

## It Was Good ▪ Genesis 1:3-25

---

Ryan Perz ▪ September 10, 2023

---

Our Christian faith is built on words and speech.

—A person comes to faith through gospel words that are shared and spoken.

—On the Lord's Day, the preached Word takes up a bulk of our time.

We can trace the importance of speech back to the beginning:

God creates all things in 6 days through the power of his spoken Word.

- We come to a very familiar, but vital chapter of the Bible: The Days of Creation.

**Main Point: In 6 ordinary days a personal God creates with power and purpose.**

### The 6 Days of Creation

- Right out of the gate: I understand Gen. 1 to describe creation in 6 ordinary days. That's the most natural way to read the text.

(It's true that there are texts which say that to the Lord, a thousand years is like a day and day like a thousand years; the Hebrew word for day can mean more.)

—But you have a pattern of “evening and morning” (v5)

—And you have Ex. 20:11 “For in 6 days the Lord made the heaven and the earth.”

Some have taken other views:

—Days are not literal, but express ages (geological ages)

—There was a large gap of time between Gen. 1:1 & 1:2

—The days are God's workdays

- These are put forward by some in their attempt to reconcile the belief that the universe is billions of years old.

\*One view that has gained traction in the scientific community is Theistic Evolution; progressive creation.

Main proponent: Francis Collins—*The Language of God*;

Also, the group Biologos

Premises: (God was originally behind the evolutionary process)

- The universe came into being 14 billion years ago.
- Once evolution got under way, no special supernatural intervention required.
- Humans are part of the process, sharing a common ancestor with apes.

- Collins and those who promote Theistic Evolution (like Biologos) end up casting doubt on Adam being a historical figure.

“I find that theistic evolution is by far to be the most scientifically consistent and spiritually satisfying alternatives” (Language of God, p210).

Personally, I don't find it spiritually satisfying to know I'm a common ancestor of the apes, or that my origin was an amoeba evolving from a slime pool.

- › But beyond the subjective part of it being satisfying, or not....is it faithful to the text of scripture?

The acid test: Is my understanding of origins have the faithful foundation of God's Word?

- The Bottom Line: What's your source of authority? Is it science?
- Either science interprets the Bible, or the Bible interprets science.

Gen. 1 is written to be understood as 6 ordinary days.

Herman Bavinck:

“...it presents no saga or myth or poetical fantasy, but...according to its clear intention, presents history, which deserves faith and trust”.

We have a good foundation here.

We are drawn to several things:

—God’s power, purpose, and that he is personal.

### **God Creates with Power**

- Gen. 1 first shows us the power of God’s Word to create. The phrase “God said” occurs 10x.

And God said...and it was so

- Gen. 1 also shows us the power of God’s rule.
- The creation account is a direct challenge to all the other worldviews surrounding Israel: polytheistic (multiple gods ruling, competing for rule over)

E.G: Sumerian religion had one god, Anu, who was the god of the sky;

and Enlil, the god of the atmosphere.

Egypt had the sun god, Re.

Ugaritic moon god was Yarik.

*The true God has the creative power over all.*

- We see God’s rule in what he says; God calls/names (v5, 8, 10...)

- In the ancient world, naming something demonstrated rule and dominion over that.

God's rule is over space and time....

**Job 37:14–16 ESV**

“Hear this, O Job;  
stop and consider the wondrous works of God.  
Do you know how God lays his command upon them  
and causes the lightning of his cloud to shine?  
Do you know the balancing of the clouds,  
the wondrous works of him who is perfect in knowledge”

**Job 37:18 ESV**

Can you, like him, spread out the skies,  
hard as a cast metal mirror?

The point to Job was: God's power in Creation is unrivaled!

- This unrivaled power in Creation can also strengthen our faith, and how we approach God in prayer.

**Jeremiah 32:17 ESV**

‘Ah, Lord GOD! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you.

When you stop and think of creation, where do you go first? How nice it is, how beautiful?

What should be top priority: How powerful God is! This was top priority for the OT saints.

*Stop and consider his wondrous works;*

*Nothing is too hard for him*

**God Creates with Purpose**

- God does not do anything haphazard, or random; there is great purpose.

This directly confronts evolution—everything depends on chance, randomness.

If you take all 6 days, there is a balance and completion; like a beautiful song, or piece of art.

I'm a Bob Ross fan—a magnet is on my fridge to prove it.

As a child of the 80's I remember watching his painting show.

What I love is that he begins with a blank canvas.

Halfway through. I'm still puzzled at where he is going.

But in the end...it all comes together.

"The great Architect of the universe does not permit the colors of his canvas to run together."  
(Kenneth Matthews)

*There is an order, balance, and completeness....*

**Days 1-3: Forming & Separating: light (D1), sky (D2), land (D3)**

**Days 4-6: Filling: lights in sky (D4) sky and sea creatures (D5); land creatures (D6)**

- Now, various good questions can come up.

Where did the light come from in Day 1? The sun is not created until day 4?

Some things are mysterious still, because God is infinite and mysterious - some things are that way.

But, Ps. 104 —hints at creation that God's presence was surrounded with light.

Psalm 104:1-3 (ESV)

Bless the LORD, O my soul!

O LORD my God, you are very great!

You are clothed with splendor and majesty,  
covering yourself with light as with a garment,  
stretching out the heavens like a tent.

- There is purpose, and nothing is missing; all is in order.

Another example of this purposeful order (v16-17)

Taking Back Astronomy (Jason Lisle)

“The sun is about 400 more times distant than the moon. Remarkably, it’s also 400 times larger—meaning it appears the same size and covers the same portion of the sky....there is no naturalistic reason why.”

As far as we know, the earth is the only planet for which this is the case.”

- Personally, I love the little passing comment about the creation of the stars on Day 4 (v16).

Jupiter alone amazes me. If you combine all the other planets in our solar system, Jupiter is twice the mass.

The “Red Spot” is a massive storm that is over 10 thousand miles wide; it could engulf our earth.

*And remember, Christ upholds that storm right now as we sit here!*

....And the planet Jupiter ....is just a passing comment in the creation narrative “and the stars”.

Isaiah tells us that this should move us to worshipful awe...

### **Isaiah 40:26 ESV**

Lift up your eyes on high and see:

who created these?

He who brings out their host by number,

calling them all by name;

by the greatness of his might

and because he is strong in power,

not one is missing.

### **A Personal God**

I recall sitting in my High School science class before I was a Christian and heard my teacher explain evolution.

He was pontificating on the Big Bang Theory. Everything started with a small mass, “singularity”, and started expanding.

Now I did not know what Gen. 1 taught, but I sensed something was lacking.

A big bang explosion is supposed to account for my existence?

I went home feeling rather meaningless, if that is all there is.

If the creation teaches us any one thing, it’s that there is a personal God behind *everything!*

### **In 6 ordinary days, a personal God creates with power and purpose**

....and it was good.

- That’s repeated multiple times (v10, 12, 18, 21, 25)
- The first time God declares good in the creation is light (v4).

There is a hint at what is ultimately good—what the main foundation for faith is:

#### **2 Corinthians 4:6 ESV**

For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

- › **Creation proves nothing is random, accidental, or by chance. A personal, powerful God is behind it!**

It’s the same thing with becoming a Christian. It does not come by accident, but by the powerful God who speaks and shines into dark hearts!

This means that the goal of creation is not to soak up the sun on the beach or lake...but to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior:

to come out of the darkness of our sin and into the light.

Do you know him?

Do you have the light shining in your heart?

You can!

-The main goal in this series is to see God. See him from the beginning.

That's what is truly good.

I hope you have seen more of God's power, purpose, and the personal God who creates and saves.