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Q. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH ABOUT HOW THE WORLD CAME TO BE?

I've heard that God created everything there is—but I've heard other explanations too. How do I know which one is right?

- A.** The Bible teaches that God made all of creation by simply speaking it into existence. He started by creating light on the first day. Then he spent five more days making the sky, oceans, land, sun, moon, stars, plants, animals, and finally, human beings.

The very first pages of the Bible detail what God made on each day. At the end of each day, he looked at what he had made and liked what he saw. And then, when God finished making everything he wanted to make, he took an entire day to rest.

Now, no one knows whether these “days” were actual twenty-four-hour periods. The term could possibly refer to longer periods of time. There are other aspects of these early accounts that could be understood more than one way. But a few things are completely clear:

One, God created everything.

And two, everything God created was very, very good.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. . . . And God saw that it was good. GENESIS 1:1, 10



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Q. WHY DID GOD CREATE THE WORLD?

If God knows everything, surely he knew what a mess humans would make of the world. So why did he create the world and put people in it?

- A.** God created the world and all that is in it for his glory. Think about this beautiful world—grand mountains with beautiful waterfalls, huge oceans teeming with life, crimson sunsets and brilliant rainbows, and untold varieties of animals, from the tiniest amoeba to the gigantic blue whale. All of it reveals God's amazing power and creativity.

Human beings are God's grandest creation, the most complex and intricate. We are special because we are made to be like God and have a relationship with him. God created humans so he could enjoy us and so that we could glorify him by showing his love, mercy, and grace to others.

Did he know what a mess we humans would make of things? Well, he's God, so he knows everything. But he must have thought we were worth it because he went right ahead with his plans and has never given up on us.

Holy, holy, holy is the LORD. . . . The whole earth is filled with his glory! ISAIAH 6:3