

## Studies in Genesis: Process and Purpose of Creation

Written by Calvin Fox

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### Summary of the Biblical Doctrine of Creation:

1. The Eternal God (Jehovah) is the almighty Creator of all that exists in our matter, space and time Universe of
2. All that exists (in the heavens and on earth) does so because God rationally brought it into existence purposely and
3. God constantly sustains and provides for Creation: it is totally dependent upon Him upon Him
4. All forms of life, all physical processes and changes in Creation are of God
5. All of creation is good and serves God

### Why did God create?

1. He did not do it out of necessity. He did not require Creation to complete Himself in any way. God was complete and perfect before and apart from Creation
2. He did it for the glory of His Son, Jesus Christ - Col 1:15-18
3. He did it for His own glory - Rom 11:36; Ps 19:1f; Ps 103:22; Ps 148:1-10
4. He created for His pleasure- He said, "it is good, very good"

Everything in the Natural World, as made by God, is "good", "very good". [Much of the natural World has been negatively impacted by the Fall and its consequences and is not currently as God made it.]

"Good" can mean- Acceptable, well-made, "beautiful" – cf. Isa 41:7 "Good" can mean intrinsically good, not because of its characteristics nor because God says so; God did not call or pronounce everything He made to be good; He saw that everything is good. All things as made by God reflect God. God is good, therefore, they are good. All creation reveals God and

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is a witness to His power and mind; therefore, it is “good” - Psalm 19:1 cf Romans 1:20 etc

“Good” also means that which benefits human life. “Evil” is the opposite: that which destroys, harms or hurts human life - see Genesis 2:9, 17; 3:11+ 22; 50:20 and 45:4-8 All that God made (the entire physical universe, earth/land/sea and all that grows on or in them, including all creatures on land or in sea and air) are [still] “good”, i.e.- beneficial to human life -Psalm 8:3-8 For these reasons, Christians must be pro-creation. We must not destroy or ignore what God has made, what is good and exists for His pleasure and our benefit

### The Process of Creation itself begins with Gen.1:2

*Genesis 1:2 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. ESV*

Key Words:

Earth = “earth” is usually translated “land”- it is focus of the story, not the sky  
Without form = tohu [toe-WHO] = chaotic, confused; also wasteland, wilderness

Void or Empty = bohu [bo-WHO]

“without form and empty” together, as a phrase, means thoroughly disorganized, unproductive and uninhabited

the deep = the watery deep = the ocean w/darkness = chaotic abyss

When first created, what was to become land in v. 9-10 was a thoroughly disorganized, unproductive and uninhabited mass covered by deep water and darkness. God the Spirit (like a wind) was present, hovering over it all- preparing for the creative acts now to come. Creation is about bringing order to what is chaotic. The creative acts describe how God formed the formless & filled the empty

*Isa 45:18 for this is what the Lord says--He who created the heavens, He is God; He who fashioned and made the earth, He founded it; He did not create it to be empty [bohu], but formed it to be inhabited--*

Creation is first about how God turned wilderness [tohu] into fertile land good for Man. Then, Creation is about the commission [purpose] given to “Man” to continue this creational work: cultivating the fertile land, that had been wilderness, into civilization for His Glory.