to his family. The officer asked the child a variety of questions in an attempt to discover where the boy lived, to no avail. Finally, with tears streaming down the boy’s face, he said, “If you will take me to the cross, I think I can find my way from there.”<sup>1</sup>

What an apt description of the Christian life and the book of Genesis. In Genesis we are introduced to the creation of the world, and we meet our first parents, Adam and Eve. We see humanity’s fall into sin, and God’s gracious promise of the Savior. We experience a worldwide flood and finally are introduced to the family of the Savior: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. They all point to the one who will come into the world. Jesus who made the world will one day enter into the world he created and die for the sins of humanity.

### GENESIS: POINT OF ORIGIN, BEGINNING

In Genesis we are going to the Old Testament, going back to the first day when everything began. Genesis is a Latin word that means “beginning” or “point of origin.” This is the book of beginnings, and it tells us of Jesus’ family tree. It was written by Moses, and he wrote the first five books of the Bible (called the Pentateuch) while he was traveling around the wilderness for 40 years after he led them out of Egypt. This includes Genesis which tells us how it all began.

### BEGINNING OF JESUS: INCARNATION?

We are going through line by line through the book of Genesis to see Jesus’ role in constructing his own family tree. There’s a prophecy in Isaiah 11:1 tells us about a family tree that comes from Jesse, the father of King David. Genesis tells us how that family tree begins.

Sometimes when we think of the beginning of Jesus, we picture him in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger with shepherds and later wise men. Of course, that is his beginning as a human being. That’s his incarnation. That’s when the Son of God became man to live among us, to rescue us, and to save us, dying in our place for our sins.

### JESUS EXISTS BEFORE THE WORLD BEGAN

But that is not the beginning of his story. Jesus exists before creation because Jesus is the author of creation (Jn 1:1-3; cf Jn 17:5). Jesus is at the beginning because he is before the beginning. He didn’t begin two thousand years ago. That was his incarnation. Jesus has no beginning. He is the author of everything begins everything. Though Jesus’ name is not found in the book of Genesis, his fingerprints are found throughout it. We see Jesus Christ pictured, foreshadowed, and displayed on every page of Genesis.

Here in Genesis 1, we find out where our salvation story begins. “In the beginning, God” (1:1). Of course, Jesus is there since he is a member of the Triune Godhead (cf Jn 1:1-3). We find here the account of the creation and the formation of the world in a week, six twenty-four-hour days, with God resting on the seventh day.

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<sup>1</sup> Stuart Strachan, Jr., “The Cross at the Heart of the City,” *The Pastor’s Workshop* (Sermon Illustrations on Being Lost, October 7, 2022), <https://thepastorsworkshop.com/sermon-illustrations-on-being-lost/>.

## GENESIS IS HISTORY

If Christianity does not take Genesis 1 very seriously and literally, it is spiritual suicide, since our Lord speaks of these events as actual history, not as myths or mere poetry. He speaks of Adam and Eve as literally people, not poetry. We need to take the book of Genesis seriously, because Jesus did, and Genesis ultimately leads us to the historical events of the cross of Jesus.

## GENESIS AND OUR NEW CREATION

Genesis is also a book about how everything began, suddenly, instantaneously, supernaturally, just like our salvation. It points us to our own regeneration, when the sinner is suddenly, gloriously, instantaneously created anew by God's almighty gospel. Since the new birth is pictured by the natural creation, if we compromise the events of Genesis 1, the foundation of our faith is effectively undermined, and whatever claims the church makes for her faith are undercut and devolved.<sup>2</sup>

Everything has a beginning. We begin with the source of all things. The designer and architect of everything. Here, Elohim, the Triune God, is the one who existed before anything in our universe.<sup>3</sup> Look at Moses' glorious record in Genesis 1.

**Genesis 1:1-5** | In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup>The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup>And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

**Key thought:** Since everything that is, and everything we are comes from God, we should live a life of submission to our Creator and Redeemer.

How do we do that? Recognize first, that Jesus is the sovereign creator.

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# 1. JESUS IS THE SOVEREIGN CREATOR (1:1)

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God sovereignly created everything out of nothing. We can see indications of what theologians refer to as the economy of the Trinity, where the Father is governing over all things by the agency of the Son who works by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Genesis 1:1** | In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

Since the triune God is sovereign creator, it means that he is worthy of worship. He deserves our love, our loyalty, our submission and devotion. Moses says it very simply, "In the beginning, God." He's the fountain of every blessing. He's worthy of our worship. There is no one like him. No one compares his glory, his beauty, his holiness (*cf* Isa 40:21, 28; 43:10).

## SOVEREIGN IN HIS PERSON

As sovereign creator, we recognize God is transcendent in his person. God is not limited in his person. God is transcendent. He transcends all the limits of time and space since he is outside of time and space. That means he is omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, unchangeable, etc. He is not like us. We are limited. God is infinite.

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<sup>2</sup> Rousas John Rushdoony, *Commentaries on the Pentateuch: Genesis* (Vallecito, CA: Ross House Books, 2002), 4.

<sup>3</sup> Allen P. Ross, *Creation and Blessing: A Guide to the Study and Exposition of Genesis* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1998), 105.

The New Testament commentary on these verses tell us that Jesus is the sovereign architect of everything visible and invisible (Col 1:17; Jn 1:1). This truth is the foundation of all reality, truth, and knowledge.<sup>4</sup> All three members of the Trinity are involved. The Father sovereignly brings forth creation through the agency of his almighty Son. The Spirit, we are told in verse 2, is “hovering over the face of the waters.” The Gospel of John tells us that Jesus is right here in Genesis 1:1, creating the universe.

*John 1:1-3* | In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

Paul as well gives us even more detail in Colossians.

*Colossians 1:15-17* | He [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. <sup>16</sup> For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

The point is that God is absolutely sovereign over all matter. Such sovereignty demands allegiance, for to acknowledge the Creator naturally leads to submission and devotion to him.<sup>5</sup> Worship Jesus. He is King of kings and Lord of lords. He is Lord of all creation.

## SOVEREIGN IN HIS CREATIVE POWER

*Genesis 1:1* | In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

As sovereign creator, he is life giving. He chooses to bring everything forth. Every good thing comes from him. God created the heavens and the earth by the breath of his mouth. The world is “God-breathed” just as the Scripture is “God-breathed” (2 Tim 3:16). With his word, he brings forth life. The word “create,” contains the idea both of complete effortlessness and creation *ex nihilo* (out of nothing), since absolutely nothing exists until God speaks it into existence. In other words, out of nothing came everything.<sup>6</sup>

What God created is here called “the heavens and the earth,” an expression signifying the entire universe.<sup>7</sup> This is a summary of the seven-day narrative. It’s a title for the glorious creation account. “All that you are about to read about the creation of the earth and the entire universe, God who existed before the universe did it all.” It is implied that we as his workmanship should worship and adore and serve him (*cf* Eph 2:10; 1 Cor 10:31).

We are not just to believe theoretically in his sovereignty but reflect him in all we do! We are to yield control of every area of our lives to him. He cares that we glorify him even in the smallest things. “Whether you eat or drink” or whatever we do, we should reflect God’s glorious sovereignty, pleasing him in everything, putting him at the center of our heart with honor and praise (1 Cor 10:31).

But how? How do we reflect God’s sovereignty? Submit your mind to God’s word all day every day. Submit your body to his will: your words, your actions, thoughts. Live like you belong to him. Walk worthy of him! He is sovereign in his creative power.

This also teaches that we cannot change ourselves. Real change comes from a divine encounter with the living God. You need the creative power of God constantly in your life.

<sup>4</sup> Meredith G. Kline, *Genesis: A New Commentary*, ed. Jonathan G. Kline (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2016), 9.

<sup>5</sup> Ross, *Creation and Blessing*, 106.

<sup>6</sup> R. Gerhard Von Rad, *Genesis: A Commentary, Old Testament Library* (Philadelphia: Westminster, 1972), 49.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*

*Ephesians 2:10* | We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

That means everything you do as a Christian is directed by the creative, omnipotent power of God. Submit to him.

## SOVEREIGN IN HIS PURPOSE

*Genesis 1:1* | In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

God created the heavens and earth as a place of worship, that we might know and love and worship our creator. That's the purpose.

### GOD REVEALS HIMSELF IN CREATION

That's why God's creation is one form of God's self-revelation and therefore a means by which we may come to know him.<sup>8</sup> By the creation, all people can understand God in his eternal attributes of wisdom and omnipotence, and all are held accountable for such incredible knowledge revealed by nature itself.

*Romans 1:19-20* | What can be known about God is plain to them [*all people*], because God has shown it to them. <sup>20</sup> For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

Indeed, all people should praise God when they behold his reflection in creation.

*Psalms 19:1* | The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

Yet, creation is not enough to bring you to saving faith. Creation and conscience prepare your heart, but a person needs the special revelation of the gospel in God's word. Jesus is the exclusive way to heaven. Ultimately God is revealed to the sinner through Jesus Christ himself. He is the "image of the invisible God" (Col 1:15). Listen to Jesus' own words.

*John 14:6* | I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

*John 1:18* | No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

Ultimately, we have to be introduced to Jesus to know the Father. God cannot be known any other way.

### MR. NI [NIGH] AND HUDSON TAYLOR

Creation cannot save anyone. Of course, there are many accounts of God using creation to soften people's hearts. I think of Mr. Ni, one of Hudson Taylor's friends in China who came to know Jesus. Hudson presented the gospel to Mr. Ni in the Chinese language. "Jesus died for your sins, and he wants to give you eternal life as a free gift," said Hudson.

Mr. Ni was so excited! He had never heard such wonderful things before! Mr. Ni stood up slowly. "I have long searched for the truth, but I have not found it. I have traveled far and near and have found no peace. But I find peace in what I have heard tonight. From now on I am a believer in Jesus."

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<sup>8</sup> James Montgomery Boice, *Genesis: An Expository Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1998), 81.

From that evening Mr. Ni began to study the Bible. He became one of the missionaries' best helpers. A few days after Mr. Ni believed in Jesus, he asked Hudson, "How long have you had this good news in your country?" Hudson replied, "A long time—hundreds and hundreds of years." The great missionary was ashamed.

"What!?" exclaimed Mr. Ni in amazement. "Hundreds of years? Can it be that your people have known about Jesus so long and have only now sent someone to tell us?" He shook his head sadly. "My father looked for the truth for more than 20 years and died without finding it. Oh, why did missionaries not come sooner?"<sup>9</sup> How convicting this is. People cannot come to know Jesus without a preacher (Rom 10:14-15). The revelation of creation is not enough. It's just as the apostle told us. I pray you and I have beautiful feet and preach the gospel to every creature (Mk 16:15; Mt 28:18-20).

Creation wasn't enough for Mr. Ni. He needed Jesus Christ to change. Without a transforming work of God in our heart, through a relationship with Jesus, we cannot change and be conformed to the image of Christ.

Jesus is sovereign in his creation—in his person, in his creative power, and in his purpose: that we should reflect him. We should grow and change into his image.

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## 2. JESUS IS THE TRANSFORMING CREATOR (1:2-3)

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We see God here in the beginning, and we see Jesus as God's agent to make everything. Nothing was made except through Jesus (Jn 1:1-3). But now we see the third member of the Trinity: the Spirit of God. If Jesus is the agent of creation, then the Spirit is the agent of transformation.

Genesis 1:2-3 | The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.<sup>3</sup> And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

The Spirit of God hovers over the creation, making order from chaos. In the beginning there is a chaotic, uncomfortable, ominous darkness spurring forth from the depths of the oceans at the earliest stage of this world. It implies judgment. Some surmise that this could be the time of the creation of angelic beings and the hour of Satan's fall from heaven (Lk 10:18; Rev 12:4; Isa 14:12-17; Eze 28:11-19).<sup>10</sup> God has judged the fallen in the angelic race and cast them to the depths of the earth.

Regardless of the reason for the chaotic earth, the Lord transforms the disordered creation into something beautiful and beautifully arranged. At first the created order was unordered and chaotic, and this was for a purpose. God is not merely interested in rocks and racoons, water, and walruses. He's interested in people. Chaos reigns in the heart of man until God begins to move and draw and convict through the word of God—until God says, "Let there be light." How did God transform chaos into beauty?

### BY THE SPIRIT

Genesis 1:2 | The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

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<sup>9</sup> James S. & Velma B. Kiefer and Adrian Beerhorst, illus., *Hudson Taylor: The Apostle to Inland China* (Warrenton, MO: CEF Press, 1973), chapter 4.

<sup>10</sup> Ross, *Creation and Blessing*, 107.

The Spirit of God was hovering like a dove (*cf* Deut 32:11) aloft in the invisible heavens bringing peace and life to the cold, dead waters. The Architect of creation by his Spirit transformed the chaos by his glory cloud, resting over creation and constituting the celestial temple out of the chaos. This glory, manifested on earth as the Shekinah-cloud is the Spirit in tangible form (*cf* Neh 9:19–20; Isa 63:11–14; Hag 2:5). One theologian says it well.

It is here that the omniscient and omnipotent Spirit turns the darkness of the ocean deep into the cosmic house of God by bringing up the land (*cf* Isa 66:1), making a habitat for man. He consummates his grand and good creation with the Sabbath—a time to reflect and enjoy what is “good.”<sup>11</sup> —*M.G. Kline*

This “void” of the creation that desperately needed the life of the Spirit points to the void in the natural, lost, unregenerate person. The person dead in sins is void of life and needs the Spirit’s life-giving power. We need the Spirit hovering over us, speaking the life giving, God-breathed word of the gospel because we by nature have a spiritual void. Our hearts are chaotic!

The earth being without form and void depicts the nature of mankind without God. There is no life. There is no light. There is no grace without the operation of the Spirit, the Spirit of God moved—which is what we need in each of our lives. How void we are without the Spirit!

## BY THE WORD

**Genesis 1:3** | And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.

Now we are introduced to the breath of God in his word. “Let there be light!” We see how the Spirit works by the word. Without the Spirit in tandem with the word of God, we are left void. Without God’s life-giving voice, there could be no light and no life at all. And so, our natural state needs divine intervention. The darkness and chaos of our heart shows our deep need for God to speak and transform us.

### JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

When God said, “Let there be light,” there was no sun. The sun, moon, and stars are created on four. Jesus truly was the light of the world at the dawn of creation as he will be one day in the new creation (*cf* Jn 8:12). There will be no need of sun, because the presence of the Lamb of God will light the universe. We see the connection between creation and new creation, because in both, Jesus is the light of the world.

### THE NEW BIRTH MIRRORS CREATION

The apostles speak of the new birth in terms of mirroring God’s creation. Regeneration is the beginning of the new creation. As God spoke by his sovereign word to bring order to the void, so by his word, he creates us anew. He speaks and we are transformed.

*2 Corinthians 4:6* | For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

*2 Corinthians 5:17* | Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

### EXAMPLES: LAZARUS / DRY BONES

How does this new creation occur? God speaks! God says, “Let there be light.” Jesus said to Lazarus, “Come forth,” and he lived (Jn 11:43). The prophet Ezekiel prophesies to the wind with

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<sup>11</sup> Meredith G. Kline, *Genesis: A New Commentary*, ed. Jonathan G. Kline (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2016), 10.

God's word, and the dry bones come alive (Eze 37). Up from the graves of the cemetery rise the soldiers of Israel, alive! They get flesh and blood and life! That's a picture of us today who are born again. We are God's living army! Have you experienced the new birth?

The parallel of the earth's chaos is man's sinful, chaotic heart. Sadly, man suppresses his knowledge of God. We find that mankind, like creation are "without form and chaotic, and darkness was over the face of the deep" (Gen 1:2). Christ must speak his light and hope of the gospel into our hearts for God to make order out of chaos. The Spirit of God moves upon that darkness in man's heart and begins a process of regeneration so that there emerges out of the chaos a new man, created in the image and likeness of the Son of God.<sup>12</sup>

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## 3. JESUS IS THE OMNIPOTENT CREATOR (1:3-5)

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What we find in Genesis is because the Triune God is the source of all things, he is omnipotent. As the great I Am, all things flow from him. He does not perspire. His energy has no limits. He is not like us. He is altogether "other" in his glory and greatness. When he speaks, he creates worlds and an infinite number of universes.

### HE CREATES INSTANTANEOUSLY

**Genesis 1:3** | And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

The timing of creation was instantaneous. God spoke and everything appeared.

### NOTHING IS TOO HARD FOR THE LORD

The point here is that nothing is too hard for the Lord (Gen 18:14; Jer 32:27). When you pray and when you seek God, his arm is not short, that he cannot save and deliver you fully (Isa 59:1).

God delivered Moses and his people from Pharaoh's army, and they walked through the Red Sea on dry ground (Exo 14).

God delivered the three Hebrew children from the flames of the fiery furnace (Dan 3).

God delivered Daniel from the lions' den (Dan 6:10-23).

The God who created all things with a word can deliver you too.

### GOD DIDN'T NEED BILLIONS OF YEARS

He didn't need billions of years of processes. The Scripture confirms that everything was created by the direct act of God.

*Psalm 33:6, 9* | By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host...<sup>9</sup> For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.

### EVOLUTION IS AN ASSAULT ON THE WORD OF GOD

When you hear "Billions and billions of years," you need to realize someone is lying to you. In other words, we don't need an elongated evolutionary process to bring things about. It's an assault on the plain word of God. The writer of Hebrews proclaims the manner in which God created all things. It was not evolutionary but instantaneous.

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<sup>12</sup> John Phillips, *Exploring Genesis: An Expository Commentary*, The John Phillips Commentary Series (Kregel Publications; WORDsearch Corp., 2009), Ge 1:2.

*Hebrews 11:3* | By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

By faith we can understand that all we see was made *out of nothing*. He is sovereign over creation, and that includes all humanity. He made it all, including you.

If God can create the universe, what can he do in your life? Jesus entered into the universe he created to bring you home. When everything is falling apart, he will hold you fast. He will bring you so near.

## HE CREATES LOVINGLY

*Genesis 1:4a* | And God saw that the light was good.

God is good, and everything he creates is good. The light shining over the darkness is good. God is good and does good (Psa 119:68).

### GOOD MEANS IT'S A PERSONAL ACT, NOT MERELY NATURE

What is this light? It's not some impersonal process of nature, but God himself! His love is shining forth. That's why the light is good. There is no sun, moon, or stars to give light, so God himself is the light. I can imagine the Spirit, as the pillar of glory, the Shekinah glory—displaying the beauty and wonder of God.

To say that what God did is morally “good” means that it's the act of the personal and triune God, not as a mere impersonal process of nature.<sup>13</sup> The light was morally “good” because it reflects God and his order and beauty (*cf* Psa 19:1). All people can see God's existence and beauty through the complexity of his creation (Rom 1:18-20). If there is a design, then there is a designer.

God reveals himself to all people through their conscience and through creation. There are no true atheists, only people who harden their conscience against God.

### PICTURE OF IRRESISTABLE GRACE

What a beautiful picture of our salvation the irresistible beauty and grace of God. “Let there be light” God says, and we know it's good, because by the light we can see the beauty of Jesus Christ!

### THE LIGHT HAS VICTORY OVER THE DARKNESS

In this verse (1:4a), we see a glorious goodness in the light, intimating the cosmic victory that Christ will have over sin and Satan.

Creation demonstrates God's goodness. In the Genesis 1:4 passage, the light God created was natural, physical light. Its creation was good because it demonstrated an immediate victory dispelling the darkness. Light and darkness in the Bible are symbolic of good and evil. Here began God's work which will culminate in the age to come when there will be no darkness (Rev 22:5).<sup>14</sup> This light shining over creation is good because it points to Christ. John the evangelist explains it.

*John 1:4-5* | In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There is no goodness or evil from an impersonal process of nature. There is morality here because God is preparing this earth as a place of worship to God for man to inhabit and to enjoy the earth as a temple. It's a place where God and man will fellowship together, and heaven and

<sup>13</sup> Rushdoony, *Genesis*, 7.

<sup>14</sup> Allen P. Ross, “Genesis,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 28–29.

earth are one. God is the great and good Architect of the earth as a place where man can enjoy this light (Psa 104:20–23).<sup>15</sup>

## HE CREATES IN AN ORDERLY WAY

**Genesis 1:4b-5** | And God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

### DISORDER IS FROM THE WICKED ONE

God creates time and order by separating the light from the darkness. God saw his creation as “good” (1:5) and “very good” (1:31). Disorder is not from God, but from the wicked one. The disorder that comes from Satan and later from man yielding his authority to Satan is an attempt to shift power from God to himself (3:1–5).<sup>16</sup> Even in the opening verses, in the “darkness,” we see the warning of evil that is about to enter into the world and destroy the peace of Adam and Even in the pristine garden of Paradise.

### GOD CREATES TIME

God makes order on the first day by creating time. He calls the light “Day,” and he calls the darkness “Night.” God records the very first day. How does he measure time? By the light and darkness being separated. But how? For that to happen, after the fourth day, the planets need to be just right. The moon and the sun have to be in perfect distance, or we won’t have gravity or climate control. The earth’s rotation has to be just right. This is a glorious description of a 24-day that would have to include light and darkness—night and day.

But this is the first day, with no sun moon and stars, so God himself is the light and exercises his own laws of gravity and all the laws of nature without sun, moon, and stars. Regardless, God begins time measurements by light and darkness calling it “day” and “night”.

### DARWIN’S ORIGIN AND ABSURDITY

In 1859, Darwin proposed an entirely new idea for the origin of the universe in his well-known book, “The Origin of the Species.” In his book he attempts to tell us where we came from, without God, proposing that we didn’t come from the direct act of creation from God but through billions of years of chance. You might be surprised to know that Darwin doubted his own theory. Listen to his own words.

I am quite conscious that my speculations run quite beyond the bounds of true science.<sup>17</sup>—Charles Darwin (1859)

In fact, Darwin looked upon the human eye, and basically said, “My theory is absurd!”

To suppose that the eye ... could have been formed by natural selection, seems, I freely confess, absurd in the highest degree.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> Kline, *Genesis*, 10–11.

<sup>16</sup> Rushdoony, *Genesis*, 7.

<sup>17</sup> Charles Darwin, *Letter to Asa Gray*, 18 June 1857.

<sup>18</sup> Charles Darwin, *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection; Or, The Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life* (New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1861), 167.

To suppose that the eye ... could have been formed by natural selection, seems, I freely confess, absurd in the highest degree.<sup>19</sup>

The Bible tells us our origin. Doubt all others, but never doubt the record of God's own account. His testimony of how the universe began is right here. God brought it about in six normal day and night periods, we call them days. Martin Luther confirms that it is wisest to believe God when he speaks about our origin.

If you cannot understand how this could have been done in six days, then grant the Holy Spirit the honor of being more learned than you are. For you are to deal with Scripture in such a way that you bear in mind that God himself says what is written. But since God is speaking, it is not fitting for you wantonly to turn his word in the direction you wish to go.<sup>20</sup> —Martin Luther

It's not hard to understand the meaning of the word "day." I know sometimes we say that a day seems like an eternity, but it's only an expression! God shows us in the text how to define day: it's where you have "evening" and "morning"— a normal, literal 24-hour period of time. To the original readers, they would not have imagined eons of time but a simple 24-hour period. This is not hard to understand if we read the Bible in its context. God says—six days that each had an evening and a morning.

*Genesis 1:5* | God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

*Genesis 1:8* | And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

*Genesis 1:13* | And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

We do not need to go to geology or even go to a Hebrew class to learn what God means. We can interpret the word of God by the word of God. Evening and morning make one normal twenty-four-hour day. God said it, so we believe it. Worship the one who created you and the universe and everything in it. Moses commands us to do so.

*Psalms 90:2* | Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

### Applications

Think of it! Everything you see was created by Jesus Christ. He did it instantaneously as a divine act of his own omnipotence.

First, creation points to our own redemption. God creates us anew when we come by faith to Jesus Christ. Creation not only tells us about our origins but tells us about our future. Unless the Spirit of God hovers over you in conviction and draws you to faith in Christ, you are lost and damned forever. You are under the righteous wrath of God. So, here's the message of creation: come to Jesus! Come to the God who created you. God didn't hold back, so you don't hold back. Come to him in faith right now.

Second, creation points to God's power to not only create you anew, but to help you grow in Christ. He wants to take the chaos in your life and give you love, joy, and peace. Jesus Christ is the maintainer and sustainer of all creation. He upholds all things by the word of his power (Heb 1:3). And there is nothing too hard for the Lord. What hard spot are you in? Invite the Spirit of God to hover over your chaos and bring order. The omnipotent creator loves you and will spare nothing

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<sup>19</sup> Charles Darwin, *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection; Or, The Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life* (New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1861), 167.

<sup>20</sup> Martin Luther and Ewald M. Plass, *What Luther Says: An Anthology* (St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House, 1986), 1523.

to help you and keep you if you walk with him in loving trust, true faith. What are you struggling with? Turn to the creator. He's there to take your heart and soften it. He's there to bring you joy in Jesus.

Stop running into chaos and surrender to the God of creation. John Glenn, speaking about his view of the Earth from the space shuttle Discovery said this.

To look at the window, as I did that first day—to look out at this kind of creation and not believe in God is to me impossible. It just strengthens my faith.<sup>21</sup>—Astronaut John Glenn

#### Conclusion

A little girl was sitting on her grandfather's lap as he read her a bedtime story. From time to time, she would take her eyes off the book and reach up to stroke his wrinkled cheek. She was alternately feeling her own cheek, then his again. Finally, she spoke up, "Grandpa, did God make you?"

"Yes, Sweetheart," he answered, "God made me a long time ago."

"Oh," she paused. "Grandpa, did God make me too?"

"Yes, indeed, honey," he said, "God made you just a little while ago."

Feeling their respective faces again, she observed, "God's getting better at it, isn't he?"<sup>22</sup>

Dear friend, God indeed made you, as he did all things. You are loved by God. You did not come into existence by chance. Your life has a real, eternal purpose. Surrender to your creator and you will not only find forgiveness and cleansing from your sins, but you will find fullness as the Spirit of God hovers over you and creates you anew in the image of Jesus Christ.

#### Benediction

1 Timothy 6:15-16 - He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

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<sup>21</sup> Julie Zauzmer, "In Space, John Glenn Saw the Face of God: 'It Just Strengthens My Faith,'" *The Salt Lake Tribune*, December 20, 2016, <https://www.sltrib.com/news/nation-world/2016/12/20/in-space-john-glenn-saw-the-face-of-god-it-just-strengthens-my-faith/>.

<sup>22</sup> "Children and the Church," *You've Got Mail* (Plainview Daily Herald, July 28, 2016), <https://www.myplainview.com/news/article/You-ve-Got-Mail-8481003.php>.