

WHEN GOD SET HIS STAGE

May 31st, 2026

Foundations // Genesis 1:2-25

Message Context

This week's passage covers the first five and a half days of creation, before the creation of mankind. The sermon emphasized that Genesis 1 is not primarily meant to pull us into debate, but into worship. Moses' aim was exaltation: to help us behold the God who speaks, orders, fills, blesses, and prepares. Like a loving parent preparing a place for a child, God made a good world full of provision, order, beauty, and purpose before mankind ever arrived. His goodness is seen in what He creates, what He declares, and the place He continues preparing for His people through Christ.

CONNECT – Announcements (page 2) & Building Relationships

1. Think of a time when you prepared something for someone you loved: a nursery, a guest room, a meal, a party, a gift, or even just a clean space. What did that preparation communicate about your love or care for that person?
2. Read Genesis 1:2-25 and keep an ear out for repeated phrases or patterns. Have each person write some down as someone reads. Have people share their lists and discuss it as a group.

REFLECT - Out of the Word and Into Our Lives

3. What stands out to you most from Genesis 1:2-25? Anything beyond what you discussed above in the repeated phrases exercise?
4. The sermon compared creation to a parent preparing a nursery for a child. How does that image help you under God's care in creation? Where do you see God's goodness in the way He prepared the world before humanity arrived?
5. Pastor Jeremy said, "When God declares it, it is so, and it is good." Why is it important that God, not our feelings or culture, defines what is good? Where do you see tension between what God calls good and what the world often calls good?
6. Where does our culture try to redefine what is good apart from God? Where are you personally tempted to let feelings, preferences, or popular opinion carry more authority than God's Word? How does Genesis 1 protect us from believing that goodness is something we get to invent for ourselves?
7. The sermon connected God's creative Word with the assurance of the gospel as Pastor Jeremy remind us that if God has declared there is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:1), then "it is so, and it is good." Why do believers sometimes struggle to rest in what God has declared over them? How can God's authority in creation strengthen our confidence in His promise of salvation?
8. The sermon pointed out that Moses mentions the stars almost in passing: "He made the stars also." How does Genesis 1 protect us from a small view of God? How should the greatness of the Creator reshape our worries, fears, pride, and worship?

9. God prioritizes light over darkness. **Read 1 John 1:5-7.** What does it mean that God is light?
10. The sermon compared believers to the moon reflecting the light of the sun. What happens when Christians try to produce light instead of reflect Christ's light? What practices help you stay aligned with Jesus so that His light is reflected through your life? Where has God placed you to reflect the light of Christ right now?
11. God shapes and fills what He creates. In Genesis 1, God forms spaces and then fills them. The sermon connected this to **2 Corinthians 5:17**, where believers are called a new creation. How has God shaped you since you came to Christ? Where do you sense He wants to fill you more deeply with His Word, Spirit, purpose, or love for others?
12. The sermon said God's boundaries are not chains meant to restrict joy, but guardrails meant to preserve it. Where have you seen God's boundaries lead to life, peace, or protection? Why can boundaries feel restrictive even when they are good?
13. God is still preparing a place for His people. **Read John 14:1-3.** How does Jesus' promise to prepare a place for His people connect with the goodness we see in Genesis 1? How does this promise give hope to us weary sinners today?

🕒 **PROTECT – Care for one another (divided, gender-specific groups)**

14. "When God declares it, it is so, and it is good." Where does our culture try to redefine what is good apart from God? Where are you personally tempted to let feelings, preferences, or popular opinion carry more authority than God's Word?
15. If God's Word was powerful enough to create light, land, seas, stars, animals, and life, why should His Word also be trusted when He declares believers forgiven in Christ? What promise do you most need to trust this week: **Romans 8:1, John 6:37, Ephesians 2:8-9**, or another promise?
16. Genesis 1 may not answer every question we bring to it, but it does reveal the God who created, ordered, filled, blessed, and prepared the world. How can we be honest about questions we still have while still trusting what God has clearly revealed?

Announcements

Titus 2 Women's Ministry Prayer & Coffee – June 13th @ 9:30 am | Men of Vision Breakfast – June 20th @ 8:00 am

Has the Lord gifted you musically? Either in singing or with instruments? We are always looking to grow our Worship Team.

Emerald Crossing Summer Bible Camp: July 12th – 16th – For Ages 2 and up! nvf.life/kidscamp

Resources for Going Deeper

- **Read Genesis 1-3** – I encourage you to re-read it as we walk through these opening chapters.
- [4 Things Creation Teaches Us About God](#)
- Video on How the Theme of Forming and Filling carries throughout the Bible: <https://youtu.be/jN2nHToulPY>