

# The God who made everything and is making everything new.

## Genesis 1

Gen 1:1 - 'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.'

- *In the beginning* - there was a beginning - matter is not eternal.
- *God* - if matter is not eternal God is
- *Created* - God is the creator
- *The heavens and the earth*: layers of creation: heavens/skies and earth; seen and unseen.

What follows in Gen 1 are the successive days of creation as God speaks the cosmos into being.

According to Don Carson (The God Who is There) Gen 1 sets the stage for everything else the Bible tells us about God, including:

1. **He is.**
2. **God made everything that is not God**
3. **There is only one God.**
4. **God is a God who speaks**
5. **Everything he makes is good.**

But it doesn't stay that way.

## Genesis 3

In response to Adam's rebellion, creation is cursed (Gen 3:17-18) and Adam cannot put this right on his own.

## Genesis 6-8:

In God's judgment, there is a return to the watery chaos of Genesis 1. Yet out of that judgment, God makes a covenant with creation (Gen 8:22)

## Psalms

Many of the psalms take up the theme of creation, and God as the creator, and use it as a reason to worship him (eg Ps 19:1)

But the psalms also use the order of God in creation as a reminder that God can and will bring order to the geopolitical chaos of the world (eg Ps 74)

**Psalm 139** does something else: God is the creator of the Cosmos, but he is also *my* creator.

## The Wisdom Books:

**Job:** From Job 38 on the Lord fires question after question at Job (like 38:4) Each time it's to do with God's power in creation. It brings home to Job (and us) that it's God who knows everything not us, and he might have reasons for allowing things to happen that we have no idea about.

**Proverbs:** In Prov 8 wisdom is personified as the master craftsman at YHWH's side in creation (v29-30).

**Ecclesiastes:** Apart from God, there is a pointlessness/futility (=hebel) to nature (eg 1:7-8). We need more than a naturalistic, materialistic view of nature if our souls are going to be satisfied. Also, 12:1 reminds us: humble yourself under your Creator now, before the seeming pointlessness of old age does it for you.

## Prophets

The prophets draw on the theme of God as creator in three ways:

1. **In the Judgement of Exile:** Creation is pictured as falling apart (Is 24:1-6)

**2. In Promise of Return from Exile:** The promise of returning to Jerusalem is built on reminders of God's creative activity: if he can create the universe, he can bring the people out of captivity. (eg Is 42:5-7).

And in his use of Cyrus - a pagan emperor - to bring about the return God demonstrates himself to be sovereign over redemption, just as he is sovereign over creation: Can the clay talk back to the potter? (Is 45)

**3. In the Promise of Renewed Creation:** (eg Is 55:13; 65:17; 66:22-23)

### **New Testament**

The NT restates the truths about God and creation we read in the OT: (eg Heb 11:3; Rom 1:20).

And the Lord who is sovereign over creation is also sovereign over redemption - in predestination and election: 'Can the clay say to the potter...?' (Rom 9 cf Is 45).

However, there is also a huge step-change in revelation: **The place of Christ in creation**

1. **He is God's Word incarnate** - (John 1:1-3, 14), and God's wisdom incarnate (1 Cor 1:30)
2. **Jesus' miracles are miracles of creation** - and he performs them through his word.
3. **Creation is not just by him, and through him, but for him.** (Col 1:16). This means that the purpose, the telos, of our lives is to glorify him.
4. **The New Creation begins in him:** He rises from the dead on the first day of the week - the first day of the new creation. As the Second Adam he creates a new humanity (2 Cor 5:17). In him creation is being renewed (Rom 8:20-24). And this renewal of creation reaches its climax in the new heavens and the new earth (Rev 21:1-5).

So, all the prophets spoke about is coming true in Christ. Through his death and resurrection, the curse is being reversed, our hearts are made new, and it will end in the New Heavens and New earth.

Christ is the God who made everything and is making everything new.

### **APPLICATION**

1. We are created - you don't get to define yourself
2. We are created for him - our telos, our purpose, is not found in ourselves but in him.
3. Science: The more we see the incredible detail and design of creation - the more accountable we become. Far from science disproving God, it makes us ever more accountable.
4. The created world is his: we are his image bearers and stewards. It is not ours to do with as we like. We are to care for it.
5. But creation is not God - so we don't worship it.
6. Today, there is a growing eco-anxiety. It fuels hopelessness and childlessness. But there is hope! So don't be anxious and do (if you can) have children!
7. Enjoy creation - but remember: our enjoyment of creation should always be secondary to our enjoyment and worship of God. Look at creation and wonder and worship the Creator.