

# Creation

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The symphony begins with God. Out of the fullness and perfection of who he is, he freely gave life to all things and made all things *good*.

The *first* thing that God tells us about human beings is that all of us are created in the **image of God**. (Genesis 1.27) “Image of God” was a common term in the ancient world. But it was only applied to kings. Genesis was written to former slaves, leaving generations of slavery and oppression. Think of the significance for them... *and* for us. Who we are and what we do matter!



No person is ignorable, no person is a mistake. The little boy with special needs, the elderly woman with dementia, or the CEO of the multi-billion dollar company are equal in dignity and value because who we are is not primarily defined by our achievements, skills, or resources. It's defined by God.

Yet this creation in God's image isn't simply a possession that humans have that gives us dignity, it's also a calling to reflect him in our lives. We were made to flourish in our relationship with him, with one another, with creation, and with ourselves. Human beings were called to extend Eden, the place of God's blessing and abundance, to the whole earth. In this way, we were made to continue what God had begun in creation—bringing order to chaos and fullness to emptiness. In other words, we were made to extend the kingdom of God from the small location of Eden to the ends of the earth.

The biblical symphony begins with this first movement, Creation. This movement tells us what we were made for—the delight of God. Yet, we know from every angle that this original creation purpose has not been met. We'll turn to this in our second movement of the biblical symphony: Fall.

## Questions for Discussion

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- 1) How is this different from other ways of seeing the world around us?
- 2) How does this impact the way you see yourself?
- 3) How does this impact the way you see others?