

THE STORY That Makes Sense of Our STORIES

II. purpose

January 23, 2022

Genesis 1:1(ESV)

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

John 1:1-3, 12-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Isaiah 65:17-18

¹⁷ “For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind.

¹⁸ But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy, and her people to be a gladness.

INTRODUCTION:

What story makes the best sense of the universe in which we find ourselves?

1. **The universe had a beginning** (which means it is not eternal)

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” Genesis 1:1

“For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth.” Isaiah 65:17

“Almost everyone now believes that the universe, and time itself, had a beginning.” —*Stephen Hawking*

2. **The universe was created by God** (which means God pre-existed the universe)

“Why is there something rather than nothing?” —*Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz (1646-1716)*

“Because there is a law such as gravity, the universe can and will create itself from nothing. Spontaneous creation is the reason there is something rather than nothing, why the universe exists, why we exist. . . . It is not necessary to invoke God.” —*Stephen Hawking*

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” Genesis 1:1

“Some would claim the answer to these questions is that there is a God who chose to create the universe that way. It is reasonable to ask who or what created the universe, but if the answer is God, then the question has merely been deflected to that of who created God.” —*Stephen Hawking*

3. **The universe was created with purpose** (which explains why we all live as if our lives truly have meaning)

What story makes the best sense of the fact that we all live as if our lives truly have meaning and purpose?

The pessimistic secular story: life has no ultimate meaning or purpose, and we must face this harsh reality.

“It wouldn’t matter if you had never existed.” —*Thomas Nagel*

The optimistic secular story: life has no ultimate meaning, but we can create our own meaning.

“Something’s Missing” —*John Mayer*

Something's missing	Friends	Guitar
And I don't know how to fix it	(Check)	(Check)
Something's missing	Money	Microphone
And I don't know what it is	(Check)	(Check)
No I don't know what it is	Good times	Messages waiting on me when
At all	(Check)	I come home
	Opposite sex	(Check)
	(Check)	

“[The time traveler] thought cheerlessly of the Advancement of Mankind, and saw in the growing pile of civilization only a foolish heaping that must inevitably fall back upon and destroy its makers in the end. If that is so, it remains for us to live as though it were not so.”
—*H.G. Wells (The Time Machine)*

The Christian Story: life has true meaning because God created us with purpose.

“Our hearts are restless, until they find their rest in you.” —*Augustine*