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**All Creation Sings (Part 1)**  
**In the beginning God**  
Pastor Ted Cunningham

Today we start a three-part series called *All Creation Sings*. Today, part 1 is In the Beginning, God. The thesis statement of Geneses 1. If you have your bibles, I want you to turn to Genesis 1. There are 31 verses. We are going to read every single one of them. In my normal voice, that takes about four and a half minutes but if you listen to the British guy on the bible app, it's about five and a half minutes. We're going to split the difference today as we go through this.

I have to tell you the number of times Amy and I, here in the Ozarks, have looked at one another and said, "We live in a pretty special place. This is a beautiful place to live." I went on my phone last week and into the photo section and I typed the word sunset. I have 267 pictures of sunsets. I went back and looked at the picture. If the button in the top righthand corner says revert, that means you messed with the picture and you added your filter to it. I was so excited to go back to this picture and see I had not touched it. That is an Ozark sunset over Table Rock Lake.

I've got a couple of dozen pictures of rainbows. Just this past week, we were on a mountain here in the Ozarks, waiting for some folks. We stepped to the edge, Amy and I were surprised there was no development, no houses. And, Again, I said, "we live in a special place." Now, every time you and I are wowed by creation, every time you and I have the moment where we are like, this is unbelievable, we're in awe.... Every single time you have that moment, for the believer in "Christ Jesus, that is to turn our hearts and minds to worship almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. We don't worship creation. Actually, when Paul was talking about the sinfulness of man and God's wrath being poured out on sinful humanity, in Romans 5, he said, They exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served created things rather than the creator, who is forever praised, Amen"

I am preparing for this series outside of the normal resources that I usually use to study, I dove into Ken Ham with answers in genesis. Who here has been to the art museum. I've not been there yet. I need to make that a priority. He's the apologetics of the Creation Story and then you move to Louis Giglio. Louis Giglio brings in apologetics and he brings in the worship side. If you read his book *Indescribable*, or maybe you went to the indescribable tour. Louis is able, in a sermon, to bring out the awe. Liberty University actually, with their online homeschooling, used Louis for a lot of their apologetics courses and that's what my son took all through junior high. He's a facts guy and he was disciplined on creation by Louis Giglio online. And Louis just takes you there.

And then, I'm going to add this one, a friend of yours and mine, Charles Billingsly who has been here a couple of times. He's been talking to me a lot the last couple of weeks about the Son of creation and the frequency and the noise and the worship that we see even in God's creation. Bringing all of that together today, we are going to go through Genesis 1. This is our worship.

We will jump right in with the thesis statement.

1 ***In the beginning God***, which is the title. It was not a big bang; it was not something that happened on accident. God spoke and creation happened. ***In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth***. Basically, the thesis statement here is the story of God's creation. ***Now the earth was formless and empty...or void and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters...*** This formless, empty, void expression is basically speaking the simple concept of chaos. I read this week about a doctor, an engineer, and a politician. They were arguing as to which profession was the oldest. I've never heard someone arguing over who came first.

Well, the doctor argued, without a physician, mankind could not have survived, so I'm sure that mine is the oldest."

"No," said the engineer. "Before life began, there was complete chaos and it took an engineer to create some semblance of order from this chaos, so engineering is older."  
"But, "chirped the Politian, who created the chaos?"

Let's jump into Day 1. Earth covered by water and light.

<sup>3</sup> ***And God said,...*** That's very important. God spoke ***"Let there be light," and there was light***, speaking of physical light, thinking of the foreshadowing of this, in just the third

verse into your Bible that one day He would send Jesus to be the light of the world. <sup>4</sup> ***God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness.*** <sup>5</sup> ***God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.”*** So out of this chaos, he’s starting to bring power, sovereignty, and he is organizing and setting up creation. ***And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.***

Now it’s very important for me to share with you my belief out of Genesis 1 that we are going to see today the six days of creation. I take the six days to be a literal six 24 hour period of time, so I am literal six days of creation. Some teach a different, more literary frame, but I go with the literal approach because I believe for all of my theology it is easier to understand. I was talking to a pastor friend the other day and we were debating this. He says, ‘You believe in the literal six days?’ I go, “yeah.” Then we were having some conversation. Later in the conversation, I go, “Do you believe Jonah was swallowed by a big fish?” And he paused. I said, “You can’t pause! Do your elders know you pause?” There are some things you have to decide. I take it literally. Louis put it this way. “When God said let there be light, light came traveling out of his mouth at one hundred eighty-six thousand miles a second. That’s the speed of light. The fact that a beam of light could circle the earth seven times every second, We see the power of God.

in Psalm 33:6 we read, ***By the word of the Lord, the heavens were made, their stars host by the breath of his mouth.***

I put in this chart... This is from Ken Ham in answers in Genesis. He said, “How you interpret Genesis 1- 11 is everything. And this is why I take the literal interpretation because when I believe it says male it means male and when it says female it means female. When it says created in the image of God, it is God’s idea not ours. We don’t decide this. We are created in his image; it separates us from all other created things. I believe when he talks about marriage, it is a husband and a wife. That is a marriage. He said, “The way you read Genesis one through eleven determines how you read Genesis 12 through revelation.

And on top of that, it’s building your Christian world view, all doctrine, and the gospel that we’ll get to toward the end of the message. He said, “while I’m covering this, let me just put a flag that says “Everything.” Everything is determined by how you read this today. That’s day one, the first day.

Day two – atmosphere and sky. God is now ordering creation. We see his power and sovereignty and his control over chaos. And yes, this passage, as we see it build out, it moves from the mysterious to the very clear. But here is day two, starting in

Verse 6 – ***And God said, “Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water. Water above from water below.”<sup>7</sup> So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. <sup>8</sup> God called the vault “sky.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.***

Charles and I were talking about this, and he was beginning to help me understand this and you know his passion is music. And even speaking of creation, he’s like, “Boy, Ted, hope as you move through this how much of this is just the song that God put into motion. This was the moment right here that God set everything in motion and atoms started buzzing. Energy began. And everything has a vibration and if everything has a vibration, it has a frequency. If everything has a frequency, that means there is some kind of electromagnetic wave causing that frequency. In other words, the song of creation is beginning.

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

Think about Yosemite for just a second or whatever. We have mountains here in the Ozarks. But you begin to hear the sound of creation because at Yosemite, there is constant hum, they, say of seismic energy, loud vibrations coming from the mountains. You move from the mountains to the sea. You’ve been to the ocean. You hear the crashing of waves. You know that waves crashing can get up to 90 decibels. So, if you are not familiar with decibels, our worship service today, in the front rows possibly in these front rows could have hit 100 decibels. The way this is kind of set up, I’ve walked this place during worship. I think we go from about 100, maybe then 90 and 80 by the time you get to the back. Just so you understand. Rock concerts that you might go to, they keep pegged out at 110-120 I went to a Kansas Jayhawks game. They monitor it. I think I still haven’t recovered my hearing from my right ear from all four quarters of that game. I have never been in a louder stadium. I’ve been in football games, basketball games, baseball stadiums... The defining roar of the crowd had to hit 130, 140. But the waves crashing can hit 90 decibels. It’s making and creating the song of creation

**11** Then God said, ***“Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants... Now God is in creation putting how they will reproduce. And trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.” And it was so.*** <sup>12</sup> ***The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds... I think this is very important when people ask about the age of the earth and all that. I believe that God created trees that had fruit bearing seeds on them in that moment, ready to go because God can speak it into existence. He doesn’t need any other process. He can speak it and it happens. Then God saw that it was good*** ***trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.*** <sup>13</sup> ***And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.***

I don’t know the last time you walked through the woods, but the sounds are actually frequency made in leaves as the wind blows through them. You know the greater the intensity of the wind, the louder it gets. We’ve walked plenty through the woods on a slower morning when it’s just a light breeze, maybe in the spring or the fall, and you get the song of creation.

We now move to the sun, the moon, and the stars. I just want to say that some of you may come from a pagan religion, you may come from a family of origin where it maybe wasn’t overt or direct, but implied, but you had family members who worshipped the sun, who worshipped the moon or the stars. And they looked to the stars to get answers for their life. Don’t do it. When you look to the stars, it should move you to worship. Look to your Father in heaven for the answers for your life. Pray to him. Open his Word, find the answers. The sun, the moon, and stars were not put in place to direct your next step in life.

**14** And God said, ***“Let there be lights in the vault of the sky... We are not speaking here, when we get to signs of astrology, to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years,*** <sup>15</sup> ***and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth.” And it was so.***

<sup>16</sup> ***God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night... We know that the sun emits light and the moon actually reflects light. He also made the stars.*** <sup>17</sup> ***God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth,*** <sup>18</sup> ***to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good.*** <sup>19</sup> ***And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day.***

When we think about the sun, the moon, the stars, and the galaxy that we live in, doesn't it take you to a place of going I am small. The vastness of our galaxy... We don't know how big the universe is. We call it the known universe. In other words, we don't have a big enough telescope to tell us exactly what is out there that God has created but every time we build a bigger telescope we are wowed right once again.

We live in a subdivision. Louis Giglio says, of a universe called the Milky Way galaxy. The Milky Way galaxy itself is so big that we have to use light years to talk about it. We have to use light years to get around it. Light goes 5.88 trillion miles in a year. That is a light year.

How about Neal Armstrong when he was coming back home on Apollo 11? He said, "I remember, on the way home on Appollo 11, it suddenly struck me that that tiny pea, pretty and blue, was the earth. I put my thumb up and shut one eye and my thumb blotted out Planet Earth, but I didn't feel like a giant. I felt very, very small.

You see Tom Hanks kind of recreate that in Appollo 13. Not only is it bigger than we could possibly imagine, but the universe also itself-sings. They call it the space roar. Radio frequency is strong, but scientists can't tell where it originates from but they've measured it as loud as 300 decibels.

My son's favorite movie is the movie *Interstellar*. It's twelve and a half hours long. You gotta give a couple of days to it. It takes forever.

I didn't look it up this week, but if it didn't win a grammy for audio engineering, it should have. In a lot of space movies that we watch, they are usually in a space suit and a helmet. It's just complete silence. But boy, the audio engineer is talking about that space roar. The space roar can hit up to 300 decibels, again, a jet engine is 120-140 decibels. A rock concert is 110 – 120. How about the sun. The sun is 10,000 degrees on the surface. It is raging intensity, like billions of nuclear bombs going off every second. And the sun is 100 times the diameter of the earth. And the sun, they tell us, vibrates in a low drone at around 100 decibels. Science tells us that the moon sounds like a bell. Between 1969 and 1977. Size monitors installed on the moon by Appollo missions recorded moon quakes. And actually, the shallow ones sounded like ringing of a bell coming from the moon. That's why when we read in Psalm 148, 3 – 5, we read, Praise him sun and moon, praise him all you shining stars. We don't look to the sun, the moon, and the stars to worship them to get answers from them because they themselves are praising. They, themselves are singing the song of creation. 4 – ***praise him you highest heavens and you waters***

***above the skies. Let them praise the name of the Lord for at his command they were created. It keeps going. My fishermen are going to love day five. Flying and sea creatures.***

***<sup>20</sup> And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky." <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> 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." <sup>23</sup> And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.***

Last summer, I probably had a once in a lifetime experience in Alaska to be able to take a jet ski through I don't know how many pods of humpback whales. I got to hear the sounds they were making on the surface of the water. But what's going on underneath the water and the song that they are singing as part of creation, the humpback whale can sing for hours at a time. Certain low frequencies of the sound of the humpback whale can be heard for over ten thousand miles away. Listen, I am not... This sermon is kind of out of the ordinary for me with going with the sounds and I'm waiting to smell something as part of this message.

How about the common nightingale bird. Over 1,000 distinct sounds. They start singing an hour before sunrise as an alarm clock for the plants and flowers, to get them to open up, to receive the sunlight.

How about the bees. I know you've seen the movie but lets get more specific. There's more going on than what Jerry Seinfeld told us. It's the singing of the queen bee. This is a very special sound. It's a form of communication within the hive. It presents itself as a very important, loud, and persistent sound. The song of the queen bee is undoubtedly one of the most extraordinary curiosities present in the world of bees.

This next one, Matt said, "I had to spend a little time looking this up." I told him to get me a picture or a video of a marine worm. They say this is a marine worm. A marine worm... think about even the marine worm adds to the song of creation. 29 MM in length. They make popping noises in the ocean that can get as loud as 157 decibels. The song of creation.

That's why as we continue to read through Psalm 148: 7 – ***Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean*** – Creation is singing.

***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. This is the sixth time on the sixth day, And God saw that it was good.***

Now, you've been to a zoo. You've seen the animals in the wild. We're limited here outside of a zoo, but we've got the land animals. But, I remember going to Tanzania and I've been to Kenya. I've been on safari. I too came face to face with the elephant and to just see their size, their sound, their talking to each other. And Zebras, just the creativity in creation, but I have to tell you.... Amy and I recently went on a bike ride with a group in Belgium and there is this thing called Belgium blue cow. We were seeing all these sights. For some reason, the tour guide thought we should stop by this field and show these people the cows.

We get to this field and there are all these cows sitting out there. They are all laying down. A couple of them are up on their front legs and you can tell they are trying to move. The way these cows have been bread between the two cows they used to bread them, they are so heavy they just can't up. I was really curious about it. I'll be honest with you. It didn't look right. The ones we saw, were... oh those poor cows...

I asked him to explain. He said, "They Belgium blue cow was bred before the two great wars but around World War II they really stepped it up to increase beef production. The problem with it is they only live to be four years old and they can only have two calves. They can't deliver the calves naturally. Every calve is delivered cesarean. Everybody on the tour was getting sadder and sadder. You know I don't like to share my opinion... all the time. But I told the tour guide, "I would leave this part out of the tour. I've really enjoyed the Belgium countryside, but this is sad. Sometimes man gets involved in creation and it ain't right. I will tell you though. I do love... That mountain we were standing on, it was mountain top. I was like, "This is beautiful what God created. Then we turned around to the mountaintop golf course out at Big Cedar and I'm like, "And what Johnny did with it, this is amazing."

So, I spent the rest of the tour going God made that rock, Johnny made that rock...

<sup>26</sup> **Then God said, “Let us...Speaking here now of the trinity. We’ll get to this in a second. Jesus... We believe in the preexistence of Jesus. Jesus was, before all of this being spoken, Jesus existed. L**

***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.*** “This is important, that part that says rule over. Pastor Adrian Rogers from Belview Baptist said it all the time. “God did not give you his image, He did not create you in his image to put you on the same level as your dog.” This is very important for us to understand. And Genesis 1 – 11 sets you up for the rest of the Bible and sets you up for the rest of your life and your world view.

<sup>27</sup> ***So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.*** He created two genders. – male and female. And every single person in here, whether you’re a believer or not a believer, you were created in the image of God because every single human being is created in the image of God and it gives you automatic, intrinsic value. And it separates you from all the rest of creation.

<sup>28</sup> ***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.”***

<sup>29</sup> ***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.*** I know some of you are on diets right now that you don’t eat vegetables and you don’t eat fruits... I get that. I’m not going to judge you. I Always encourage people on those diets don’t trash talk what God gave us for food. Be very careful how you speak of it. It’s all the beats of the earth. ***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.*** speaking here now of the cycle, the food chain. And it ***was so.***

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

God has given us dominion over his creation. Day six, God stepped it up even more and created mankind. And when we get to psalm 8: 3-4 – When you look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars which you have set in place... Right here the psalmist is saying what we just discussed is the work of his fingers.

When you get to Isaiah, it speaks of the arm of the Lord when it comes to your salvation. Creation was the finger work of God. Sending Jesus to die for you and for me it's as though God had to roll up his sleeve and use his whole arm.

The primary difference between every other thing in creation is that we have a soul. We're created in the image of God, and you know when we get to Genesis 3- sin enters the world. Man sins against God. This is very important. For our theology to understand. Sin did not remove the image of God in man, it marred the image of God in man but did not remove it. You are still created in his image, but because of sin, the sweet fellowship mankind had with God in the beginning was broken. In order to restore this fellowship, God revealed himself as he came as a man in Jesus, God sent his only begotten son to pay the ultimate price of our redemption on a cruel rugged cross. The Father sent his son to die for you and for me.

So, Genesis 1 starts with In the Beginning. John 1 starts with In the beginning. John 1 1-3 ***In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God and the word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him and without him was not anything made that was made.***

This is why when Paul stands in Athens in Acts 17 before the Areopagus and he's looking around at all of these idols and they're worshipping everything. He stands up and boldly proclaims, all of this is nonsense, and he declares to them, "In him we live and move and have our being." Speaking directly of Jesus. The world was made by Jesus and now the world would be saved through him.

You were created on purpose and for a purpose. And as we have been looking at today, the song of creation. There is a song greater than the song of creation and it's the song of the redeemed. You have been redeemed.

I have to take you back to the nineties as we close. I went to liberty and we had all those what I call Christian boy bands that would show up. My favorite in the nineties... and I've been listening to them all week, but my favorite was from Phillips Craig and dean. Look up his favorite song of all by Phillips craig and dean I've been listening all week. I want to share it with you.

He loves to hear the wind sing as it whistles through the pines on mountain peaks. He loves to hear the rain drops as they splash to the ground in a magic melody. He smiles in sweet approval as the waves crash to the rocks in harmony. Creation joins in unity to sing

in majestic symphonies. Genesis 1. ***But his favorite song of all is the song of the redeemed.*** When lost sinners now made clean lift their voices loud and strong. When those purchased by his blood lift to him a song of love, nothing more he'd rather hear nor so pleasing to his ear as his favorite song of all. It ends with these words: It's not just melodies and harmonies that catch his attention, it's not clever lines and phrases that causes him to stop and listen, but when any heart set free washed and bought by Calvary begins to sing. That is the song of the redeemed added to the song of creation worshipping almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

And if you join in with the song of creation because you are created in the image of God, but you're never been redeemed, I just want to encourage you to across campus, we are going to have the prayer team members down from here over at the chapel that you would come repent of your sins, confess Jesus is Lord, believe in your heart that he has been raised from the dead that you would be save and that you would add to the other voices on this campus the song of the redeemed to the song of creation

What is man that you are mindful of him. The primary difference between us and every other thing in creation is that we have a soul. We are created in the image of God.