

Notes and Music

- What is the difference between playing notes and making music?
- What is the difference between hearing notes and hearing music?
- Hearing the song of God...

^
and singing

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**The Creative Majesty
of God**
Genesis 1:1-2:3
ref.ly/Ge1;niv

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Our context

Christians have divided based on Genesis 1

- Youth earth: 10,000 years, plus or minus
- Old earth: millions or billions of years
- Often along denominational lines
- Even judging others as not being true Christians

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Our context

Evangelical Free Church

- "Significance of silence": our shared belief statement is silent on areas where equally solid and biblical Christians have historically disagreed
 - Debate is okay. But...
 - Never divide over the issue
 - Never let the issue dominate
- Includes:
 - age of universe, meaning and mode of baptism, order of salvation, "millennial" views, ...

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Their context: Stories of creation

Enuma Elish: about 2000 BC

Chaos of water was separated into 2 gods, whose union gave birth to other gods, who were loud, which prompted fighting. They were killed.

One god eventually won and created humans from the remains of the other gods

Humans were created to serve the gods



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Genesis 1:1-2 [In the beginning]

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.

God created

Not yet ready for humanity [a chaotic wasteland]

Creation would take time

And God was ready to begin

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Genesis 1:3-5 [Day 1]

³ And **God said**, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴ **God saw** that the light was **good**, and he separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ **God called** the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

Days 1-3: darkness and deep are pushed back
[not destroyed]

To bring light and land

To support animal flourishing

Days 4-6: God filled the space He had made

Day 7: God stopped His work of creating

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Genesis 1:6-8 [Day 2]

⁶ And God said, "Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water." ⁷ So **God made** the vault and **separated** the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. ⁸ God called the vault **"sky."** And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.

Water pushed back

Sky = heavens [place for birds, planets, God]

3 domains: sky, sea, dry land

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Genesis 1:9-13 [Day 3]

⁹ And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good.

¹¹ Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. ¹² The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.

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Genesis 1:14-19 [Day 4]

¹⁴ And God said, "Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so.

¹⁶ God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. ¹⁷ God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, ¹⁸ to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day.

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Genesis 1:20-23 [Day 5]

²⁰ And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky." ²¹ So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth." ²³ And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.

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Genesis 1:24-31 [Day 6]

²⁴ And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

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Genesis 1:24-31 [Day 6]

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

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Genesis 1:24-31 [Day 6]

²⁹ Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. ³⁰ And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food." And it was so.

³¹ God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

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Genesis 2:1-3 [Day 7]

¹ Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.

² By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he **rested** from all his work. ³ Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

rested = stop working

Creation is done, now living (and worship) begins

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The Main Point

God made everything
so that humanity would worship God

- by delighting in His life-giving creativity
- by following His joy-giving instructions
- by living in His image and likeness
 - life-giving creativity

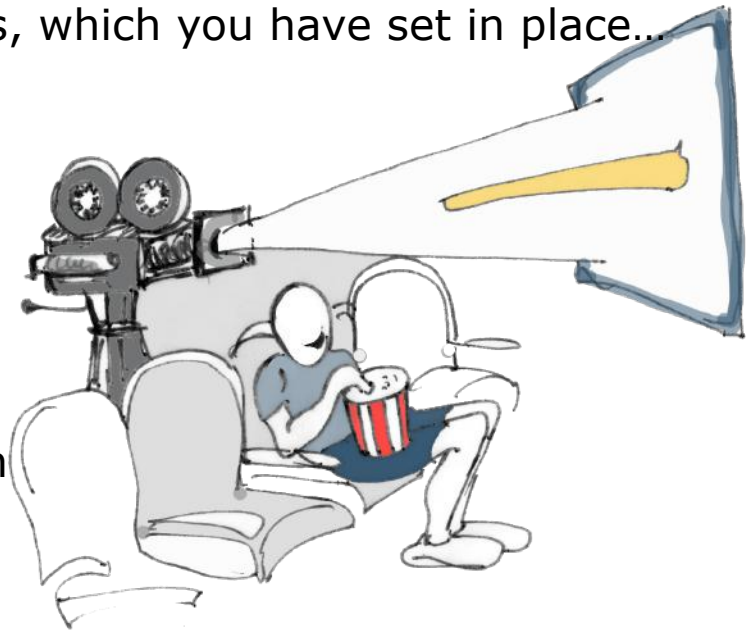
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When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place...

Psalm 8:3

His perfect design is
life-giving
in all ways

Looking intently
Study and learn
Experience His creation
and worship God!



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Praise the Lord. Blessed are those who fear the LORD,
who find great delight in his commands.

Psalm 112:1

God's commands are like
the musical score
of a masterpiece

We enter His joy when we
live His ways



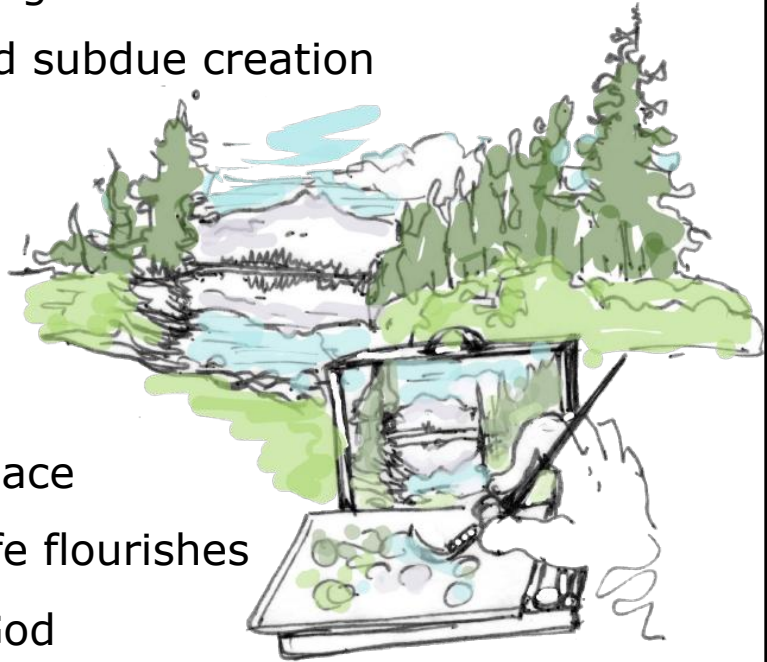
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We are made in His image and likeness

We are to rule over and subdue creation

Join in the life-giving
creative work of God!

- Pray His blessing into existence
- Open hearts to God
- Bring healing and peace
- Form space where life flourishes
- Call forth praise to God



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The Main Point

God made everything
so that humanity would **worship God**

- **by delighting** in His life-giving creativity
- **by following** His joy-giving instructions
- **by living in His image and likeness**
→ life-giving creativity

Make time to worship God



a soul that is singing His songs

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Genesis 1:31-2:3

³¹ God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

¹ Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.

² By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. ³ Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

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Turning toward Communion

God created a beautiful, life-giving world
so we would worship Him

Which was spoiled by human sin, bringing...

- Nature: decay, disease, pain
- Humanity: conflict with God and people

We rightly grieve over sin and its effects

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Turning toward Communion

God is **recreating** a beautiful, life-giving world
so we would worship Him

- Decisively accomplished redemption
in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection
- Yet redemption is not yet fully formed
- Those who are made in His image
are to join in His redeeming work

In Communion, we admit our sin,
and we declare God's saving work in Jesus