

# The Big Picture

GOD IN THE CENTER FROM GENESIS TO REVELATION

Created For Him

## A Deeper Look - Study Guide Companion

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### Day 1: The Creator at the Center

**Read: Genesis 1:1, 26–31**

Read the passage slowly and pay attention to what God does and what humanity receives.

1. What does Genesis 1:1 establish about God before it tells us anything about humanity?
2. In verses 26–27, what is unique about the creation of humanity?
3. According to verses 28–30, what does God give humanity? What does He ask them to do?
4. What does God's declaration in verse 31 tell you about what He created?
5. If God is the Creator and we are His creatures, how should that shape the way we understand ourselves and our place in His story?

### What does this reveal about God?

Write down two or three truths about God that you see in this passage.

### For Further Thought:

Before humanity accomplishes anything, God has already given them life, identity, blessing, responsibility, and provision. What does that teach you about the direction of the Creation story? Who is the Giver, and who is the receiver?

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### Day 2: For My Glory

**Read: Isaiah 43:1–7, 20–21**

Remember the context: God is speaking specifically about **Israel, His covenant people**. Notice the language He uses to describe both what He has done for them and why He has formed them.

1. List the things God says He has done for His people in verses 1–7.
2. What three expressions of purpose do you find in verses 7 and 21? Look especially for the phrases “**for my glory**,” “**for myself**,” and “**declare my praise**.”
3. What do those phrases tell you about the God-centered purpose of His people?
4. Why is it important to remember that Isaiah 43 is speaking specifically about Israel rather than simply treating verse 7 as another account of Genesis 1?
5. Even within its particular context, what does this passage begin to teach us about God's glory and His purposes?

### **What does this reveal about God?**

How is your understanding of God's glory beginning to deepen?

### **For Further Thought:**

We often begin with what God does **for us**. Isaiah certainly speaks of God's gracious acts toward His people, but where does God ultimately direct their attention?

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## **Day 3: All Things Are for Him**

### **Read: Colossians 1:15–17 and John 1:1–3**

Today, pay special attention to the repeated words “**all things**.”

1. According to Colossians 1:16, what was created through Christ? How comprehensive is Paul's description?
2. What does John 1:1–3 add to your understanding of Christ's presence and activity at Creation?
3. Colossians says all things were created “**through him and for him**.” What is the difference between those two statements?
4. According to verse 17, what is Christ's relationship to Creation right now?
5. Consider the progression: all things were created **through Him**, all things were created **for Him**, and all things **hold together in Him**. What does this reveal about Christ's place in Creation?

### **What does this reveal about God?**

What changes when you realize that Creation, including your own life, is not ultimately centered on you but **on Christ**?

**For Further Thought:**

Return to Genesis 1:1: **“In the beginning, God created...”** How has Colossians 1 and John 1 expanded what you now see when you read those opening words?

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## **Day 4: Creation Declares His Glory**

**Read: Psalm 19:1–6 and Romans 1:19–20**

Watch for what Creation is doing in these passages and, even more importantly, **where Creation directs our attention**.

1. List the action words David uses in Psalm 19:1–4 to describe Creation's testimony.
2. According to verses 3–4, how can Creation communicate without using words?
3. What does Romans 1:19–20 say can be perceived through “the things that have been made”?
4. Does Psalm 19 say Creation **makes** God glorious or **declares** His glory? Why does that distinction matter?
5. Look outside at something God has made. Instead of stopping with the beauty or wonder of the created thing itself, ask: **What does this direct me to see about its Creator?**

**What does this reveal about God?**

Complete this sentence in your own words: **Creation declares God's glory because...**

**For Further Thought:**

Before there were stars to declare His glory, mountains to display His power, oceans to reveal His greatness, or human voices to praise His name, **God was already glorious**. What does that tell you about the difference between God's glory and our glorifying God?

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## Day 5: Worthy Are You

### Read: Revelation 4:8–11

We began the week with the opening words of Genesis. Now travel to the throne room of Revelation and notice where the biblical journey has taken us.

1. Who is at the center of the scene in Revelation 4?
2. What do the heavenly creatures proclaim about God in verse 8?
3. What do the twenty-four elders do in verses 10–11?
4. According to verse 11, **why** is God worthy to receive “glory and honor and power”?
5. Compare Genesis 1:1 with Revelation 4:11. What connection do you see between the beginning of Creation and the worship around God's throne?

Now look back over the entire week:

**Genesis:** Creation **comes from God**.

**Colossians:** Creation **exists for Him**.

**Psalms 19:** Creation **declares His glory**.

**Revelation 4:** The proper response of the creature is to give the Creator **the glory, honor, praise, and worship He deserves**.

**What does this reveal about God?**

What have you learned about God this week that makes you want to worship Him?

## Bringing It Together

God did not create because He lacked glory or needed His creatures to make Him glorious. **He was glorious before Creation existed**. Creation reveals the glory that has always belonged to Him, and when we glorify God, we recognize and proclaim the worth that is already His.

Take a few moments to respond to Him. Instead of beginning with what you need from God, begin with **who He is**. Write a short prayer of worship, praising Him specifically for what you have discovered about Him this week.

**This is His Creation. This is His story. And the glory belongs to Him.**