

Creation: Living in God's Good World

16 October 2021

Why is it important that the Bible story begins with Genesis 1 & 2

Isaiah 40:21 – 31: the returning exiles

Proverbs 8: 22 – 36: the search for wisdom

John 1: 1 - 3: the presence of Jesus

Colossians 1:15 - 21: the antidote to super-spirituality

Hebrews 11: 3: the primacy of God

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. **2** Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

Creation is about

Form (days 1-3): day and night; water and sky; sea and land

and Fullness (days 4-6): vegetation; stars, sun and moon; birds and sea animals; land-based animals and humans;

The three things that were blessed:

Creatures in sea;

Humans

Sabbath

What does this mean? Why is it significant? What does it demand of us?

Beauty and Tragedy in a Garden

Four scenes:

1. 2: 4b-17 Man placed in the garden

Creation of man

The beauty and potential of the garden

The presence of the two trees

The source of 4 rivers

2. 2: 18-25 Creation of a Helper

The 'helper' will not be God, it's not good to be alone, it will not be another creature

It's a fresh creative act of God

The result is a new covenant, a couple in solidarity, trust and well being.

3. 3:1-7 The serpent's part

The temptation: the command is an option; God is to be evaluated; the boundary of death is not a threat; God needs to be navigated.

4. 3:8-24 The Judgments

Some Reflections

How do these chapters help us worship?

How do these chapters help us in our relationships?

How do these chapters help us think about work?

about rest?

about food?

About creativity?

About salvation?

In our contexts:

What is God's creation-intention for this activity?

What is flawed/broken?

What would bring healing?

What can I start doing?

Further Reading:

Derek Kidner, **Genesis, Tyndale Old Testament Commentary**, 1967. Old but still really helpful.

Walter Bruggemann, **Genesis, Interpretation**, 1982. For a different slant on familiar passages

Jonathan Sacks, **Genesis: the Book of Beginnings Covenant and Conversation**, 2010. A really helpful read from a Jewish perspective

Craig Bartholomew & Michael Goheen, **The Drama of Scripture**, 2014. How the whole story of scripture hangs together.