

**God's Story, Our Stories**  
**Creation, Parts 1 & 2**  
**Genesis 1-2**

*Creation (Genesis 1-2)*

We can only make sense of our particular stories once we view ourselves as participants in God's Story - a story that starts "In the beginning..."

**1. Introduction**

The Bible is one coherent story of God's dealings with the world, focused upon humanity: Creation, Fall, Redemption and Restoration. Now that we are two weeks into this series (a 15 week overview of the Bible), do you agree that in order to really make sense of our particular stories, we must see that our lives are embedded in God's Big Story? Why, or why not? What sorts of questions do you hope are answered at some point in the series?

**2. God Made Everything PERIOD**

The account of the creation of the world in Genesis 1 is highly structured. While certainly stressing the fact that this Creator-God is powerful beyond comprehension, the big point (often missed!) is that this Creator-God made everything – PERIOD! There is nothing else left for any other 'god' to contribute or rule.

- a. While people in our culture may not believe in beings like the "sun god" or a "fertility god" as the ancient people did, in what ways are we just as likely to worship (i.e. trust / obey / serve) someone or something besides the one true God? In what ways do we treat some created thing as ultimate things?
  
- b. In what ways do these false gods enslave us in their service – making false promises, idle threats, and wearisome demands? In this light, how is Genesis 1 "good news" for us today?

**3. God Made Everything GOOD**

Seven times in Genesis 1, we read that God surveyed what He had made, and declared it "good". This is not merely good in an abstract sense, but indicates God's delight in what He had made. Verse 31 invites us to take a look at the world through God's eyes, and join him in his delight.

In what ways does a robust understanding of creation enable a Christian to experience greater delight in our embodied existence in the physical world than an atheist?

**4. God made humanity “in His image”...**

God made human beings “in His image”, which means that we have certain capacities that resemble God more than the other creatures. Human beings are the pinnacle of creation!

- a. In what ways should the fact that we are made “in God’s image” give every human being a great sense of dignity?
  
- b. In what ways should the fact that we are made “in God’s image” fill every human being with a great sense of humility?
  
- c. Bonus! Why does the Bible frequently speak as though our treatment of other people is an action for or against God Himself? (cf. Matthew 25:31-46, James 3:9)

**5. ... so that we might Rule**

God commissioned the humans to rule over the world by (1) bearing children (i.e. multiplying God’s image and (2) building civilization (subduing the earth). Genesis 1:26-28 is frequently called the “Cultural Mandate”. How do you understand your work (paid or unpaid, office or home) as participating in God’s mandate to advance His creative and wise rule through bearing children and building civilization? In other words, how do you understand what you do all week as being an expression of your faith in Christ, rather than a distraction from your faith in Christ?

**6. ... so that we might Relate**

Genesis 1-2 describes a world that is fundamentally relational – in fact, a world that cannot function properly apart from harmonious relationships. This includes our foundational relationship with our Creator, as well as our relationships with other people (it is NOT good that the man should be alone...) and with the rest of the created order. In what ways does our present experience validate / resonate with the fact that harmonious relationships are at the center of “the way things are supposed to be”, presented in Genesis 1-2?