

## 5-Day Devotional: “In The Beginning...God Created” - Genesis 1:1-2

### Day 1: The God of Creation

#### Scripture Reading:

- o Genesis 1:1-2
- o John 1:1-3
- o Colossians 1:15-17

#### Devotional:

As we open our Bibles to the very first verses, we're immediately confronted with a profound truth: "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." This simple yet powerful statement sets the foundation for our entire worldview. It tells us that before anything else existed, God was there. He is the originator, the initiator, the one who brought everything into being.

This truth refutes many false ideas about the universe. It challenges atheism by proclaiming God's existence as a fact. It counters pantheism by distinguishing between God and His creation. It opposes polytheism by introducing us to the one true God. In just a few words, Moses dismantles numerous philosophical errors that humans have invented over millennia.

Moreover, we see hints of the Trinity even in these opening verses. The name used for God, "Elohim," is plural, yet it's paired with a singular verb. The Spirit of God is mentioned as hovering over the waters. Later, in Colossians, we learn that Christ was also involved in creation. Genesis 1, John 1, and Colossians 1 together reveal Father, Son, and Spirit actively involved in creation.

#### Reflection Questions:

- How does understanding God as the Creator change your perspective on the world around you?
- In what ways does the doctrine of creation challenge popular worldviews today?
- In what ways do you see God's sovereignty over creation in your daily life?
- How does John 1:1-3 deepen your understanding of Jesus' role in creation?

#### Practical Application:

Take a walk outside today. As you observe nature, consciously remind yourself that everything you see was created by God. How does this realization affect your appreciation of the world around you?

**Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, I stand in awe of Your creative power. You spoke, and the universe came into being. Help me to see Your handiwork in all of creation and to worship You as the almighty Creator. Strengthen my faith to trust in Your word, even when it contradicts popular opinions. In Jesus' name, Amen!

## Day 2: The Universe Declares God's Glory

### Scripture Reading:

- o Genesis 1:1
- o Psalm 19:1-6
- o Romans 1:20

### Devotional:

When Moses writes that God created "the heavens and the earth," he's using a figure of speech called a merism. This rhetorical device uses two contrasting parts to refer to a whole. In this case, "the heavens and the earth" means the entire universe - everything that exists.

The vastness of this truth is staggering. From the tiniest subatomic particle to the largest galaxy cluster, God created it all. The same God who formed electrons and quarks also shaped the Milky Way and the countless other galaxies in the observable universe. And He did all this simply by speaking it into existence!

This incredible creative act reveals much about God's character. It shows His omnipotence - only an all-powerful being could create something from nothing. It demonstrates His wisdom - the intricate design and precise laws that govern the universe point to an intelligent designer. It reveals His beauty - the stunning vistas of space and the intricate details of nature reflect the aesthetic nature of their Creator.

As Psalm 19 tells us, "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork." When we look at the night sky or study the wonders of the natural world, we're seeing a testimony to God's existence and attributes. As Paul writes in Romans, God's "invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made."

### Reflection Questions:

- How does the scale of the universe impact your view of God?
- In what ways have you seen God's attributes reflected in creation?

### Practical Application:

Meditate on Psalm 19:1 today. As you go about your day, look for God's handiwork in creation and worship Him as a result.

**Prayer:**

Lord, Your creation leaves me in awe. From the vastness of space to the intricacy of a single cell, everything bears Your fingerprints. Open my eyes to see Your glory revealed in the world around me. May I never cease to wonder at Your works and praise You for Your power and wisdom. In Jesus' name, Amen!

## Day 3: The Earth Prepared

### Scripture Reading:

- o Genesis 1:2
- o Jeremiah 4:23-26
- o Isaiah 45:18

### Devotional:

After introducing God as the Creator of all things, Moses zooms in on the earth. He describes it as "without form and void," with darkness covering the face of the deep. This picture of the earth being uninhabitable and uninhabited sets the stage for God's creative work in the following verses. This does not mean creation was out of control or evil but that it was unshaped and unfilled, awaiting God's divine ordering.

It's important to note that this state of formlessness and emptiness isn't the final product, but rather the starting point for God's creative activity. Just as a potter begins with an unshaped lump of clay, God starts with raw materials that He will form and fill over the six days of creation.

This concept of God bringing order out of chaos, light out of darkness, and life out of emptiness is a recurring theme throughout Scripture. We see it in the Exodus, when God delivers His people from the chaos of slavery. We see it in the resurrection, when Jesus brings life out of the darkness of death. And we see it in our own lives, as God transforms us from spiritual darkness into His marvelous light.

Interestingly, the prophet Jeremiah uses similar language to describe the judgment that would come upon Judah for their disobedience. He portrays the land returning to a state of formlessness and emptiness, reversing the creative work of God. This underscores the ongoing nature of God's creative and sustaining work - without His constant care, the world would return to chaos.

Yet, as Isaiah reminds us, God's ultimate purpose in creation is not chaos but order, not emptiness but fullness. He formed the earth to be inhabited, to be a suitable home for the creatures He would make - including humanity, the crown of His creation.

### Reflection Questions:

- How does the image of God bringing order out of chaos resonate with your own life experiences?
- In what areas of your life or the world around you do you long to see God bring order and fullness?

**Practical Application:**

Identify an area of your life that feels chaotic or empty. Spend time in prayer, inviting God to bring His order and fullness to that situation.

**Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, just as You hovered over the formless earth, I invite You to move in the chaotic areas of my life. Bring Your light into my darkness, Your order into my confusion, Your fullness into my emptiness. Help me to trust in Your creative and restoring work, even when I can't see the final product. In Jesus' name, Amen!

## Day 4: The Spirit of God at Work

### Scripture Reading:

- o Genesis 1:2
- o Psalm 104:30
- o John 3:5-8
- o John 6:63
- o 2 Corinthians 3:17-18

### Devotional:

As we continue our meditation on the opening verses of Genesis, we encounter a beautiful image: "And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters." This is our first glimpse of the Holy Spirit in Scripture, and it's significant that we see Him active in creation.

The word translated as "hovering" is the same word used in Deuteronomy to describe an eagle hovering over its young. It conveys a sense of protective care and anticipation. The Spirit of God wasn't passive or distant, but actively involved in the creation process, poised to bring forth life and order.

This creative role of the Spirit is echoed throughout Scripture. In Psalm 104, we read that God sends forth His Spirit to "renew the face of the ground." The Spirit is the life-giving breath of God, actively sustaining and renewing creation.

But the Spirit's creative work isn't limited to the physical realm. In John 6:63, Jesus tells us that "it is the Spirit who gives life." Just as the Spirit brought order out of chaos and life out of emptiness in creation, He does the same in our hearts. When we come to faith in Christ, it's the Spirit who regenerates us, making us new creations.

This parallel between physical creation and spiritual re-creation is profound. The same power that formed the universe is at work in the heart of every believer, transforming us into the image of Christ. And just as the Spirit continued to sustain the created order, He continues to work in us, sanctifying us and conforming us to the likeness of Jesus.

### Reflection Questions:

- How does understanding the Spirit's role in creation enhance your appreciation of His work in your life?

- In what ways have you experienced the Spirit's transforming power in your own life?

**Practical Application:**

Spend some time in quiet reflection, asking the Holy Spirit to reveal areas in your life where He wants to bring new life or order. Journal about what He shows you.

**Prayer:**

Holy Spirit, I thank You for Your creative and life-giving power. Just as You hovered over the waters at creation, hover over my life. Bring order to my chaos, light to my darkness, and new life to the areas of my heart that feel empty or formless. Continue Your sanctifying work in me, transforming me more and more into the image of Christ. In Jesus' name, Amen!



## Day 5: The God Who Creates and Redeems

### Scripture Reading:

- o Genesis 1:1-2
- o 2 Corinthians 4:6
- o 2 Corinthians 5:17
- o Ephesians 4:22-24

### Devotional:

As we conclude our week-long reflection on the opening verses of Genesis, let's consider how the truths we've explored relate to our salvation and new life in Christ.

The parallels between God's work in creation and His work in redemption are striking. Just as the earth was formless, empty, and dark before God's creative activity, so too were our hearts before Christ. We were spiritually dead, loving darkness rather than light, separated from God by our sin. Just as God initiated creation without assistance, He also initiates and accomplishes our redemption entirely by His grace.

But just as God spoke light into the darkness of creation, He has "shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (2 Corinthians 4:6). The same creative power that brought the universe into existence is at work in the heart of every believer, bringing new life where there was once only spiritual death.

Moreover, just as God's Spirit hovered over the waters in Genesis 1:2, ready to bring forth life and order, so too does the Holy Spirit work in our lives, regenerating us and continually sanctifying us. He is the agent of our new birth and the power behind our ongoing transformation.

This new creation isn't just a slight improvement or modification of the old; it's a complete transformation.

### Reflection Questions:

- How does understanding the connection between creation and redemption impact your faith?
- In what ways can you share this hope with others?

### Practical Application:

Consider sharing your testimony or a story of God's transformative work in your life with someone this week. This can be a powerful way to communicate the hope found in Christ.

**Prayer:**

Lord, I thank You for the hope of redemption found in Jesus. Help me to remember that You are actively at work in my life, bringing beauty from chaos. Give me the courage to share this hope with others. In Jesus' name, Amen!