

The Beginning

God the Creator

The story begins with God.

In the beginning God created¹. God, who calls himself “I Am” or Yahweh in the Hebrew Scriptures², made the whole universe, all that is seen and all that is unseen. All that he made was good. And he made humans to reflect his character and his glory. God is Spirit, and both men and women reflect him.³

When God made the world, he made it with a plan in mind. His plan was and is a mystery, but we do know that at its center was love. He created in love and his plan for creation will end in love. He created in community, for God is both one being and three persons in relationship: the Father, the Son, and the Spirit. And he made humans to live in community, both with him and with each other.

God made the world to grow and thrive. His command to humans was “be fruitful and multiply,”⁴ something that we’ve had no trouble doing. God also made the world in a way that promotes choice and freedom. Both nature and humanity were given a wide range of freedom, which God uses as part of his overarching plan.

God made the creation in such a way that he could interact with it but it could still be its own entity. Creation exists only with God’s energy, but the world is not God, nor does it contain him. He is not bound by space or time, but interacts with the time-bound world as an artist would interact with a masterpiece in progress—only this masterpiece is given freedom to paint much of its own story. This mixture of divine plan and the freedom of creation is the story we are part of.

Though God acted once long ago to create the world, he has never stopped creating. Each new life, each spring season, each new sunset, and each new spiritual life shows the Creator still at work.

¹See Genesis 1-3 for a biblical account of the creation and initial interaction between God and humans.

²The Hebrew Scriptures are known by most Christians as the “Old Testament.”

³See John 4:24; Genesis 1:26; 2 Corinthians 3:18.

⁴See Genesis 1:28.