

Dive! FBCD Women's Ministry

From Garden to Glory by Courtney Doctor - Chapter 2 (Once Upon a Time)

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**"God saw everything that he had made,
and behold, it was very good" (Genesis 1:31a).**

THE MAIN CHARACTERS

1. CREATION INTRODUCES THE GOD OF THE BIBLE

a. The Source of Everything

- i. "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1).
- ii. "And God said" appears seven times in Genesis 1.
- iii. "By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth" (Psalm 33:6).
- iv. As the source of everything, God is the uncreated Creator, the uncaused Cause. He is not dependent on anyone or anything for his own existence. He has life in himself, and he is self-sufficient. He is transcendent, which means he is separate from his creation, but he is also immanent, which means he is present everywhere with his creation. He is actively involved in his creation, and he is present in a special way with his people.

b. The Sovereign King

- i. "The LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land" (Psalm 95:3-5).
- ii. "Knowing that God is the high King of heaven is important to our understanding of what happened in Genesis 3, the great rebellion" (48). Sin is cosmic treason against the sovereign King.

c. A Good and Loving Father

- i. **Presence:** God spent time with Adam and Eve. He knew them, loved them, and communicated with them. "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5).
- ii. **Provision, Protection, and Parameters:** "The LORD God commanded the man, saying, 'You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die'" (Genesis 2:16-17). "Protection and provision are found within the kindness of God's good parameters" (51).

Question: As you consider this God of the Bible to whom creation introduces us, in what areas of your life does your response to "and God said" need to be "and it was so"?

2. CREATION INTRODUCES HUMAN BEINGS

a. The Crown of God's Creation

- i. Genesis 1:26-31
- ii. The narrative slows down, and we are given a careful account of God's purpose and design for human beings. Humans are made in God's image and are created for one another.

b. Representatives of God

- i. "So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them" (Genesis 1:27).
- ii. To be made in the image of God is to be made like God and to represent him in the world.
- iii. "He [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God" (Colossians 1:15).

Questions: How is Christ as the image of God different than our being made in the image of God? How can thinking of that difference motivate us to grow in our relationship with the Lord?

THE SETTING

1. A GARDEN FULL OF GOD'S GLORY

- a. "God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good" (Genesis 1:31a).
- b. "God's glory is the greatness, beauty, and perfection of all that he is" (Paul Tripp).

Question: What does it mean that the garden was full of God's glory?

- c. "If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world" (C.S. Lewis).
- d. "The Garden of Eden is a picture of what life looks like when the kingdom of God is in full effect without the disruption of sin" (46).

2. THE KINGDOM OF GOD

- a. The kingdom of God is "God's people in God's place under God's rule" (Graeme Goldsworthy).
 - i. In the Garden of Eden...God, his people, and the place all exist in the perfect relationships intended by God.
 - ii. The pattern of the kingdom is established in the Garden of Eden, broken when sin enters in, reestablished in salvation history in Israel but never fully realized, perfectly established in Jesus, formed in the people of God through the gospel, and consummated at Christ's return.
- b. Kingdom language is used throughout the Bible, especially in the Gospels, but the Garden of Eden gives us the first glimpse of it. Without this pre-fall picture, we cannot understand the restoration process that takes place after the fall.