

Long Story Short: A Good God

Reflect

1. What do you think when you see the moon rise, or the sun set?
2. What do you feel when you look through the telescope into the night sky, or see through the microscope in the lab?
3. Who or what created this universe, and for what purpose?

Read Your Bible

- Genesis 1:1-31
- John 1:1-5

Apply God's Word to Your Life

1. In your own words, describe what creation was like in Genesis 1:2.
2. Note that in the first six days of creation, "God saw that it was good." What does that "goodness" mean?
3. God created humankind last. Why do you think God created people last?
4. Both men and women are created in the image of God. What do you think that means, and specifically what does that say about you?
5. Using your own words, what does Genesis 1:28 say to you?
6. How does God see the creation in Genesis 1:31, and what do you think this means?
7. As you read John's Gospel, it makes a very profound statement about who Jesus is. Who is Jesus according to those first few verses, and what role was Jesus doing in "the beginning?"

Conclusion

The first chapter of Genesis helps us understand who created this beauty-filled creation, and why. Simply put, God created it out of love. Creating is a profound part of who this God is. He created it for the goodness He would see in it, and for the relationship He would have with humankind made in His image. This is a snapshot of God's intent for all creation, and for you. That we would live in harmony with God and one another. And that we, like God, would participate in the on-going shaping of creation. That we would rule as God would, with out grasping for power and exploiting people or the creation. Rather, we would rule with love enhancing all of creation and blessing people.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, Creator God, You made all that there is, even me. You looked with fondness upon it and called it good, very good. Even in my rebellion against You, Your love pours out. You chose not to be done with me, but You loved me so much that You sent Jesus to recreate me into His image. You loved me so much He gave His life so that I might walk with You forever. Help me to bless other people around me, give me Your eyes to see Your image and goodness in them, and to love just like You. In Jesus' name, the Word made flesh's name. Amen.