

A Pandemic Survival Kit Sermon Series

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SCRIPTURE: Genesis 1:1-31; 2:1-4 MSG

First this: God created the Heavens and Earth - all you see, all you don't see. Earth was a soup of nothingness, a bottomless emptiness, an inky blackness. God's Spirit brooded like a bird above the watery abyss. God spoke: "Light!" And light appeared. God saw that light was good and separated light from dark. God named the light Day, he named the dark Night. It was evening, it was morning - Day One. God spoke: "Sky! In the middle of the waters; separate water from water!" God made sky. He separated the water under sky from the water above sky. And there it was: he named sky the Heavens; It was evening, it was morning - Day Two. God spoke: "Separate! Water-beneath-Heaven, gather into one place; Land, appear!" And there it was. God named the land Earth. He named the pooled water Ocean. God saw that it was good. God spoke: "Earth, green up! Grow all varieties of seed-bearing plants, Every sort of fruit-bearing tree." And there it was. Earth produced green seed-bearing plants, all varieties, And fruit-bearing trees of all sorts. God saw that it was good. It was evening, it was morning - Day Three. God spoke: "Lights! Come out! Shine in Heaven's sky! Separate Day from Night. Mark seasons and days and years, Lights in Heaven's sky to give light to Earth." And there it was. God made two big lights, the larger to take charge of Day, The smaller to be in charge of Night; and he made the stars. God placed them in the heavenly sky to light up Earth. And oversee Day and Night, to separate light and dark. God saw that it was good. It was evening, it was morning - Day Four. God spoke: "Swarm, Ocean, with fish and all sea life! Birds, fly through the sky over Earth!" God created the huge whales, all the swarm of life in the waters, And every kind and species of flying birds. God saw that it was good. God blessed them: "Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Ocean! Birds, reproduce on Earth!" It was evening, it was morning - Day Five. God spoke: "Earth, generate life! Every sort and kind: cattle and reptiles and wild animals - all kinds." And there it was: wild animals of every kind, Cattle of all kinds, every sort of reptile and bug. God saw that it was good. God spoke: "Let us make human beings in our image, make them reflecting our nature. So they can be responsible for the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, the cattle, And, yes, Earth itself, and every animal that moves on the face of Earth." God created human beings; he created them godlike, Reflecting God's nature. He created them male and female. God blessed them: "Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Earth! Take charge! Be responsible for fish in the sea and birds in the air, for every living thing that moves on the face of Earth." Then God said, "I've given you every sort of seed-bearing plant on Earth and every kind of fruit-bearing tree, given them to you for food. To all animals and all birds, everything that moves and breathes, I give whatever grows out of the ground for food." And there it was. God looked over everything he had made; it was so good, so very good! It was evening, it was morning - Day Six.

Heaven and Earth were finished, down to the last detail. By the seventh day God had finished his work. On the seventh day he rested from all his work. God blessed the seventh day. He made it a Holy Day because on that day he rested from his work, all the creating God had done.

BIBLE STUDY QUESTIONS – How To Get Along

1. How does Genesis 1 impact the way we understand ourselves, the world, and God? How would life be different for us if Genesis 1 & 2 weren't in the Bible?
2. In what ways does God bring forth life and order out of chaos in Genesis 1? Do you see a progression or grouping of what God creates? Any rhythms that are repeated?

3. Each day of creation begins with night and ends with the morning—God’s creative power is at work in the darkness ushering in a new day. How might this give us hope?
4. What vehicle does God use to create life and bring order out of chaos?
5. Do you think this passage pertains to creation in the past or does it also speak to how God continues to create today in our world and even in our lives?
6. What role does science play for the Christian? Why have religion and science so often been pitted against one another? Does it have to be this way?
7. Someone once said, “We learn about the *when* and the *how* from science and the *why* and the *who* from our faith.” What are your thoughts on this?
8. What refrain does God give about his assessment of creation? What does a Judeo-Christian attitude toward the material world look like with God blessing it and calling it good?
9. Human beings are the crown of God’s creation. What makes us different? What does it mean for us to be made in God’s image? How are we creators? Might this be telling us God longs for human company and conversation partners?
10. We do share Day 6 with other animals that were created on that day. Is there any significance to that?
11. Respect is shown to the artist by taking good care of their artwork so it can be preserved and enjoyed. Does this same principle apply to the Creator’s creation?
12. Was the immortal God exhausted by seven days of creation? Why is it important to cease from labors at least one day a week?
13. How can we be more human today?