

JESUS IS THE FIRSTBORN OVER ALL CREATION

“WHO IS JESUS?” FAMILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE - Week 1, August 18

JESUS IS THE FIRSTBORN OVER ALL CREATION

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

COLOSSIANS 1:15-17

In the beginning there was only God—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. It was just the Trinity, together. There were no humans, no animals, no plants . . . nothing. Not even dirt! Genesis tells us “the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters” (1:2).

It was just God in the beginning—just God and an

amazing plan. This plan involved his Son Jesus, and it also involves YOU.

God’s masterful plan was bigger and better than anything you or I could ever dream up! God would make one special planet in the midst of a vast universe reaching farther than any human mind could comprehend. This planet, named Earth, would be a place where green things would grow, and where millions of intricately designed creatures would live. Bugs would

crawl on delicate flowers, deer would dance through glowing meadows, and fish would dive in bubbling streams. God would take the empty, formless earth and make it full—full of life, color, noise, and beauty.

And then God would form human beings, special creatures made in his own likeness, in his image. These people would have the ability to know him well. They would walk and talk with him in a majestic garden. They would also be able to make choices, and sadly they would fail to make the right ones. Their disobedience and sin would separate them from God. Would it be sad? Yes. Would it be a surprise to God, proof that his plan had failed? No!

You see, in the beginning God had a plan—a plan to send his one and only Son, Jesus, to save the world by dying on a cross. God knew people would disobey him even before he created the first man Adam, but he created them anyway!

So God spoke.

He spoke and by the power of his voice he lovingly created our world. Out of the dust of the ground and the breath of his mouth, the first man, Adam, came into being, and from that man's rib came the first woman, Eve. God blessed them and commanded them to be fruitful, filling the earth with people who would rule over it and take care of it. God's wonderful plan was just beginning.

In the book of Colossians Paul gives Jesus, the center of God's plan, an important name: the firstborn over all creation (1:15). This doesn't mean that he was born first, or created first. Jesus existed before creation, and in fact *is* the Creator! To say that Jesus is the firstborn over all creation is to say that Jesus is exalted over all creation. The next verses tell us that all things are created by him and for him, and in him all things hold together. As Creator and Savior, he's the center and the focus. He's the most important, the most special, the most powerful. All creation glorifies *him*, the Savior, and he rules over it all forever.



REFLECT

1. Which persons of the Trinity were present at creation?
See Genesis 1:2, 26; John 1:1–3; Colossians 1:15–17; and Revelation 13:8.
2. Can you name what God created on each day of creation?
3. What does it mean to be created in God's image?
4. How does it make you feel to know that God created people even though he knew they would disobey him?
5. What does it mean that Jesus is the "firstborn over all creation"?

BIBLE REFERENCE GENESIS 1; JOHN 1:1–3

KEY VERSE COLOSSIANS 1:15–17