

Discovering God's Creation

These past ten days, the Artemis II space capsule has taken four astronauts deeper into space than any human has gone before. The splashdown in the Pacific Ocean brought them back home last Friday, after much testing and discovery of God's world in space. The pictures they sent back are stunning and give us the best photos ever taken of planet Earth and the moon's far side. Technology has given us the opportunity to explore and discover God's creation more fully than ever before.



From the Artemis II spacecraft, we see a bigger picture. We see the light and darkness described in Genesis 1:3-5. The Bible describes the sun as the greater light and the moon as the lesser light of the night (Genesis 1:16). We see the relationship between the dry land and the waters of the sea (Genesis 1:9-10). God established vegetation (Genesis 1:11-12), the living creatures in the water (Genesis 1:20), and those on dry land (Genesis 1:24). It is easy to marvel at the intricacies of His creation. It was perfect. God Himself called it "very good." But God wasn't done yet.



Oriental Basin of the Moon

On the sixth day of the creation story, God created mankind in His own image (1:27) and gave authority (1:28) to govern it all. God designed us for a purpose – to take care of His creation (1:29), not only what we see from a distance, but also the people who inhabit it.

The first chapter of Genesis is the foundation for understanding everything that comes after. While we are amazed at the spectacular photos and beautiful scenery, it is more important to admire the Creator, not just His creation. Mankind was also considered "very good" by God. But then, Adam and Eve led the fall, and Jesus came to earth to restore our relationship with Him. Still, God sees us as "very good," but in need of restoration. He sent Jesus to live

among us to take on the burden of our sins and seek forgiveness for them. Jesus is the only way to our Hope for eternal life with Him.

Psalms 104 sums it up well:

- God is the Creator of all things (Psalm 104:1).
- He sustains and provides for all His creation (Psalm 104:10-11).
- The diversity and complexity of His creation demonstrate God's wisdom. *How many are your works, LORD! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. (Psalm 104:24).*
- As humans, we are dependent on God (Psalm 104:27-30).
- Our response should be a lifelong worship of the Creator. The Bible says: *I will sing to the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live. May my meditation be pleasing to him, as I rejoice in the LORD. (Psalm 104:33-34).*

Let us worship the One who created it all, God the Father. Let us praise Him forever. Amen.

Genesis 1 *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.*

³ *And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴ God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.*

⁶ *And God said, "Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water." ⁷ So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. ⁸ God called the vault "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.*

⁹ *And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good.*

¹¹ *Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. ¹² The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.*

¹⁴ *And God said, "Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶ God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. ¹⁷ God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, ¹⁸ to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day.*

²⁰ *And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky." ²¹ So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth." ²³ And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.*

²⁴ *And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.*

²⁶ *Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."*

²⁷ *So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.*

²⁸ *God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."*

²⁹ *Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. ³⁰ And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food." And it was so.*

³¹ *God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.*