

God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. (Genesis 1:31)

Lord of all creation, you are the Maker of all things, and you continue to graciously sustain the created order. Thank you for giving us a world in which to live and work. May we be good stewards of the earth and of all that you have so generously given us. We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Introduction

In the first chapter of the Bible, we hear how God created the heavens and the earth by the power of his Word. As the crown of his creation, God made humankind in his own image. He gave humans a garden in which to live and work as his stewards.

Read: Genesis 1:1 - 2:3

On reading these verses, what are some of your initial impressions and questions? What stands out to you?

The Biblical Context

The first five books of the Bible are known as the Pentateuch (pronounced: PENT-ah-tewk) — meaning “the five scrolls.” These books are Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

The Bible starts in the book of Genesis with the story of Creation, on a large scale in Chapter 1 and a “close-up” scale in Chapter 2. These theologically significant stories describe the very beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth and made every living creature to be his own. The creation stories also speak of how sin entered the world in humanity’s Fall from grace in the Garden of Eden.

These archetypal stories illustrate God’s relationship to the things he has made. We hear not only about God’s work in the natural world, but also about God’s relationship with us as human beings.

Discussion Questions

1. What are the first four words of the Bible? According to the Bible, everything that exists in our universe was created — except for whom?
2. The Bible says that before creation everything was “without form” and “void” (v. 1:2). What do these words mean?
3. What was the first thing God created? What did he do to bring his creation into being?
4. Can you list what God made on each day of creation?
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
 5. _____
 6. _____

What happened on the seventh day?

5. Read Romans 1:20. How do all the wonders of nature reveal that there is a God? What are things that could not exist by accident, but had to have been designed by a Designer?
6. The words “And God saw that it was good” are repeated over and over in Genesis 1. In other words, “God doesn’t create junk!” What does this say about you? How is this true even in times of failure and loss?
7. Read Isaiah 45:5-8, 12. What is the main point that God repeats in these verses? As his created people, why is it important to remember that it was God who made us and that we belong to him?
8. In Isaiah 45:4-5, God says, “I name/equip you, though you do not know me” Does God exist because we believe in him? Or does God exist whether we believe in him or not? Explain.