

From Chaos to Purpose:
What God creates the
universe for...

Genesis 1:1-2:1
1/12/25

Why Genesis?

If we get the beginning of the story wrong,
we are prone to misunderstand Jesus

AND

misrepresent Him to others.

Goal for today

According to the Creation account, why does God create the universe? What is God's original motive and purpose for His creation (the universe, including us)?

In other words:

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According to the Creation account, why does God create the universe? What is God's original motive and purpose for His creation (the universe, including us)?

In other words:

Why are we here?

“In the beginning, God created the heavens
and the earth.” Gen. 1:1

Genesis 1:2-31 (Creation account)

“Thus the heavens and the earth were
finished, and all the host of them.” Gen 2:1

Then God rests...

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.”

Gen. 1:1-2

² The earth was:

1. without form and void,

2. and darkness

3. was over the face of the deep. And
the Spirit of God was hovering over
the face of the waters.”

Gen. 1:2

Three Pictures of chaos/disorder/uninhabitable space

1. Desert wilderness (tohu vavohu)
2. Deep waters (tehom)
3. Darkness

Three Pictures of chaos/disorder/uninhabitable space

without form and void

(tohu vavohu)

“Wild and Waste”

Jeremiah 4:23

Desert wasteland

Three Pictures of chaos/disorder/uninhabitable space

the deep
(tehom)

“Chaos waters, abyss, waters below”

Ps. 104:6

Three Pictures of
chaos/disorder/uninhabitable space

Darkness

(Choshek)

“The shadow of death”

Job 24:13-28

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.”

Gen. 1:1-2

³ And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶ And God said, “Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” ⁷ And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. ⁸ And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹ And God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry land Earth,^[d] and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

¹¹ And God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants^[e] yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth.” And it was so. ¹² The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

Now, **the land** **was wild and waste**
and **darkness** was over
the face of **the deep abyss**

Day 1: Light contains the **darkness**

Day 2: **Waters** separated and ordered

Day 3: **Dry land** and **edible plants** emerge from the waters

¹⁴ And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons,^[f] and for days and years,¹⁵ and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶ And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷ And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, ¹⁸ to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰ And God said, “Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds^[g] fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens.” ²¹ So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” ²³ And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴ And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so. ²⁵ And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make man^[h] in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him,
male and female he created them.

²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” ²⁹ And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. ³¹ And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

COSMOS ORDERED

AND

FILLED WITH INHABITANTS

Day 1:

"And God said ..."

light and dark / day and night

Evening and Morning: Day 1

Day 4:

"And God said ..."

lights separate and rule day and night

Evening and Morning: Day 4

**HEAVEN
(THE SKIES)**

Day 2:

"And God said ..."

**The dome separates ...
... the waters above**

... the waters below
Evening and Morning: Day 2

Day 5:

"And God said ..."

**Creatures in the waters ...
... birds by the waters above**

... fish in the waters below
Evening and Morning: Day 5

AND

Day 3:

"And God said ..."

**the waters below gather
the dry land emerges**

+1 Bonus!
plants and seed emerge from the ground
Evening and Morning: Day 3

Day 6:

"And God said ..."

**land creatures emerge
from the dry land
humans appointed to rule**

+1 Bonus!
and provided with trees, plants and seeds
Evening and Morning: Day 6

**EARTH
(THE LAND)**

Summary of Creation

God, through His Spirit and Word, creates the entire universe, transforming chaos into a home for human beings, culminating in God partnering with humanity to rule and reign over His creation.

*And then some rest.

Goal for today

According to the Creation account, why does God create the universe? What is God's goal and purpose for creation (the universe, including us)?

Answer: To create a space for His images (us) to abundantly live through the sharing of His rule and reign!

*And then some rest...

Why are we here?

To live abundantly, ruling and reigning WITH GOD in His Creation.

(“to be human image-bearers on dry land, farming and having families”-Tim Mackie)

*And then some rest...