

a deeper dive

INTO YOUR FAVORITE BIBLE STORIES

2 – What a Wonderful World – The Story of Creation

Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!

Genesis 1:31 NLT

What kind of a place would you like your world to be?

- What things made you feel good about being outside when you were a child? The warm breezes, the endless days of exploring the neighborhood or the woods and grounds around you?
- What gives you that “vacation” feeling as an adult? Sunny days (no rain) by the oceans, bubbling brook or lakes?
- What about food and drink? What tastes appeal to your senses the most? How about tropical fruit drinks from places you’ve never visited? Fresh, cool, clean and crystal-clear water?
- How about your health? Do you think about your life span – how long will it be? Thinking now about how to guard from the pain of aging?
- What about relationships – are they encouraging and supportive, and do they fulfill your deepest needs and expressions of who you are?

It seems apparent that answering these questions honestly will build a clearer picture of what God intended for all mankind when He put Adam and Eve in a garden.

Have you ever thought what God designed life for human beings would bring the greatest and most complete sense of peace, enjoyment, health and happiness?

Genesis 1:27-31 erv

²⁷ So God created humans in his own image. He created them to be like himself. He created them male and female. ²⁸ God blessed them and said to

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them, “Have many children. Fill the earth and take control of it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the air. Rule over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

²⁹ God said, “I am giving you all the grain bearing plants and all the fruit trees. These trees make fruit with seeds in it. This grain and fruit will be your food. ³⁰ And I am giving all the green plants to the animals. These green plants will be their food. Every animal on earth, every bird in the air, and all the little things that crawl on the earth will eat that food.” And all these things happened.

³¹ God looked at everything he had made. And he saw that everything was very good.

There was evening, and then there was morning. This was the sixth day.

“So, God created...”

This is a great place to begin our look into the birth of everything that exists today.

Before we can understand the value of our beginning we must first come to terms with a creator and the truth behind this statement.

Genesis 1:1-2 erv

God created the sky and the earth. At first, ² the earth was completely empty. There was nothing on the earth. Darkness covered the ocean, and God’s Spirit moved over^[a] the water.

If we balk at the statement that God created everything from nothing, then we lose the foundation of our faith in all of scripture.

Chuck Swindoll writes, “Why would intelligent men and women embrace human theories rather than the statement of God when it comes to the creation of a world and the origin of humanity? Perhaps it’s just too simple for the sophisticated. Obviously, it requires a belief in a supreme being greater than they. Yet, the

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existence of our world and humanity defies all mathematical calculations of chance!”

But, even believing the truth of the account of creation we still may ask,

Why did God create this world?

The simple answer is for the pleasure of having a creature able and willing to be in relationship with Him.

- God wanted a creature ***that bore His own image*** – to be like Him (**Genesis 1:27**).
- God wanted ***to give the best of life experiences to us*** – the garden.
- God wanted ***to live in a harmonious relationship with us*** (**Genesis 2:7-24**).
 - Walking with Him (Genesis 3:8; Micah 6:8).
 - Giving us life-fulfilling responsibilities by caring for what is His.

God shared light with us for both day and night.

God shared the sky with us that provided a canvas of changing artistic views.

God shared dry land and plants with us to dwell on, to cultivate for food and to share with the animals.

God shared the sun, moon, and stars with us to “rule” over the days and nights – dividing time and seasons. But, also to enhance growth, and create an atmosphere for new life for all living things.

God shared the fish and birds with us that were blessed by God and given the task of regeneration of its own species.

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God shared the land animals with us and gave us others to care for and watch after. He gave us family and told us to “*fill the earth*” and be responsible for everything. He made the animals and gave them to us to care for and provide for.

God shared everything with us.

We are the only inhabitants.

Then why is life so complicated and destructive?

Psalm 139:14 “*We are fearfully and wonderfully made.*”

We often hear the beautiful depths of God’s creative care in the two descriptive terms, “fearfully” and “wonderfully”.

But we must remember that the bottom line is that God made us.

And, like the people in all of scripture we have chosen to leave the One who made us.

We have fallen. We were fallen at birth and have carried on what our parents and grandparents and great-grandparents passed down – “sin.”

Our sin is an offense to the holiness of God and results in divine judgment (like the punishment of casting Adam and Eve out of paradise). And, like the flood in Noah’s time, this is a judgment over the entire human race.

Sin introduced death to Adam and Eve.

Death covered the entire world with corruption and decay, before which had not existed.

We are living under this curse, and our judgment is death.

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What God has done for us since the original sin is to begin the process of redemption and restoration.

Redemption and Restoration

The book of Genesis closes how most people close out their lives on earth. It comes to a close in a coffin.

“So Joseph died and... after they embalmed him, he was placed in a coffin in Egypt” (**Genesis 50:26** NIV).

But just as God clothed and redirected Adam and Eve in their fallen state of sin, so He is in the restoration work of all of us.

God announced to the serpent, the devil, that “His” (Jesus, the Messiah’s) heel will crush his head.

Even today, with all the stain of sin on our lives, Jesus will be able to give us a new, clean start in the remainder of our journey on earth.

God loves us all, from Adam to last person on earth when time has come to a close.

God wants to restore our relationship with Him. And He proves how much through the life of His only Son, Jesus.

God is able to walk with us again.

1 John 4:10

This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

Romans 3:24-25

Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. ²⁵ For God

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presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood.

Not just at the end of our life, “*in His grace [He] freely makes us right in His sight.*” (Rom. 3:24)

- This speaks to the NOW of our life.
- The moment we become connected through Jesus to God, we are made right in His presence.

One day, when Jesus returns to raise up the dead in Christ and the saints in the church, God will fully restore our relationship with Him. Then when the New Heaven meets the New Earth (Revelation 21:1,2), we will be in the restored setting of Adam and Eve’s perfect home.

It won’t be the Garden of Eden. It will be fully restored with no possible attempt of wrongdoing on Satan’s part or through another disturbed angel.

What kind of place do you want your NEW world to be?

- No inclement weather,
- No darkness of night, God will illuminate all the kingdom (Revelation 21:23-27).
- No sorrow, death, disease, or brokenness (Revelation 21:4).
- No abandoned relationships.
- There will be rest – a season of “Jubilee.”

Then Jesus is your only hope.