

Rom Jukes

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**Purpose, Power, and the Presence of God**

*Genesis 1:1–5*

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## **I. Beginnings Matter (Genesis 1:1)**

**“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”**

### **A. Scripture begins with God, not us**

- The Bible does not begin with humanity, morality, or the universe
- It begins with **God already present and active**
- Even the alternative translation (“When God began to create...”) keeps God as the starting point

### **B. Three foundational human questions**

Genesis answers the deepest questions beneath all cultures:

1. Why is there something rather than nothing?
2. Is reality meaningful or accidental?
3. Is God distant or involved?

### **Big Idea:**

If God is the beginning, then meaning is not something we invent—it is something we discover.

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## **II. Creation Without Conflict: God Speaks the World into Being (Genesis 1:1–3)**

### **A. Creation *ex nihilo* — from nothing**

- God does not work with pre-existing materials
- He does not need to conquer or negotiate
- Augustine: God makes everything **without needing anything**

### **B. Contrast with ancient and modern origin stories**

- **Ancient myths:** creation through violence, humanity as slaves
- **Modern theories:** chance, necessity, impersonal forces
- **Genesis:** calm, intentional, purposeful speech

### C. Creation is spoken, not forced

- “And God said...”
- No struggle, no chaos battle
- God calls reality into existence

What God says, *comes to be*.

#### Theological Claim:

Creation is not accidental or hostile—it is intentional and responsive to God’s word.

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## III. The God Who Is Actively Present (Genesis 1:2–5)

In just five verses, God is not passive or distant. He is deeply involved.

### A. What God does in Genesis 1:1–5

God:

- Creates, Hovers, Speaks, Sees, Separates, Names

This is not a detached architect.

This is an **engaged Creator**.

### B. God’s seeing is evaluative and relational

- “God saw that the light was good”
- Seeing leads to:
  - Order, Distinction, Naming, Purpose

#### Key Insight:

What God speaks into being, He also *beholds* and *calls good*.

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## IV. The God Who Sees: From Creation to the Margins

### A. El Roi — “The God Who Sees” (Genesis 16:13)

- Hagar is the first person in Scripture to name God
- She is: A foreigner, A woman, Enslaved and powerless

Yet God:

- Sees her, Speaks to her, Makes promises to her

God's seeing is not observation—it is **intervention**.

### **B. Seeing leads to transformation**

- Hagar moves from despair to purpose
- Her future is reopened by being seen

### **C. Echo in John 4 — the Woman at the Well**

- Another marginalized woman
- Another encounter where God sees and speaks
- Result: witness, mission, and renewed identity

### **Connection:**

The God who sees the light in creation  
is the same God who sees people in the margins.

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## **V. Why This Matters Now**

### **A. If the universe is intentional, you are not an accident**

- Meaning is embedded in creation
- Purpose flows from God's word

### **B. God still speaks, sees, and names**

- God's word still creates life
- God's seeing still calls people "good"
- God's presence still hovers over chaos

### **C. Creation points toward relationship**

God does not create merely to display power  
He creates so the world—and we—can **know Him**

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