

Genesis Series – Part 1: God’s Creation Song

Pastor Brian Flewelling

August 15, 2021

Tag Line: The Story of Life.

I have been looking forward to this five-week journey we’re taking through the book of Genesis. This ancient 3,500-year-old scroll called Berachashith, Beginnings, Genesis, this first book of the Bible is still so intensely true, it brings order and clarity to people’s lives today, it answers the most important questions in life—it’s more relevant to your life than the headlines on CNN. There’s a sobriety and a gravity to the stories of humanity that it tells. And we find our own story echoing and resonating inside of these stories that it tells.

This morning we’re looking at Genesis chapter 1

As we look at this first chapter, I want you to notice a couple things right out of the gate.

- It is densely packed as is. The writer takes 13 chapters to tell Joseph’s story and one page to talk about the history of the universe. Some of our personal journals can take more than a page. There’s a reason for the arrangement.
- We want to know about the age of the universe and micro evolution and macro evolution. Our shallow materialist culture wants to know “how.” Give us the lab report, the DIY video on how you did it. It’s not that we can’t find answers to our questions, it’s just that he’s trying to answer a different question—a more important question.
- Society keeps asking, “how” was I created? God is answering, “why” was I created, and by whom?
- It is ornately, rhythmically, and theologically arranged – a Creation Hymn, **God sings a creation song!**
- Ie. Like that chapter in Narnia when Aslan sings and worlds are formed. Poetic. Magisterial.
- It’s a Sabbath Song. Creation keeps getting refined.
- The woman came after the man. She is refined. Men come with smells and bells.
- The crescendo of creation is God and man resting in the union of souls. God spent the days of creation setting the table so that we could feast in his presence.
- How long did that take? That’s not the point.

Slide: God said...let there be...and it was so...and there was evening and there was morning
--the first day
--the second day
--the third day

Genesis 1

Sometimes you can get so lost you need God to tell you your story back to you. Lost in your career, lost in the monotony of being a stay-at-home mom, lost in the disappointments with your marriage, or sometimes lost in the pursuit of your personal pleasures. Chasing highs.

- This book doesn't come to us until Moses—halfway through humanity's story.

Isabella's Story:

A 15-year-old, Mom & Dad divorced after twenty years. Confusion, pain, questions

Ministry: First prayer ministry didn't know anything about her.

"I believe the Lord he wants to retell your story—he's going to take the pain and the confusion, and the questions—reinterpret your story from his heart."

The next person didn't know that she was a musician and said:

"And God is going to give you a voice to retell his stories to the next generation."

A third person said: "The Lord is saying there would be rivers of life (Rev 22) flowing from her." That person didn't know that this girl's name meant "Life."

The Lord reshaped, that whole season of pain and confusion and breathed purpose and meaning again.

Zephaniah 3:17

The Lord your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you; he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing.

- The Israelites were lost in Egypt, they were following Egyptian gods.
- Humanity had lost its way; we had forgotten all about the Creator.

God begins to retell our story back to us. This morning I want you to hear God singing our story back to us! This is where you came from. This is who I am. Don't forget about me, my goodness and my plan, to love you more.

God is the sacred author (of life), **and he has a sacred order** (to life)!

- You are not an accident. You are not unwanted.
- Even if your own mother or father looked you in the eye and said you were a mistake.
- God is saying, I alone am the author of Life, you are not a mistake.
- Every one of my children get my full attention and my full blessing!

- [V.1 Says in the beginning God created...](#)
- It doesn't say, "In the beginning the cosmic broth bubbled forth..."
- There was no soup. There were no ingredients. No bullion to begin with.
- Out of nothing –out of inspiration of God's imagination—He created...
- He gives the Hebrews his name--Elohim! I am one. But I am more powerful than your pantheon. Whoever you think you are trying to impress. I'm bigger. Whoever you think holds the key to happiness in your life...I am the Giver of Life.
- God is magisterial. He's bigger than anything you can imagine. So

Slide: Our sacred author is transcendent and all powerful.

- *Ill: The Mountains of Montana.*
- **Slide: Picture of the Garden Wall Glacier National**



- It's like Sacred Author is saying, "I just wanted to remind you how big I am."
- In case you get used to impressing people with your important status, or your people's choice award, and executive position...
- *"If you are the center of your story, your story is too small."* John Eldridge
- Mankind in our hubris is always chipping away at God, reducing him down to our size, something I can control, an idol, something I can understand, or predict.
- That's what religion is. It's always bringing God into our safe little formula.
- He is out of your control. He is the first creative. He does what he wants. Whatever he can imagine. He is pure Spirit without body. Literally, no limitations.
- God is huge, and inescapable. –You can wage war against God and against the truth for a while, but eventually the consequence of violating immutable laws falls upon you.
- **Revelation 6:16**
[They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!](#)

And yet, this God, that I can't contain, who stands outside of our categories of mass and circumference, he comes down into it and communes with his creation.

- **Genesis 2:7**
The Lord formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life...
- CPR – that’s pretty intimate—waking up to somebody’s face in your face
- Just a phrase before that God reveals another of his names.
- **Genesis 2:5**
For the **Lord God** had not sent rain on the earth yet...—Yahweh. “I am.” As the rain nurses the ground.

Slide: Our sacred author is intimate and faithful.

- He designed you for communion with him. You were created with compatible parts.

Genesis 1:26-27

Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness...God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them...

- You aren’t just another step in the evolutionary chain of animals. You are more than a bear foraging all day to fill his hollow stomach.

Matthew 4:4

Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

- Why does your soul long for things that add nothing to your survival: like purpose? Why do people leave lucrative jobs and take financial risks to do something they love? For friendship, peace, beauty, loyalty, courage? None of these makes sense to the eagle in the tree top or the rabbit in the field.
- You are the bridge between Creator and Creation. Body of an animal and the Spirit of God.
- God is retelling our story: You are more than animal. Don’t be dragged around by animal instincts and appetites and unfettered sexuality.
- Learn to say no to your ever-expanding appetites and labors and learn to pursue the blessing that come from communion with God’s Spirit.

Genesis 1:27 male and female he created them. God blessed them...

- God loves to bless the things he creates; he takes no pleasure in pain or destruction.
- In the garden of God’s design, we see men and women equally gifted; equally valuable; equally recognized in the Lord’s eyes.
- Men and women operating in strength together.
- Not toxic masculinity and male-neutering feminism. Not jealous of each other or intimidated by each other’s successes.

- It's in our togetherness that the fullness of his image is expressed in our marriages and leadership teams, civic, and religious communities.

Summary of section:

The sacred author is singing our story back to us. Don't forget who I am. Don't forget who I made you to be.

I have to follow the sacred order to commune with the sacred author.

- [John 14:23](#) Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. (Notice the sacred order) [My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.](#) (The communion of souls results)

When we follow the Author's recipe, we get the delicious results of blessing & friendship. God's not being vicious or nasty, he's inviting us to live in harmony with the Truth!

We see order, distinction, and structure everywhere!

[v.2 Now the earth was formless and empty and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.](#)

- Notice how God is constantly bringing order out of chaos. He can do that for your life.
- [V.21 So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing...according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind...\(v.25\) creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind.](#)
- Notice we don't have species soup? Isn't that what you'd expect from evolution if everything is in constant state of evolutionary fluidity?
- [Evolution moves exactly in opposite direction of the way it's supposed to. There is devolution within Species. But we never see Genus evolving up into different Phyla.](#)
- Notice God also makes distinctions. Earth and Sky are two different things. Land and Sea. Male & Female. Light & Dark.
- God is calling us to be a people who identify with the light--who make a distinction between darkness into the light.
- Don't pollute your temple with depraved things, pornographic things, violent things. You don't belong to this culture.
- Our 50 Shades of Grey culture has thrown off the Sacred Order God has placed on our sexuality. Those boundaries are too restrictive: Bi-sexual, pansexual, non-binary, and Fluidity.
- Maybe that feels liberating to some people for a while. But the confusion of it, the seeking of sexuality to give me meaning or identity pushes us further and further from the Sacred Order of the Sacred Author.
- I see a generation thirsting for meaning but resistant to. The sacred author provides a sacred order.
- Over the next two weeks we will investigate what happens when we make choices not to live in God's sacred order. What are the damages our choices create?

- Weeks 4-5 we'll look at Recreation after our destruction, God's plan "B" for your life and for planet earth for our nation.

The crescendo of God's creation is you and I resting with our creator.

Not trying to create my own rules. Not trying to run the whole operation. Learning how to live in the humility of his order. Creating habits of surrender, habits that shut out busyness, or cut off culture, or make technology go to sleep, stop exhaling, to stop carrying the weight of the world, and managing our portfolios, and trying to solve every problem on our own, stop trying to make a name for yourself --and learn how to be a child again and sit in Daddy's lap and enjoy his company. And just breath. That's sabbath! He is the sacred author, and he has a sacred order, and the highest purpose in your life is to learn to rest in his unfailing love and enjoy the Creator within his creation.

God is retelling his side of the story!

Matthew 11:29-30

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Ministry Time: