



A BETTER WORD

BEYOND REPAIR

A Study Through Genesis 1–11 | with Pastor Nick Gatzke

Everything Was Good

Genesis 1:1–2:3

THE BIG IDEA

God is a majestic Creator who brings perfect order out of chaos. Every part of his creation — including you — was made with purpose and declared good.

SERMON SUMMARY

Genesis 1 does more than answer the question of where we came from — it answers the question of who we came from. Against the backdrop of ancient creation myths and modern scientific theories, the text presents God as a majestic Creator who speaks order into existence out of nothing. Every act of creation — from separating light from darkness to placing humanity as the crown of his work — reveals that God is glorious, good, and purposeful.

The six days of creation move in two corresponding movements: form (days one through three) and fullness (days four through six), building toward a pinnacle on day six when God looks at everything — especially his image-bearers — and declares it “very good.” Day seven brings the sequence to its rest: God takes up his reign over a creation that is ordered, whole, and entirely his. This is where we came from, and the one we came from is entirely good.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Genesis 1:1 opens with the declaration, “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” Why does the identity of the creator matter before we even ask how he created?
 2. The phrase “God said” appears eight times in Genesis 1. What does God’s pattern of creating by his word reveal about his power and sovereignty? How do John 1:1–3 and Colossians 1:16 expand our understanding of who was present and active in this work?
 3. Days one through three establish form; days four through six bring fullness. Walk through the paired structure: day one with day four, day two with day five, day three with day six. What does this deliberate order tell us about the nature of God’s work?
 4. After each day’s work, God calls it “good.” After creating humanity on day six, he looks at everything and calls it “very good.” What does this progression communicate about God’s character and the worth he places on human beings? How does Romans 1:19–20 connect the goodness visible in creation to our accountability before God?
 5. Humanity is created in God’s image and given dominion over creation — set apart as the crown of what God made. What does bearing God’s image mean for how you understand your own purpose? In what ways does knowing you were created intentionally and declared “very good” challenge the way you currently see yourself or your life?
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LIVING IT OUT

Creation declares the glory and goodness of God — not just as a theological fact to agree with, but as a reality to live from. When life feels chaotic or purposeless, Genesis 1 calls us back to the one who brings order out of chaos and declares his image-bearers “very good.”

Heart Check: Where in your life right now does it feel like things are “without form and void”? Are you more tempted to seek stability in your circumstances, or in the character of the God who governs them?

This Week: Spend five minutes outside or near a window each day this week. Let what you observe — light, sky, living things — prompt a specific prayer of praise for what creation reveals about God’s glory and goodness.

REFLECTION & PRAYER

“The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.”

— **Psalm 19:1–2**

Spend a few moments praising God for his order, his glory, and his goodness — then ask him to help you trust his character even when your circumstances feel formless and void.

Your Prayer:

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