

Let There Be

WHAT WE FOUND

- Genesis 1 is built like a building: days 1–3 form the realms (light, sky and sea, land), days 4–6 fill them (lights, fish and birds, animals and us). The two problems of 1:2, “without form and void,” are answered in order.
- God creates by speaking, effortlessly, from nothing. The sun and moon are not even named: many readers see a quiet polemic here, and the astral “gods” of the nations are demoted to lamps.
- “Image of God” echoes the royal language of the ancient world, where kings were called images of their gods; here it is given to every human being, male and female: each person is the living marker of whose world this is.
- John 1 reopens Genesis and names the Word God spoke as a Person, the Son. The One who said “Let there be light” is the One who came to save us (see also 2 Corinthians 4:6).
- Day seven has no “evening and morning.” The New Testament reads this open-endedness as an invitation: God’s rest is still open, and we are called to enter it (Hebrews 4:1-11).

VOICES OF THE CHURCH

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St. Augustine · *On the Literal Meaning of Genesis, Book I*

Do not chain the faith to shaky claims about the physical world, he teaches in substance; hold firmly what is certain (God created all things) and hold loosely what is not.

VOICE OF THE CHURCH

St. Basil the Great · *Hexaemeron, Homily 1 (paraphrase)*

The created world, he teaches in substance, is a school and training place where souls learn the wisdom and generosity of the Creator; creation is not a rival to worship but a teacher pointing beyond itself.

VOICE OF THE CHURCH

St. Thomas Aquinas · *Summa Theologiae I, q. 45; q. 104, a. 1*

Creation is not rearranging raw material; it is the sheer gift of existence, given and sustained at every moment. Applied to us: creation is a relationship you are inside of right now.

LIVE IT THIS WEEK

- Practice a real sabbath hour this Sunday: no screens, no commerce, one thing that is pure gift.
- Once this week, stop before something created and say aloud: “God saw that it was good.”
- Read Genesis 1 once more alone, slowly.

MEMORY VERSE

“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” (Genesis 1:27)

MY GUESS • SEALED UNTIL MID-STUDY

Genesis 1 ends with everything “very good.” You know the world is not. Write your sealed guess below: by the last page of Genesis, what will have gone wrong, and what do you think God will do about it? Fold this sheet over. We will open the guesses together in the middle of the study.

My guess: _____

BEFORE NEXT SESSION

Read Genesis 2:4–25 before next session. Just read it; notice what feels different from chapter 1.

Catechism references: CCC 279–281, 290–298, 337, 339, 345–349, 355–357, 159.