

Let's Go Back to the Beginning: God Created Us for Fellowship

I John 1:1-10 / May 22, 2021/ Lexham English Bible

Creation Story: Moses

God of Existence: Not Naturalism

In the **beginning**, God **created** the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

God of Personality: Not Pantheism

And God **said**, "Let there be light," and there was light.

God of Purpose: Not Nihilism

And God **saw** that the light was **good**.

God of Holiness: Not Paganism

And God **separated** the light from the darkness.

God of Order: Not Existentialism

God **called** the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. (Genesis 1:1-5, ESV)

Creation Story: Paul

He is the **image** of the invisible God, the **firstborn** of all creation. For by him all things were **created**, in **heaven and on earth**, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were **created** through him and for him.

And he is **before all things**, and in him all things hold together.

And he is the **head** of the body, the church.

He is the **beginning**, the **firstborn** from the dead, that in everything he might be **preeminent**.

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to **dwell**, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. (Colossians 1:15-19, ESV)

Creation Story: John

In the **beginning** was the **Word**, and the **Word** was with God, and the **Word** was God.

He was in the **beginning** with God.

All things were **made** through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

In him was **life**, and the **life** was the **light** of men.

The **light** shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1:1-5, ESV)

1. GOD'S REVELATION: The Eternal Word of Life (1:1-3a)

1. What was from the beginning,
2. what we have heard,
3. what we have seen with our eyes,
4. what we have looked at and
5. (*what*) our hands have touched,
concerning the **word of life**— and the life was revealed, and
6. (*what*) we have seen and
7. (*what we have*) testify and
8. (*what we have*) announce to you
the **eternal life** which was with the Father and was revealed to us—
9. what we have seen and
10. (*what we have*) heard,

we announce to you also,

2. GOD'S PURPOSE: Joy of Fellowship (1:3b-4)

Fellowship

in order that you also may have fellowship with us, and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

God Created Us for Fellowship

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.

And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

So God created man in his own image, / in the image of God he created him; / male and female he created them.

And God blessed them.

And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. (Genesis 1:26-31, ESV)

Joy

And these things we write, in order that our joy may be complete.

Joy Throughout the Scriptures

FAITH ACCESSES JOY	But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; / let them ever sing for joy, / and spread your protection over them, / that those who love your name may exult in you. (Psalm 5:11)	I Samuel 2:1; Psalm 5:11; Psalm 13:5; Psalm 20:5; Psalm 21:1; Psalm 33:21; Psalm 35:9; Psalm 40:16; Isaiah 12:1; Isaiah 25:9; Habakkuk 3:18; Luke 1:47; Luke 2:10
GOD DWELLS IN JOY	For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, / but the Lord made the heavens. / Splendor and majesty are before him; / strength and joy are in his place. (I Chronicles 16:26,27)	I Chronicles 16:27; Job 22:21-26; Psalm 9:2; Psalm 16:5-11
HOLY SPIRIT BRINGS JOY	May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. (Romans 15:13)	Acts 13:52; Romans 15:13; Galatians 5:22; Ephesians 5:18,19; I Thessalonians 1:6
CREATION EXPRESSES JOY	Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; / let the sea roar, and all that fills it; / let the field exult, and everything in it! / Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy (Psalm 96:11,12)	Psalm 89:12; Psalm 96:12; Psalm 98:6; Isaiah 44:23; Isaiah 49:13
JESUS' BIRTH BROUGHT JOY	For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. (Luke 1:44)	Luke 1:44; Luke 2:10
JESUS REJOICES IN JOY	In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. (Luke 10:21)	Luke 10:21; Luke 15:6; Luke 15:9
GOD'S WORD PRODUCES JOY	Your testimonies are my heritage forever, / for they are the joy of my heart. (Psalm 119:111)	Psalm 19:8; 119:16, 111,162,165; Jeremiah 15:16
WORSHIP EVOKES JOY	Then I will go to the altar of God, / to God my exceeding joy, / and I will praise you with the lyre, / O God, my God. (Psalm 43:4)	Psalm 42:4; 43:4; 46:4; 71:23; 100:1
OBEDIENCE DISCOVERS JOY	Many are the sorrows of the wicked, / but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the Lord. / Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous, / and shout for joy, all you upright in heart! (Psalm 32:10-11)	Psalm 32:11; 64:10; 68:3; 69:32; 87:15; 97:11; 119:1; Proverbs 10:28; 13:9; 29:6
WORK FOSTERS JOY	And they kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days with joy, for the Lord had made them joyful and had turned the heart of the king of Assyria to them, so that he aided them in the work of the house of God, the God of Israel. (Ezra 6:22)	Deuteronomy 12:18; Ezra 6:22; Ecclesiastes 2:24,25
PAIN EMBRACES JOY	Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. (John 16:20)	John 16:20, 32; Acts 16:25,34; Romans 14:17; 2 Corinthians 6:10; 7:4; 8:2; 12:10; Philippians 4:4; Luke 6:22,23; I Peter 4:13; James 1:2; I Peter 1:8; Psalm 30:5, 11,12; 51:8; 53:6; 85:6; 126:5,6; Isaiah 35:1,2,10; Nehemiah 8:10-12; Psalm 28:7
C.S. Lewis, Surprised by Joy	"It was valuable only as a pointer to something other and outer. ...When we are lost in the woods the sight of a signpost is a great matter. He who first sees it cries, "Look! The whole party gathers round and stares. But when we have found the road and are passing signposts every few miles, we shall not stop and stare. They will encourage us and we shall be grateful to the authority that set them up. But we shall not stop and stare, or not much; not on this road, though their pillars are of silver and their lettering of gold. We would be at Jerusalem." (<i>Surprised by Joy</i> , C. S. Lewis, 238)	

3. GOD'S MESSAGE: Light and Darkness (1:5-10)

Light (1:5)

And this is the message which we have heard from him and announce to you, that God is light and there is no darkness in him at all.

Light and Darkness: Creation Story. (Genesis 1-2)

1. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. (Genesis 1:5)
2. And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. (Genesis 1:8, ESV)
3. And God saw that it was good. ¹³And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. (Genesis 1:12-13, ESV)
4. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day. (Genesis 1:19, ESV)
5. And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. (Genesis 1:23, ESV)
6. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. (Genesis 1:31, ESV)
7. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation. (Genesis 2:1-3, ESV)

Light and Darkness: Incarnation of Jesus (John 1)

- In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the **light** of men. The **light** shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
- There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the **light**, that all might believe through him. He was not the **light**, but came to bear witness about the **light**.
- The true **light**, which gives **light** to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.
- But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.
- And **the Word became flesh and dwelt among us**, and we have seen his **glory, glory** as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, **he has made him known**. (John 1:1-18, ESV)

Light: Nicodemus—Born Again (John 3)

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have **eternal life**. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment: the **light** has come into the world, and people loved the **darkness** rather than the **light** because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the **light** and does not come to the **light**, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the **light**, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God." (John 3:16-21, ESV)

Light: Blind Man Healed (John 8-9)

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "**I am the light of the world**. Whoever follows me will not walk in **darkness**, but will have the **light of life**." (John 8:12 ESV)

As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth.

And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is **day**; **night** is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, **I am the light of the world**."

Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back **seeing**. (John 9:1-7, ESV)

Light: Resurrection of Lazarus (John 11)

Jesus said to her, “**I am the resurrection and the life.** Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.” (John 11:25-27, ESV)

Conditional Duality of the Christian Life

(1:6-10, Lexham English Bible)

Darkness (1:6)

If we say that we have fellowship with him and **walk** in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

Light (1:7)

But if we **walk** in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

Darkness (1:8)

If we say that we do not have sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

Light (1:9)

If we **confess** our sins, he is faithful and just, so that he will forgive us our sins and will cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Darkness (1:10)

If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Jeremiah: Cleansing from Unrighteousness

And the word of Yahweh came to Jeremiah a second time while he was still held back in the courtyard of the guard, saying,

“Thus says Yahweh who made the earth,
Yahweh who formed it to establish it,
Yahweh is his name:

‘Call to me, and
I will answer you, and
I will tell you great things and inaccessible things that you have not known.’

For thus says Yahweh, the God of Israel, concerning the houses of this city and concerning the houses of the kings of Judah, that were torn down to make a defense against the siege ramps and against the sword: ‘They are coming to fight against the Chaldeans, and to fill them with the corpses of the people whom I will strike in my anger and in my wrath, for whom I have hidden my face from this city because of all their wickedness.

1. Look, I am going to bring healing and health to it, and I will heal them, and I will reveal to them abundance of peace and reliability.
2. And I will restore the fortunes of Judah and the fortunes of Israel, and
3. I will rebuild them as in the beginning.
4. And I will cleanse them from all their guilt that they sinned against me, and
5. I will forgive all their iniquities that they sinned against me, and that they rebelled against me.
6. And it will be to me a name of jubilation, a praise, and a glory before all the nations of the earth, who will hear all the good that I will do for them, and
7. they will fear, and they will tremble because of all the good, and because of all the prosperity that I will provide for it.’ (Jeremiah 33:1-9, Lexham English Bible)