

## Creation, the Creator and the big picture

### Super Saturday Jesus Rally

June 6, 2015

#### Agenda

1. Record the call
2. Introductions
3. Songs -
  - a. Good to me
  - b. Blessed Assurance
  - c. What a Friend We Have in Jesus
4. Prayer
5. Welcome
  - a. Who I am and what is the Bible Team (see previous call)
6. Study - **Creation, the Creator and the big picture**
  - a. Read the Word...

#### Genesis 1

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>2</sup> The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

<sup>3</sup> Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. <sup>4</sup> And God saw that the light was good. Then he separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light "day" and the darkness "night."

And evening passed and morning came, marking the first day.

<sup>6</sup> Then God said, "Let there be a space between the waters, to separate the waters of the heavens from the waters of the earth." <sup>7</sup> And that is what happened. God made this space to separate the waters of the earth from the waters of the heavens. <sup>8</sup> God called the space "sky."

And evening passed and morning came, marking the second day.

<sup>9</sup> Then God said, "Let the waters beneath the sky flow together into one place, so dry ground may appear." And that is what happened. <sup>10</sup> God called the dry ground "land" and the waters "seas." And God saw that it was good. <sup>11</sup> Then God said, "Let the land sprout with vegetation—every sort of seed-bearing plant, and trees that grow seed-bearing fruit. These seeds will then produce the kinds of plants and trees from which they came." And that is what happened. <sup>12</sup> The land produced vegetation—all sorts of seed-bearing plants, and trees with seed-bearing fruit. Their seeds produced plants and trees of the same kind. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>13</sup> And evening passed and morning came, marking the third day.

<sup>14</sup> Then God said, "Let lights appear in the sky to separate the day from the night. Let them mark off the seasons, days, and years. <sup>15</sup> Let these lights in the sky shine down on the earth." And that is what happened. <sup>16</sup> God made two great lights—the larger one to govern the day, and the smaller one to govern the night. He also made the stars. <sup>17</sup> God set these lights in the sky to light the earth, <sup>18</sup> to govern the day and night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>19</sup> And evening passed and morning came, marking the fourth day.

<sup>20</sup> Then God said, "Let the waters swarm with fish and other life. Let the skies be filled with birds of every kind." <sup>21</sup> So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that scurries and swarms in the water, and every sort of bird—each producing offspring of the same kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup> Then God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply. Let the fish fill the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth."

<sup>23</sup> And evening passed and morning came, marking the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup> Then God said, "Let the earth produce every sort of animal, each producing offspring of the same kind—livestock, small animals that scurry along the ground, and wild animals." And that is what happened. <sup>25</sup> God made all sorts of wild animals, livestock, and small animals, each able to produce offspring of the same kind. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let us make human beings<sup>[b]</sup> in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground."

<sup>27</sup> So God created human beings<sup>[c]</sup> in his own image.

In the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup> Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground."

<sup>29</sup> Then God said, "Look! I have given you every seed-bearing plant throughout the earth and all the fruit trees for your food.<sup>30</sup> And I have given every green plant as food for all the wild animals, the birds in the sky, and the small animals that scurry along the ground—everything that has life." And that is what happened.

<sup>31</sup> Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!

And evening passed and morning came, marking the sixth day.

## **Genesis 2**

<sup>1</sup> So the creation of the heavens and the earth and everything in them was completed. <sup>2</sup> On the seventh day God had finished his work of creation, so he rested<sup>[a]</sup> from all his work. <sup>3</sup> And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day when he rested from all his work of creation.

<sup>4</sup> This is the account of the creation of the heavens and the earth.

## **Deuteronomy 4:19**

And when you look up into the sky and see the sun, moon, and stars—all the forces of heaven—don't be seduced into worshiping them. The Lord your God gave them to all the peoples of the earth.

## **1 Chronicles 16:26**

The gods of other nations are mere idols, but the Lord made the heavens!

## **Nehemiah 9:6**

"You alone are the Lord. You made the skies and the heavens and all the stars. You made the earth and the seas and everything in them. You preserve them all, and the angels of heaven worship you.

## **Job 9:9**

He made all the stars—the Bear and Orion, the Pleiades and the constellations of the southern sky.

## Job 38

Then the Lord answered Job from the whirlwind:

- 2 "Who is this that questions my wisdom  
with such ignorant words?
- 3 Brace yourself like a man,  
because I have some questions for you,  
and you must answer them.
- 4 "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?  
Tell me, if you know so much.
- 5 Who determined its dimensions  
and stretched out the surveying line?
- 6 What supports its foundations,  
and who laid its cornerstone
- 7 as the morning stars sang together  
and all the angels shouted for joy?
- 8 "Who kept the sea inside its boundaries  
as it burst from the womb,
- 9 and as I clothed it with clouds  
and wrapped it in thick darkness?
- 10 For I locked it behind barred gates,  
limiting its shores.
- 11 I said, 'This far and no farther will you come.  
Here your proud waves must stop!'
- 12 "Have you ever commanded the morning to appear  
and caused the dawn to rise in the east?
- 13 Have you made daylight spread to the ends of the earth,  
to bring an end to the night's wickedness?
- 14 As the light approaches,  
the earth takes shape like clay pressed beneath a seal;  
it is robed in brilliant colors.
- 15 The light disturbs the wicked  
and stops the arm that is raised in violence.
- 16 "Have you explored the springs from which the seas come?  
Have you explored their depths?
- 17 Do you know where the gates of death are located?  
Have you seen the gates of utter gloom?
- 18 Do you realize the extent of the earth?  
Tell me about it if you know!
- 19 "Where does light come from,  
and where does darkness go?
- 20 Can you take each to its home?  
Do you know how to get there?
- 21 But of course you know all this!  
For you were born before it was all created,  
and you are so very experienced!
- 22 "Have you visited the storehouses of the snow  
or seen the storehouses of hail?
- 23 (I have reserved them as weapons for the time of trouble,  
for the day of battle and war.)
- 24 Where is the path to the source of light?  
Where is the home of the east wind?

25 "Who created a channel for the torrents of rain?  
 Who laid out the path for the lightning?  
 26 Who makes the rain fall on barren land,  
 in a desert where no one lives?  
 27 Who sends rain to satisfy the parched ground  
 and make the tender grass spring up?  
 28 "Does the rain have a father?  
 Who gives birth to the dew?  
 29 Who is the mother of the ice?  
 Who gives birth to the frost from the heavens?  
 30 For the water turns to ice as hard as rock,  
 and the surface of the water freezes.  
 31 "Can you direct the movement of the stars—  
 binding the cluster of the Pleiades  
 or loosening the cords of Orion?  
 32 Can you direct the constellations through the seasons  
 or guide the Bear with her cubs across the heavens?  
 33 Do you know the laws of the universe?  
 Can you use them to regulate the earth?  
 34 "Can you shout to the clouds  
 and make it rain?  
 35 Can you make lightning appear  
 and cause it to strike as you direct?  
 36 Who gives intuition to the heart  
 and instinct to the mind?  
 37 Who is wise enough to count all the clouds?  
 Who can tilt the water jars of heaven  
 38 when the parched ground is dry  
 and the soil has hardened into clods?  
 39 "Can you stalk prey for a lioness  
 and satisfy the young lions' appetites  
 40 as they lie in their dens  
 or crouch in the thicket?  
 41 Who provides food for the ravens  
 when their young cry out to God  
 and wander about in hunger?

### **Job 39**

"Do you know when the wild goats give birth?  
 Have you watched as deer are born in the wild?  
 2 Do you know how many months they carry their young?  
 Are you aware of the time of their delivery?  
 3 They crouch down to give birth to their young  
 and deliver their offspring.  
 4 Their young grow up in the open fields,  
 then leave home and never return.  
 5 "Who gives the wild donkey its freedom?  
 Who untied its ropes?  
 6 I have placed it in the wilderness;  
 its home is the wasteland.  
 7 It hates the noise of the city  
 and has no driver to shout at it.  
 8 The mountains are its pastureland,

where it searches for every blade of grass.  
9 "Will the wild ox consent to being tamed?  
Will it spend the night in your stall?  
10 Can you hitch a wild ox to a plow?  
Will it plow a field for you?  
11 Given its strength, can you trust it?  
Can you leave and trust the ox to do your work?  
12 Can you rely on it to bring home your grain  
and deliver it to your threshing floor?  
13 "The ostrich flaps her wings grandly,  
but they are no match for the feathers of the stork.  
14 She lays her eggs on top of the earth,  
letting them be warmed in the dust.  
15 She doesn't worry that a foot might crush them  
or a wild animal might destroy them.  
16 She is harsh toward her young,  
as if they were not her own.  
She doesn't care if they die.  
17 For God has deprived her of wisdom.  
He has given her no understanding.  
18 But whenever she jumps up to run,  
she passes the swiftest horse with its rider.  
19 "Have you given the horse its strength  
or clothed its neck with a flowing mane?  
20 Did you give it the ability to leap like a locust?  
Its majestic snorting is terrifying!  
21 It paws the earth and rejoices in its strength  
when it charges out to battle.  
22 It laughs at fear and is unafraid.  
It does not run from the sword.  
23 The arrows rattle against it,  
and the spear and javelin flash.  
24 It paws the ground fiercely  
and rushes forward into battle when the ram's horn blows.  
25 It snorts at the sound of the horn.  
It senses the battle in the distance.  
It quivers at the captain's commands and the noise of battle.  
26 "Is it your wisdom that makes the hawk soar  
and spread its wings toward the south?  
27 Is it at your command that the eagle rises  
to the heights to make its nest?  
28 It lives on the cliffs,  
making its home on a distant, rocky crag.  
29 From there it hunts its prey,  
keeping watch with piercing eyes.  
30 Its young gulp down blood.  
Where there's a carcass, there you'll find it."

**Job 40** Then the LORD said to Job,  
2 "Do you still want to argue with the Almighty?  
You are God's critic, but do you have the answers?"  
3 Then Job replied to the LORD,

4 "I am nothing—how could I ever find the answers?  
 I will cover my mouth with my hand.  
 5 I have said too much already.  
 I have nothing more to say."  
 6 Then the LORD answered Job from the whirlwind:  
 7 "Brace yourself like a man,  
 because I have some questions for you,  
 and you must answer them.  
 8 "Will you discredit my justice  
 and condemn me just to prove you are right?  
 9 Are you as strong as God?  
 Can you thunder with a voice like his?  
 10 All right, put on your glory and splendor,  
 your honor and majesty.  
 11 Give vent to your anger.  
 Let it overflow against the proud.  
 12 Humiliate the proud with a glance;  
 walk on the wicked where they stand.  
 13 Bury them in the dust.  
 Imprison them in the world of the dead.  
 14 Then even I would praise you,  
 for your own strength would save you.  
 15 "Take a look at Behemoth,  
 which I made, just as I made you.  
 It eats grass like an ox.  
 16 See its powerful loins  
 and the muscles of its belly.  
 17 Its tail is as strong as a cedar.  
 The sinews of its thighs are knit tightly together.  
 18 Its bones are tubes of bronze.  
 Its limbs are bars of iron.  
 19 It is a prime example of God's handiwork,  
 and only its Creator can threaten it.  
 20 The mountains offer it their best food,  
 where all the wild animals play.  
 21 It lies under the lotus plants,  
 hidden by the reeds in the marsh.  
 22 The lotus plants give it shade  
 among the willows beside the stream.  
 23 It is not disturbed by the raging river,  
 not concerned when the swelling Jordan rushes around it.  
 24 No one can catch it off guard  
 or put a ring in its nose and lead it away.

**Job 41** "Can you catch Leviathan with a hook  
 or put a noose around its jaw?  
 2 Can you tie it with a rope through the nose  
 or pierce its jaw with a spike?  
 3 Will it beg you for mercy  
 or implore you for pity?  
 4 Will it agree to work for you,  
 to be your slave for life?"

- 5 Can you make it a pet like a bird,  
or give it to your little girls to play with?
- 6 Will merchants try to buy it  
to sell it in their shops?
- 7 Will its hide be hurt by spears  
or its head by a harpoon?
- 8 If you lay a hand on it,  
you will certainly remember the battle that follows.  
You won't try that again!
- 9 No, it is useless to try to capture it.  
The hunter who attempts it will be knocked down.
- 10 And since no one dares to disturb it,  
who then can stand up to me?
- 11 Who has given me anything that I need to pay back?  
Everything under heaven is mine.
- 12 "I want to emphasize Leviathan's limbs  
and its enormous strength and graceful form.
- 13 Who can strip off its hide,  
and who can penetrate its double layer of armor?
- 14 Who could pry open its jaws?  
For its teeth are terrible!
- 15 The scales on its back are like rows of shields  
tightly sealed together.
- 16 They are so close together  
that no air can get between them.
- 17 Each scale sticks tight to the next.  
They interlock and cannot be penetrated.
- 18 "When it sneezes, it flashes light!  
Its eyes are like the red of dawn.
- 19 Lightning leaps from its mouth;  
flames of fire flash out.
- 20 Smoke streams from its nostrils  
like steam from a pot heated over burning rushes.
- 21 Its breath would kindle coals,  
for flames shoot from its mouth.
- 22 "The tremendous strength in Leviathan's neck  
strikes terror wherever it goes.
- 23 Its flesh is hard and firm  
and cannot be penetrated.
- 24 Its heart is hard as rock,  
hard as a millstone.
- 25 When it rises, the mighty are afraid,  
gripped by terror.
- 26 No sword can stop it,  
no spear, dart, or javelin.
- 27 Iron is nothing but straw to that creature,  
and bronze is like rotten wood.
- 28 Arrows cannot make it flee.  
Stones shot from a sling are like bits of grass.
- 29 Clubs are like a blade of grass,  
and it laughs at the swish of javelins.
- 30 Its belly is covered with scales as sharp as glass.  
It plows up the ground as it drags through the mud.

31 "Leviathan makes the water boil with its commotion.  
It stirs the depths like a pot of ointment.  
32 The water glistens in its wake,  
making the sea look white.  
33 Nothing on earth is its equal,  
no other creature so fearless.  
34 Of all the creatures, it is the proudest.  
It is the king of beasts."

### **Psalm 8**

<sup>3</sup> When I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers—  
the moon and the stars you set in place—  
<sup>4</sup> what are mere mortals that you should think about them,  
human beings that you should care for them?

### **Psalm 19:1**

<sup>1</sup> The heavens proclaim the glory of God.  
The skies display his craftsmanship.  
<sup>2</sup> Day after day they continue to speak;  
night after night they make him known.  
<sup>3</sup> They speak without a sound or word;  
their voice is never heard.<sup>[a]</sup>  
<sup>4</sup> Yet their message has gone throughout the earth,  
and their words to all the world.  
God has made a home in the heavens for the sun.  
<sup>5</sup> It bursts forth like a radiant bridegroom after his wedding.  
It rejoices like a great athlete eager to run the race.  
<sup>6</sup> The sun rises at one end of the heavens  
and follows its course to the other end.  
Nothing can hide from its heat.

### **Psalm 33**

<sup>6</sup> The Lord merely spoke,  
and the heavens were created.  
He breathed the word,  
and all the stars were born.  
<sup>7</sup> He assigned the sea its boundaries  
and locked the oceans in vast reservoirs.  
<sup>8</sup> Let the whole world fear the Lord,  
and let everyone stand in awe of him.  
<sup>9</sup> For when he spoke, the world began!  
It appeared at his command.

### **Psalm 89:11**

The heavens are yours, and the earth is yours; everything in the world is yours—you created it all.

### **Psalm 104:2**

You are dressed in a robe of light. You stretch out the starry curtain of the heavens;

### **Psalm 136** (notice that the order is similar to Gen. 1)

<sup>4</sup> Give thanks to him who alone does mighty miracles.

His faithful love endures forever.

<sup>5</sup> Give thanks to him who made the heavens so skillfully.

His faithful love endures forever.

<sup>6</sup> Give thanks to him who placed the earth among the waters.

His faithful love endures forever.

<sup>7</sup> Give thanks to him who made the heavenly lights—

His faithful love endures forever.

<sup>8</sup> the sun to rule the day,

His faithful love endures forever.

<sup>9</sup> and the moon and stars to rule the night.

His faithful love endures forever.

### **Psalm 147**

<sup>3</sup> He heals the brokenhearted  
and bandages their wounds.

<sup>4</sup> He counts the stars  
and calls them all by name.

<sup>5</sup> How great is our Lord! His power is absolute!  
His understanding is beyond comprehension!

### **Proverbs 8** (about wisdom)

<sup>22</sup> “The Lord formed me from the beginning,  
before he created anything else.

<sup>23</sup> I was appointed in ages past,  
at the very first, before the earth began.

<sup>24</sup> I was born before the oceans were created,  
before the springs bubbled forth their waters.

<sup>25</sup> Before the mountains were formed,  
before the hills, I was born—

<sup>26</sup> before he had made the earth and fields  
and the first handfuls of soil.

<sup>27</sup> I was there when he established the heavens,  
when he drew the horizon on the oceans.

<sup>28</sup> I was there when he set the clouds above,  
when he established springs deep in the earth.

<sup>29</sup> I was there when he set the limits of the seas,  
so they would not spread beyond their boundaries.

And when he marked off the earth’s foundations,

<sup>30</sup> I was the architect at his side.

I was his constant delight,  
rejoicing always in his presence.

<sup>31</sup> And how happy I was with the world he created;  
how I rejoiced with the human family!

### **Psalm 102**

<sup>25</sup> Long ago you laid the foundation of the earth  
and made the heavens with your hands.

<sup>26</sup> They will perish, but you remain forever;  
they will wear out like old clothing.

You will change them like a garment  
and discard them.

<sup>27</sup> But you are always the same;  
you will live forever.

<sup>28</sup> The children of your people  
will live in security.  
Their children's children  
will thrive in your presence."

### **Psalm 104**

<sup>1</sup> Let all that I am praise the LORD.  
O LORD my God, how great you are!  
You are robed with honor and majesty.  
<sup>2</sup> You are dressed in a robe of light.  
You stretch out the starry curtain of the heavens;  
<sup>3</sup> you lay out the rafters of your home in the rain clouds.  
You make the clouds your chariot;  
you ride upon the wings of the wind.  
<sup>4</sup> The winds are your messengers;  
flames of fire are your servants.  
<sup>5</sup> You placed the world on its foundation  
so it would never be moved.  
<sup>6</sup> You clothed the earth with floods of water,  
water that covered even the mountains.  
<sup>7</sup> At your command, the water fled;  
at the sound of your thunder, it hurried away.  
<sup>8</sup> Mountains rose and valleys sank  
to the levels you decreed.  
<sup>9</sup> Then you set a firm boundary for the seas,  
so they would never again cover the earth.  
<sup>10</sup> You make springs pour water into the ravines,  
so streams gush down from the mountains.  
<sup>11</sup> They provide water for all the animals,  
and the wild donkeys quench their thirst.  
<sup>12</sup> The birds nest beside the streams  
and sing among the branches of the trees.  
<sup>13</sup> You send rain on the mountains from your heavenly home,  
and you fill the earth with the fruit of your labor.  
<sup>14</sup> You cause grass to grow for the livestock  
and plants for people to use.  
You allow them to produce food from the earth—  
<sup>15</sup> wine to make them glad,  
olive oil to soothe their skin,  
and bread to give them strength.  
<sup>16</sup> The trees of the LORD are well cared for—  
the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.  
<sup>17</sup> There the birds make their nests,  
and the storks make their homes in the cypresses.  
<sup>18</sup> High in the mountains live the wild goats,  
and the rocks form a refuge for the hyraxes.  
<sup>19</sup> You made the moon to mark the seasons,  
and the sun knows when to set.  
<sup>20</sup> You send the darkness, and it becomes night,  
when all the forest animals prowl about.  
<sup>21</sup> Then the young lions roar for their prey,  
stalking the food provided by God.

<sup>22</sup> At dawn they slink back  
into their dens to rest.  
<sup>23</sup> Then people go off to their work,  
where they labor until evening.  
<sup>24</sup> O LORD, what a variety of things you have made!  
In wisdom you have made them all.  
The earth is full of your creatures.  
<sup>25</sup> Here is the ocean, vast and wide,  
teeming with life of every kind,  
both large and small.  
<sup>26</sup> See the ships sailing along,  
and Leviathan, which you made to play in the sea.  
<sup>27</sup> They all depend on you  
to give them food as they need it.  
<sup>28</sup> When you supply it, they gather it.  
You open your hand to feed them,  
and they are richly satisfied.  
<sup>29</sup> But if you turn away from them, they panic.  
When you take away their breath,  
they die and turn again to dust.  
<sup>30</sup> When you give them your breath, life is created,  
and you renew the face of the earth.  
<sup>31</sup> May the glory of the LORD continue forever!  
The LORD takes pleasure in all he has made!  
<sup>32</sup> The earth trembles at his glance;  
the mountains smoke at his touch.  
<sup>33</sup> I will sing to the LORD as long as I live.  
I will praise my God to my last breath!  
<sup>34</sup> May all my thoughts be pleasing to him,  
for I rejoice in the LORD.  
<sup>35</sup> Let all sinners vanish from the face of the earth;  
let the wicked disappear forever.  
Let all that I am praise the LORD.  
Praise the LORD!

### **Isaiah 40:12**

Who else has held the oceans in his hand? Who has measured off the heavens with his fingers? Who else knows the weight of the earth or has weighed the mountains and hills on a scale?

### **Isaiah 40:22**

God sits above the circle of the earth. The people below seem like grasshoppers to him! He spreads out the heavens like a curtain and makes his tent from them.

### **Isaiah 40:26**

Look up into the heavens. Who created all the stars? He brings them out like an army, one after another, calling each by its name. Because of his great power and incomparable strength, not a single one is missing.

### **Isaiah 42:5**

God, the Lord, created the heavens and stretched them out. He created the earth and everything in it. He gives breath to everyone, life to everyone who walks the earth.

**Isaiah 44:24**

This is what the Lord says—your Redeemer and Creator: “I am the Lord, who made all things. I alone stretched out the heavens. Who was with me when I made the earth?”

**Isaiah 45:12**

I am the one who made the earth and created people to live on it. With my hands I stretched out the heavens. All the stars are at my command.

**Isaiah 45:18**

For the Lord is God, and he created the heavens and earth and put everything in place. He made the world to be lived in, not to be a place of empty chaos. “I am the Lord,” he says, “and there is no other.

**Isaiah 48:13**

It was my hand that laid the foundations of the earth, my right hand that spread out the heavens above. When I call out the stars, they all appear in order.”

**Isaiah 66:2**

My hands have made both heaven and earth; they and everything in them are mine. I, the Lord, have spoken! “I will bless those who have humble and contrite hearts, who tremble at my word.

**Jeremiah 10:12**

But God made the earth by his power, and he preserves it by his wisdom. With his own understanding he stretched out the heavens.

**Jeremiah 14:22**

Can any of the worthless foreign gods send us rain? Does it fall from the sky by itself? No, you are the one, O LORD our God! Only you can do such things. So we will wait for you to help us.

**Jeremiah 31:35**

It is the Lord who provides the sun to light the day and the moon and stars to light the night, and who stirs the sea into roaring waves. His name is the Lord of Heaven’s Armies, and this is what he says:

**Amos 5:8**

It is the Lord who created the stars, the Pleiades and Orion. He turns darkness into morning and day into night. He draws up water from the oceans and pours it down as rain on the land. The Lord is his name!

**Zechariah 12:1**

This message concerning the fate of Israel came from the Lord: “This message is from the Lord, who stretched out the heavens, laid the foundations of the earth, and formed the human spirit.

**New Testament passages****Mark 10:6**

But ‘God made them male and female’ from the beginning of creation.

**John 1:3**

God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone.

### **Romans 1:20**

For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.

### **1 Corinthians 8:6**

But we know that there is only one God, the Father, who created everything, and we live for him. And there is only one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom God made everything and through whom we have been given life.

### **1 Corinthians 15:47**

Adam, the first man, was made from the dust of the earth, while Christ, the second man, came from heaven.

### **Hebrews 11**

**3** By faith we understand that the entire universe was formed at God's command, that what we now see did not come from anything that can be seen.

### **James 1:17**

Whatever is good and perfect comes down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow.

### **2 Peter 3: 2-6**

**2** I want you to remember what the holy prophets said long ago and what our Lord and Savior commanded through your apostles.

**3** Most importantly, I want to remind you that in the last days scoffers will come, mocking the truth and following their own desires. **4** They will say, "What happened to the promise that Jesus is coming again? From before the times of our ancestors, everything has remained the same since the world was first created." **4** They will say, "What happened to the promise that Jesus is coming again? From before the times of our ancestors, everything has remained the same since the world was first created."

**5** They deliberately forget that God made the heavens by the word of his command, and he brought the earth out from the water and surrounded it with water. **6** Then he used the water to destroy the ancient world with a mighty flood.

### **His closeness to us:**

#### **Psalm 139**

For the choir director: A psalm of David.

- 1 O Lord, you have examined my heart  
and know everything about me.
- 2 You know when I sit down or stand up.  
You know my thoughts even when I'm far away.
- 3 You see me when I travel  
and when I rest at home.  
You know everything I do.
- 4 You know what I am going to say  
even before I say it, Lord.
- 5 You go before me and follow me.  
You place your hand of blessing on my head.

6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,  
too great for me to understand!  
7 I can never escape from your Spirit!  
I can never get away from your presence!  
8 If I go up to heaven, you are there;  
if I go down to the grave, you are there.  
9 If I ride the wings of the morning,  
if I dwell by the farthest oceans,  
10 even there your hand will guide me,  
and your strength will support me.  
11 I could ask the darkness to hide me  
and the light around me to become night—  
12 but even in darkness I cannot hide from you.  
To you the night shines as bright as day.  
Darkness and light are the same to you.  
13 You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body  
and knit me together in my mother's womb.  
14 Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex!  
Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it.  
15 You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion,  
as I was woven together in the dark of the womb.  
16 You saw me before I was born.  
Every day of my life was recorded in your book.  
Every moment was laid out  
before a single day had passed.  
17 How precious are your thoughts about me, O God.  
They cannot be numbered!  
18 I can't even count them;  
they outnumber the grains of sand!  
And when I wake up,  
you are still with me!  
19 O God, if only you would destroy the wicked!  
Get out of my life, you murderers!  
20 They blaspheme you;  
your enemies misuse your name.  
21 O Lord, shouldn't I hate those who hate you?  
Shouldn't I despise those who oppose you?  
22 Yes, I hate them with total hatred,  
for your enemies are my enemies.  
23 Search me, O God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my anxious thoughts.  
24 Point out anything in me that offends you,  
and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

## **Matthew 6**

**24** "No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.  
**25** "That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn't life more than food, and your body more than clothing? **26** Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are? **27** Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?

28 "And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, 29 yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. 30 And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?"

### **Luke 12**

6 "What is the price of five sparrows—two copper coins? Yet God does not forget a single one of them. 7 And the very hairs on your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows.

### **His control over His creation**

#### **Daniel 6**

21 Daniel answered, "Long live the king! 22 My God sent his angel to shut the lions' mouths so that they would not hurt me, for I have been found innocent in his sight. And I have not wronged you, Your Majesty."

23 The king was overjoyed and ordered that Daniel be lifted from the den. Not a scratch was found on him, for he had trusted in his God.

### **1 Kings 13**

**23** After the man of God had finished eating and drinking, the old prophet saddled his own donkey for him, **24** and the man of God started off again. But as he was traveling along, a lion came out and killed him. His body lay there on the road, with the donkey and the lion standing beside it. **25** People who passed by saw the body lying in the road and the lion standing beside it, and they went and reported it in Bethel, where the old prophet lived.

**26** When the prophet heard the report, he said, "It is the man of God who disobeyed the LORD's command. The LORD has fulfilled his word by causing the lion to attack and kill him."

**27** Then the prophet said to his sons, "Saddle a donkey for me." So they saddled a donkey, **28** and he went out and found the body lying in the road. The donkey and lion were still standing there beside it, for the lion had not eaten the body nor attacked the donkey.

### **Jesus' Role in creation:**

**John 1** In the beginning the Word already existed.

The Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.

**2** He existed in the beginning with God.

**3** God created everything through him,  
and nothing was created except through him.

**4** The Word gave life to everything that was created,  
and his life brought light to everyone.

**5** The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness can never extinguish it.

### **Colossians 1**

**15** Christ is the visible image of the invisible God.

He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation,

**16** for through him God created everything  
in the heavenly realms and on earth.

He made the things we can see  
and the things we can't see—

such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world.

Everything was created through him and for him.

**17** He existed before anything else,  
and he holds all creation together.

**18** Christ is also the head of the church,  
which is his body.

He is the beginning,  
supreme over all who rise from the dead.  
So he is first in everything.

**19** For God in all his fullness  
was pleased to live in Christ,

**20** and through him God reconciled  
everything to himself.

He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth  
by means of Christ's blood on the cross.

**21** This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. **22** Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.

## Hebrews 1

**2** And now in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son. God promised everything to the Son as an inheritance, and through the Son he created the universe.

...**10** He also says to the Son,

"In the beginning, Lord, you laid the foundation of the earth  
and made the heavens with your hands.

**11** They will perish, but you remain forever.  
They will wear out like old clothing.

**12** You will fold them up like a cloak  
and discard them like old clothing.

But you are always the same;  
you will live forever."

## What the future holds

### Isaiah 34:4

The heavens above will melt away and disappear like a rolled-up scroll. The stars will fall from the sky like withered leaves from a grapevine, or shriveled figs from a fig tree.

### Isaiah 65:17

"Look! I am creating new heavens and a new earth, and no one will even think about the old ones anymore.

### Matthew 24:29

"Immediately after the anguish of those days, the sun will be darkened, the moon will give no light, the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

### Revelation 6:13

Then the stars of the sky fell to the earth like green figs falling from a tree shaken by a strong wind.

### Revelation 21:1

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone.

## **2 Peter 3:13**

10 But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief. Then the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise, and the very elements themselves will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be found to deserve judgment.

11 Since everything around us is going to be destroyed like this, what holy and godly lives you should live, 12 looking forward to the day of God and hurrying it along. On that day, he will set the heavens on fire, and the elements will melt away in the flames. 13 But we are looking forward to the new heavens and new earth he has promised, a world filled with God's righteousness.

14 And so, dear friends, while you are waiting for these things to happen, make every effort to be found living peaceful lives that are pure and blameless in his sight.

15 And remember, our Lord's patience gives people time to be saved. This is what our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom God gave him— 16 speaking of these things in all of his letters. Some of his comments are hard to understand, and those who are ignorant and unstable have twisted his letters to mean something quite different, just as they do with other parts of Scripture. And this will result in their destruction.

17 You already know these things, dear friends. So be on guard; then you will not be carried away by the errors of these wicked people and lose your own secure footing. 18 Rather, you must grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

All glory to him, both now and forever! Amen.