

God the Father

What do we learn about God as creator from the revelation to Israel: *We learn that there is one God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.*

- **Hebrews 11:1-3**; God reveals through the word He is “the thing” behind things: Faith not science apprehends
- Genesis 1 is in direct contrast to the God’s of Egypt (Exodus) who must be appeased for all nature to work
- Prayer becomes necessary because the “seen” is not all there is to God: “Unseen” revealed in prayer

What does this mean: *This means that the universe is good, that it is the work of a single loving God who creates, sustains, and directs it.*

- **Genesis 1:26**; we were made through the dance of love; the “us” = Father / Son / Spirit: Trinity
- We were created “ex nihilo” FROM nothing: Even in nothing, God is there and makes life
- Creation best seen as infancy to adulthood; Adam to Christ = God as parenting father: **John 19:5**; **Maturity**

What does this mean about our place in the universe: *It means that the world belongs to its creator; and that we are called to enjoy it and to care for it in accordance with God's purposes*

- **Genesis 2:15**; Work + Keep = Serve + Protect; we reflect God to God = (worship) and to creation = (stewardship)
- Work was given to us as enjoyment before it became laborious: Love work even if not job
- God planted / Placed / Gave: God shares His life: Only wants to be God with us

What does this mean about human life: *It means that all people, creatures and creations are worthy of respect and honor, because all are created in the image of God, and all can respond to the love of God.*

- **2 Corinthians 4:4-7**; God’s glory is the human. Jesus is true humanity and we have this glory in jars of clay
- **John 12:27-33**; Jesus on the cross = God’s glory in a fallen world: He is glorified in our self-giving love for others
- **Mark 15:39**; when people face us and see the way we take up our cross, they can see/respond to His love
 - o **Isa 46:8-10**: *The end (finality) declared from beginning (perfect creation) = He is making all things new*
 - o *God is a creator + Redeemer: always both always at the same time*
 - o *Evil is “No thing” or “Nothing.” He creates out of Nothing = He creates life even in our sin and shame*
 - o *Confirmation is us recommitting to the work of reminding people you are beloved of God and not nothing*