

Genesis 1:1-31

The Refrain of Creation

Proposition: *Creation calls us to join in declaring God's glory.*

I. Introduction

Two weeks ago, we began our meditation on Genesis 1 by considering our Creator God. For today, we will focus on three refrains that run through this chapter: 1) “*God said... and it was so*”; 2) “*God saw that it was good...*”; and 3) “*There was evening and there was morning.*” These refrains spill down like channels into the endless sea of his glory, teeming with life, shining with foam and shouting with myriad voices. That is the Refrain of Creation—declaring the glory of God.

II. “God said... and it was so.”

a. Creation declares God's inexhaustible POWER.

- i. **God speaks creation and it happens.** [Ps. 33:6-9; Jl. 2:11]
 1. We can't *speaks* things into being. God speaks, and light appears.
- ii. **God shapes creation and it stands.** [Jb. 38:4; Je. 51:15]
 1. This is different from creation *ex nihilo*. God calls light into existence and then *separates* it from darkness. That's shaping. Dip your hand into a bowl of oil and water and try separating oil out of it. Imagine then separating light out of darkness!

b. Creation declares his sovereign PURPOSE.

- i. **God executes his deliberative counsel.** [Dt. 32:10-11]
 1. God always speaks and acts out of his infinitely wise counsel. [cf. 2 Cor. 4:13, esp. “the same *spirit of faith*”]
- ii. **God accomplishes his well-laid plans.** [Nu. 23:19; Is. 46:10-11]
 1. *And it was so!* God's plan succeeds. God will finish what he started; he is faithful!

III. “And God saw that it was good.”

a. Creation declares his searching JUDGEMENTS.

- i. **God sees how things really are.** [1 Sa. 16:7; Da. 2:22; Hb. 4:13; cf. Gn. 4:5; Hb. 11:4]
 1. Unlike men, God does not look at appearances, but sees to the heart of everything.
- ii. **God calls things what they are.** [Is. 5:20; Pr. 17:15]
 1. Unlike men, God does not lie and call light “darkness” or darkness “light.”

b. Creation declares his glorious GOODNESS.

- i. **Creation is good because it declares God's glory.**
 1. God reveals his glory through creation. [Ps. 19:1-4]
- ii. **God chooses beauty to teach us glory.** [1 Co. 1:27-28]

1. God uses created stuff not half as beautiful as he is to clothe his glory *just enough* that we might *glimpse* it through the *beauty* of the created world. Beautiful clothes... for a *glorious* God! Don't worship God's clothes, but don't despise them either. We are called to bear witness with this manifest beauty and, as God's image bearers, join our voice to creation in declaration of the truth hidden there: *Glory!*

IV. “And there was evening and there was morning.”

a. Creation declares his creative PROVIDENCE.

- i. **God orders the boundaries of creation.** [Jb. 38:8-11; Ps. 104:7-9]
 1. Things which ought not be comingled, God divides, setting boundaries and giving birth to order.
- ii. **God sets the stage for recreation.** [cf. Gn. 9:1]
 1. God causes well-ordered creation to work together in harmony, giving birth to recreation.

b. Creation declares his patient FULFILLMENT.

- i. **Creation waits for God's Word to transform it.** [Is. 45:18]
 1. God works through time to form the earth and fill creation. What was formless, he forms. What was empty, he fills.
- ii. **Creation waits for God's Word to fill it.** [Ro. 8:19-22]
 1. God creates realms and fills them with rulers, kingdoms and fills them with kings. Over all he sets the pinnacle of creation—man.

V. Joining Creation in Worship

- a. *Don't be stubborn or hardhearted to declare your Maker's glory.* God who established the world in righteousness will one day sweep it away, never to be remembered. His glory will be all that remains.
- b. *Don't lose heart; turn to Christ.* “For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” [2 Cor. 4:6] God does not delight to crush you, but he crushed Christ in your place.
- c. *Declare God's glory*, boldly owning your savior among the crowd, saying, “He has done all things well!” [Mk. 7:37]
- d. *Wait patiently* on his creative providence, for “He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.” [Ec. 3:11; cf. 2 Cor. 4:6-10]