

WEEKLY REFLECTION

In the beginning, there was nothing but God. He created the heavens and the earth *ex nihilo*, out of nothing—brought order to the earth that was without form and void.

Scripture tells us that God created the world in six days: time (the evening and morning) on the first; the land and sky on the second. On the third, He made earth and sea and brought forth vegetation. On the fourth day, God made the sun, moon, and stars, and on the fifth day He made the creatures in the sea and the birds in the skies. On the sixth day, He made the beasts of the earth, the livestock, and other creeping, crawling things—and the pinnacle of His creation, mankind, whom He created in His image.

As God surveyed all of His creation on the sixth day, the author of Genesis tells us, behold, it was very good. (1:31a) And as God finished the work of creation, He blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it He rested from all His work that He had done in creation.

The Hebrew name for the book of Genesis translates to “in the beginning”, and as we go back to the beginning, we see that God intended for His creation to be very good. He was pleased by what He had made, but we can hardly reconcile what was pictured in the first two chapters of Scripture with what we see today.

Everywhere we look, we can see wars, famine, disease, injustice, and violence. This is hardly the world that God intended to bring into being! But although we grieve alongside the rest of creation, we who follow Jesus have the privilege of understanding the beginning with the expectation of the end. For we look forward to the day when Jesus will return for good, and set us free once and for all as He makes all things new in Him.

QUESTIONS

QUESTION ONE:

Share a story and a photo (if you have one!) about something memorable you created. Why were you interested in creating it? How did the process go? Did it look or turn out to be anything like you had imagined, and would you do anything differently next time?

QUESTION TWO:

Genesis 1-2 tells us that God created the heavens and the earth *ex nihilo*, out of nothing. He brought order to a world that was previously without form and void, nothing but chaos and darkness. The pinnacle of His creation was mankind, whom He created in His image.

How does the Biblical creation account shape your understanding of yourself and the world around you? How might the Biblical worldview differ from society's worldview of creation and the resulting world we live in?

QUESTION THREE:

In Genesis 1-2, God establishes order over the chaos of creation and imbues humanity with dignity and respect by creating them in His image.

Where is an area of your life where you are experiencing the most chaos right now? How can you invite God to establish order over your chaos, and remind those around you of their value as His created image-bearers?