Golden City *Church*

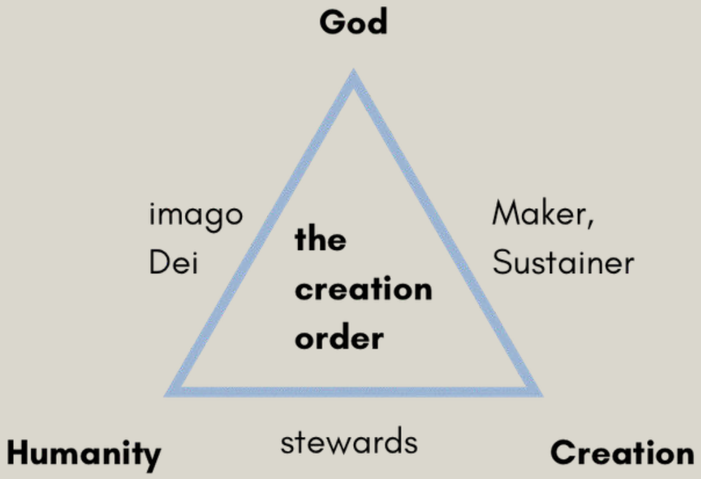


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Session 2

Made to Flourish

Bible Club *Fall 2026*



Last Session Review

- S. O. A. P. Bible study tool
- The creation order
- Imago Dei

Opening question:
What are the similarities and differences between the two creation accounts in Genesis 1 & 2?

S

Scripture

Read a passage of Scripture

O

Observation

Identify the context and what stood out to you. Write down what you observed about the passage, perhaps a key verse, or the main subject, and consider why it was written. What does this tell you about God? About the Bible?

A

Application

What does this passage mean for your own life? How can you apply it?

P

Prayer

Pray over what you have learned and ask God to help you apply it to your life.

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Being human in God's world

"Who am I?" is not a modern question. Socrates famously stated: "The unexamined life is not worth living." Thinkers have been pondering the identity and purpose of humanity for thousands of years. Our value systems change as we grow because we gradually realize what is truly essential to being human. Our value systems reflect what we build our identities upon: possessions say you are what you have; experiences say you are what you do; and relationships allow "who we are" to define "who I am."



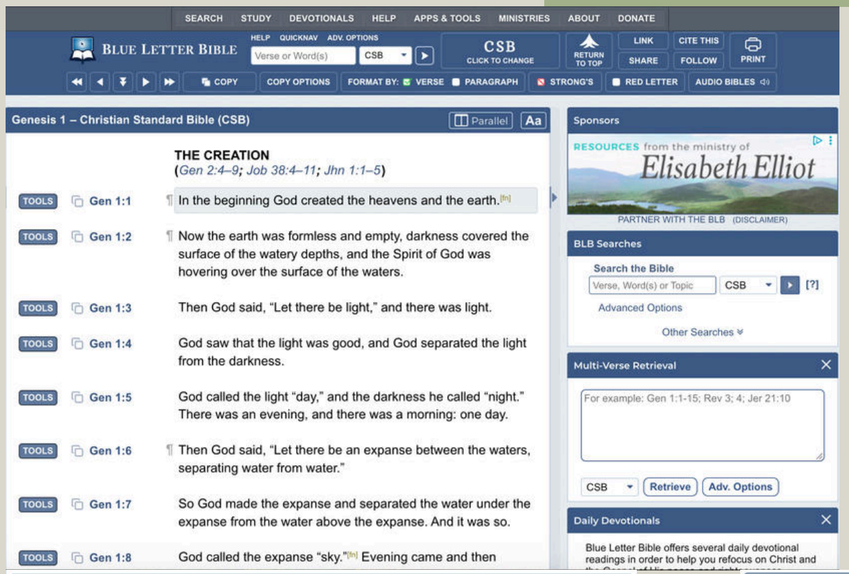
"I think, therefore I am." The French philosopher Descartes argued that what's going on in your mind is essential to your being. In other words, you are what you think. "My weight is my love. Wherever I am carried, my love is carrying me." St. Augustine pointed out that you are what you love. Love orients our being. There are so many aspects that determine who we are becoming, and I think the complexity of humanity makes life profoundly colorful.

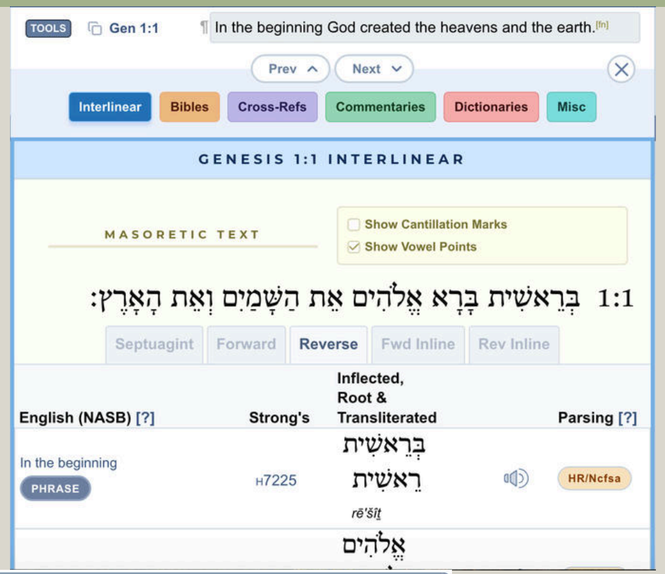
However, there is one aspect that people don't think about very often—you are your stories. Every story in your life contributes to who you uniquely are, and therefore, every season and every stage of life is a new chapter. What does it mean to be human in God's world? The Bible presents us with the story of God and His people, from creation to the new creation. Where are you from? Where are you in the story? Where are you going? Let's dive in and let the Bible—the true story of the whole world—tell us who God is and who we are.



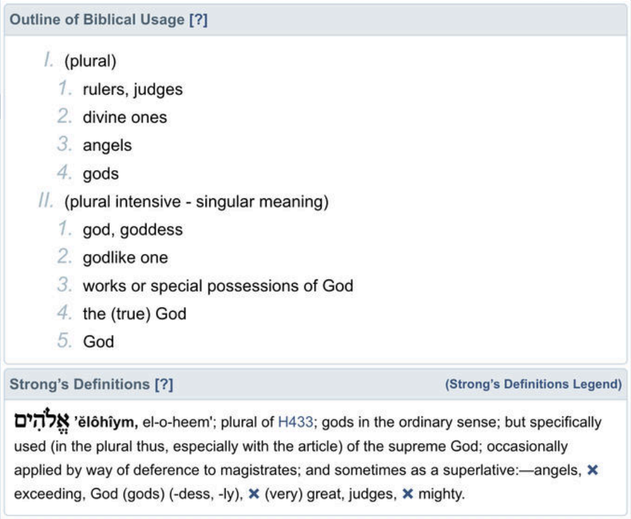
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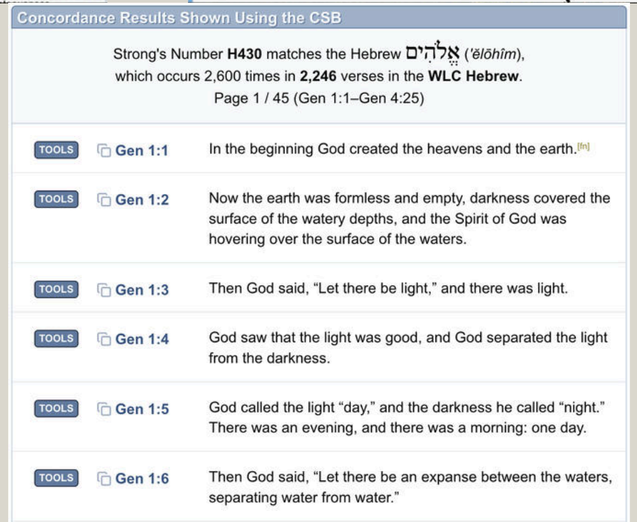
Bible study tool: word study







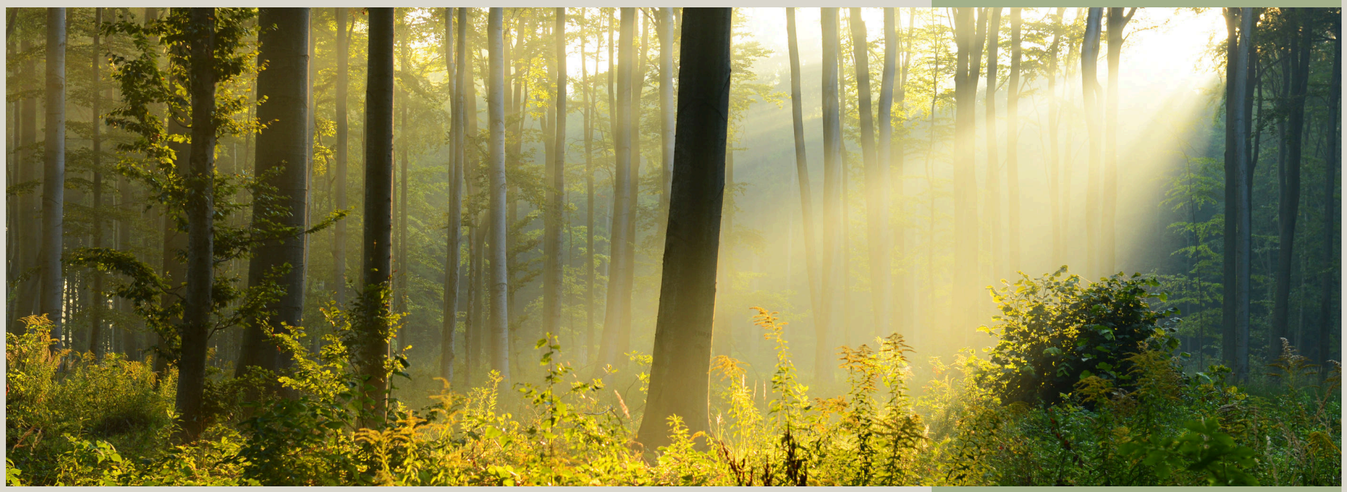




We are looking into 6 Hebrew words in this session:

- God: (H430) *elohim*
- Lord: (H3068) *Yhova*
- Man: (H120) *adam*
- Ground: (H127) *adama*
- Eden: (H5731) *eden*
- Eve: (H2332) *haua*

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The Garden of Delight

[Genesis 2:4-8, 15]
4 These are the records of the heavens and the earth,
concerning their creation. At the time that the Lord God
made the earth and the heavens, 5 no shrub of the field
had yet grown on the land, and no plant of the field had
yet sprouted, for the Lord God had not made it rain on
the land, and there was no man to work the ground. 6
But mist would come up from the earth and water all
the ground. 7 Then the Lord God formed the man out of
the dust from the ground and breathed the breath of
life into his nostrils, and the man became a living being.

8 The Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east,
and there he placed the man he had formed. 9 The
Lord God caused to grow out of the ground every tree
pleasing in appearance and good for food, including
the tree of life in the middle of the garden, as well as
the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

15 The Lord God took the man and placed him in the
garden of Eden to work it and watch over it.

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[Genesis 2:18-25]
18 Then the Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will
make a helper corresponding to him.” 19 The Lord God formed out of the
ground every wild animal and every bird of the sky, and brought each to the
man to see what he would call it. And whatever the man called a living
creature, that was its name. 20 The man gave names to all the livestock, to
the birds of the sky, and to every wild animal; but for the man no helper was
found corresponding to him. 21 So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to
come over the man, and he slept. God took one of his ribs and closed the
flesh at that place. 22 Then the Lord God made the rib he had taken from
the man into a woman and brought her to the man. 23 And the man said:

This one, at last, is bone of my bone
and flesh of my flesh;
this one will be called “woman,”
for she was taken from man.
24 This is why a man leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife,
and they become one flesh. 25 Both the man and his wife were naked, yet
felt no shame.



Made to Belong

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Psalm 139

[Psalm 139:1-18]
Lord, you have searched me and known me.
2 You know when I sit down and when I stand up;
you understand my thoughts from far away.
3 You observe my travels and my rest;
you are aware of all my ways.
4 Before a word is on my tongue,
you know all about it, Lord.
5 You have encircled me;
you have placed your hand on me.
6 This wondrous knowledge is beyond me.
It is lofty; I am unable to reach it.
7 Where can I go to escape your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?
8 If I go up to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
9 If I fly on the wings of the dawn
and settle down on the western horizon,
10 even there your hand will lead me;
your right hand will hold on to me.
11 If I say, “Surely the darkness will hide me,
and the light around me will be night” —
12 even the darkness is not dark to you.
The night shines like the day;
darkness and light are alike to you.
13 For it was you who created my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother’s womb.
14 I will praise you
because I have been remarkably and
wondrously made.
Your works are wondrous,
and I know this very well.
15 My bones were not hidden from you
when I was made in secret,
when I was formed in the depths of the earth.
16 Your eyes saw me when I was formless;
all my days were written in your book and
planned
before a single one of them began.
17 God, how precious your thoughts are to me;
how vast their sum is!
18 If I counted them,
they would outnumber the grains of sand;
when I wake up, I am still with you.

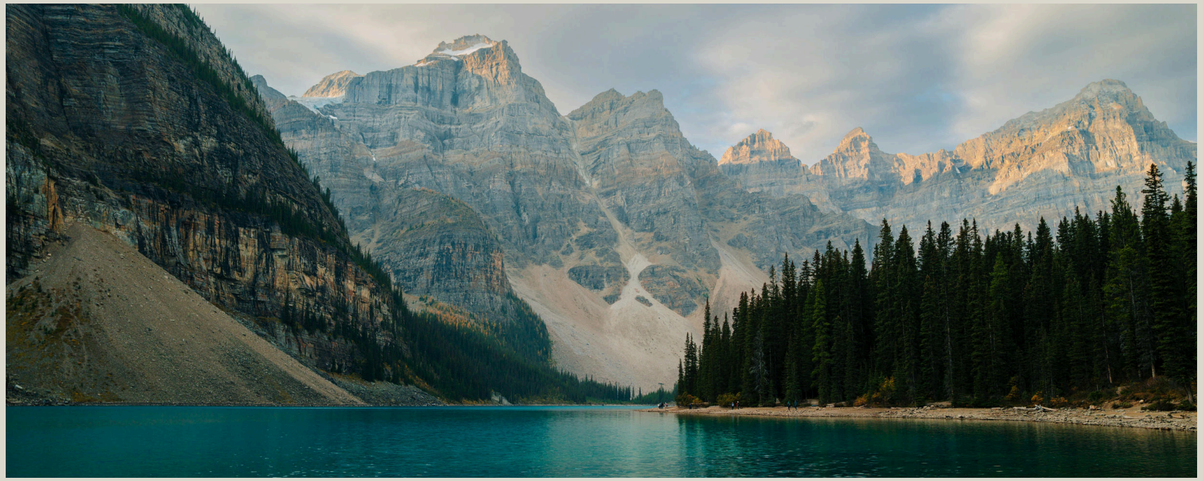


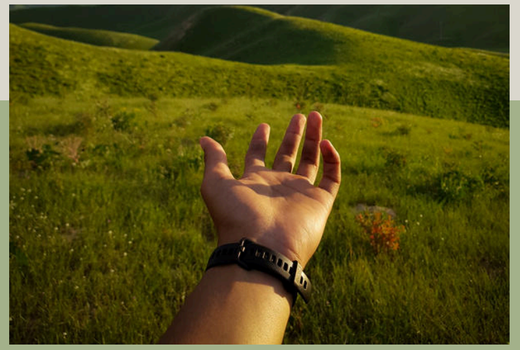
Two angles of the creation account reflect the nature of the same God. Elohim is the all-powerful Creator, and Yahweh is the all-loving Father. He is the good and beautiful God, and He is writing a good and beautiful story.

Just like Genesis 1 depicts God creating order out of chaos, in Genesis 2, God planted a garden out of wilderness. In God's eyes, it was not good for the earth to be uninhabitable, and it was also not good for man to be alone. So God named the land and the garden delight, where "human" and "life" can go hand in hand, thrive in union with their Creator, and in harmony with the created world.

Before God declared His creative work "very good," the Author of Life composed a poem over humanity: "....In the image of God He created them; male and female He created them." This song was echoed by His image-bearer: "You are now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh...." The garden is full of delight.

The Sower came out to sow the seed into your heart, and then He invited you to His garden from the beginning. The story of *Planted.* is just getting started.





Inhabit the Story

Worship & Prayer

A Thousand Shores by Citizens



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"A Thousand Shores" words and music by Leslie Jordan, Jack Mooring, and Zach Bolen
© 2022 Integrity Music
CCLI Song # 7201512

[Verse 1]
You read my heart like an open book
You write my story and call it good
I can't imagine a greater truth
Who is like You?
You know what I'm thinking before I ask
You're in my future, You're in my past
It's hard to imagine the way You move
Who is like You?

[Chorus]
You give my eyes the light to see
You give my lips the words to speak
You give my lungs the air to breathe
You are my everything
You give my soul a song to sing
You give my heart a melody
You give it every single beat
You are my everything

[Verse 2]
Your love is like sand on a thousand shores
You give and you give and still there's more
I can't imagine a greater truth
Who is like you?

[Chorus]
You give my eyes the light to see
You give my lips the words to speak
You give my lungs the air to breathe
You are my everything
You give my soul a song to sing
You give my heart a melody
You give it every single beat
You are my everything
You are my everything, oh

[Bridge]
This is too wonderful
It's incomprehensible
Don't have to imagine what I would lose
'Cause I'll never live a day without You
This is too wonderful
It's incomprehensible
Don't have to imagine what I would lose
'Cause I'll never live a day without You

[Chorus]
You give my eyes the light to see
You give my lips the words to speak
You give my lungs the air to breathe
Jesus, You are my everything
You give my soul a song to sing
You give my heart a melody
You give it every single beat
Jesus, You are my everything
Jesus, You are my everything
Jesus, You are my everything

[Outro]
This is too wonderful
Your love is like sand on a thousand shores
Oh
You give and You give and still there's more

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Homework & Book Club

There is a *lullaby effect* that happens when a story becomes so familiar that we stop reading it carefully. We recognize it instead of examining it.

The homework for this week is simple: read Genesis 3 as though you had never heard it before. What would seem strange? What questions would you ask?

Recommended reading:
Garden City: Work, Rest, and the Art of Being Human by John Mark Comer

Bridging forward:
Why don't we feel like we live in the garden of delight anymore? What happened next? How did Adam and Eve lose their paradise? Every story has twists and turns, and we know that's not the end of the story.



Thank You.

Golden City *Church*



Next Week →

Session 3:
East of Eden

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