

Essentials

Creation | Genesis 1 | January 31, 2021

The punchline of Genesis 1 is 'it was good'. This, and the rest of the biblical witness to God as Creator, tell us that goodness is what we were made for and God continues to create the world. Wherever we feel things are not right we can feel the comfort of the fact that God's not done.

Goodness is what you were made for

- In contrast to other ways of seeing the world, in scripture the flaws are not at the forefront. The world was made with what some call 'original goodness'.
- For this reason, when we experience or make more goodness in the world, we are remembering the thing we are made for.
- In the Biblical understanding of things, humans and creation are tied together deeply—when we forget the goodness we are made for creation forgets. When we remember, creation remembers.

God continues to create the world

- God says it is good to release us from the burden of judging the world.
- For Scripture, God continues to make the world—even in the repeated things we believe are 'natural laws' or constants.

God's not done

- God as Creator does not just mean he *made* the world, but means he is creative. It is good is not it is perfect, which means things can change.
- Scripture tells us God does *new things*.
- God is not done with whatever we think is currently wrong with the world.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If you were an outsider looking at your life, would you see a conviction about original goodness or original sin?
2. How do we re-engage our sense of wonder and see God 'at play' in the world?
3. What is comforting about seeing God continuing to create the world for you? What is unsettling?