



MOUNTAIN TOP - WEEK 1

READ

Genesis 1 - 3

SUMMARY

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth, and he created humans in his own image to be in relationship with him as they live in the beautiful and complex universe he fashioned. Quickly, however, the humans violated the relationship with their Maker by sinning against him. As a result, death and decay permeate creation.

But God continues to love and cherish his creation, and so he unveils a plan to make himself known among sinful humanity through covenant relationships.

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From the creation story we learn many things about God's character. We learn that He is purposeful, and that the earth was not only created intentionally, but that God was happy with His work. He saw that the earth and all things he had created on it were good. Including us. We, humans, are a good in God's eyes, and bring him joy.

We also see God express compassion and forgiveness, even when we did the one thing God asked us not to do. After we had broken our relationship with God he still clothed us. He didn't take back the responsibility of caring for the earth. He didn't strike us down and start over. Even while he was angry he treated us with the hand of a loving father, showing us both grace and judgment.

QUESTIONS

- "Before the beginning there is only God." The story of Creation is a story about God, what he does, and how he interacts with his creation," **Read Genesis 1:24 - 2:3 again** as a story primarily about God. **What do you learn about him?**

- Sin warps everything about the way creation relates to the Creator. Take a look at these pairs of passages from before and after sin enters the world. How has sin changed things between God and creation?

Genesis 2:15-17 --> Genesis 3:1-6

Genesis 2:25 --> Genesis 3:7 & 3:21

Genesis 2:18-20 --> Genesis 3:8-13

Genesis 2:21-24 --> Genesis 3:14-19

- What do we learn about God's character in the creation story?
- Put yourself in Eve's shoes. How would you expect God to react after he learned you had eaten from the Tree of Knowledge? How do you think you would feel? Does it match how God actually reacted to Eve?
- What questions do you have about the creation story?