

## **Finding Your Story in HIStory**

In The Beginning  
Genesis 1:1; 26-28

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Dr. Steve Horn

**Text Introduction:** What's your story? That's a question that could elicit a lot of different responses. A person might tell a story about some current happening in life. Others are going to think more of the whole of their lives.

What's my story? Everybody's life story has a beginning. I was born on September 9, 1970, to Ben and Jewel Horn in Columbia, LA. We lived in a little town just to the south called Olla. In the summer of 1975, my family moved here to Lafayette. I went to the public schools of Lafayette and graduated from Lafayette High in 1988. I graduated from a small College in Memphis, TN in 1992. As a matter of fact, 1992 was a rather significant year in my story. In addition to graduating from college, Linett and I married, I was called as a pastor to a small church in Tickfaw, LA, and I began Seminary. In 1997, along came Joshua John and more recently, in 2010, along came Dru Timothy. I was called to be pastor of this wonderful church in June of 2005. In broad strokes, that's my story! My story though would be incomplete without discovering that my story is intertwined in the story of God. In fact, my story would be irrelevant without recognizing God's story.

The most important part of my life's story is in recognizing that God in Christ reconciles us unto Himself through the sinless life of Jesus, the death of Christ on the cross, and the glorious resurrection of Christ.

My prayer for us in 2012 is that we find our story in God's story, in HIStory.

I was a History major in college, but please don't ask me to recite a lot of names or dates. I have forgotten much of those details of who was king of what and what war was with whom. But, I remember an introductory lecture in a college history class that has impacted my life far beyond that early morning hour. The professor said, "Some would define History as God's story—His Story. I've always loved that definition of history. With God's leadership, for the next weeks, I want to take you on a journey in hopes that you will see God's story. We do not take this journey just for information, but instead so that we might be transformed—so that we might see where our story fits into His story.

So, let's begin, shall we, in the beginning.

**Text:** <sup>1</sup> In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, all the earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth."

<sup>27</sup> So God created man in His own image;  
He created him in the image of God;  
He created them male and female.

<sup>28</sup> God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth."

**Introduction:** Genesis means “origin.” Indeed Genesis is a book about beginnings. The beginning of creation, sin, family life, civilization, and the nations are all captured in the opening pages of the Word of God. In addition and most importantly, the beginning of the story of God’s plan to redeem the world is also present. That’s what makes this so fascinating to me and at the same time so fundamental that we understand. The Bible is not some loosely connected series of random stories about God and those who followed after Him, but instead there is incredible purpose behind the particular series of stories that are revealed. The story of God begins with creation.

Somebody might ask, “Can a person be a Christian—a Christ follower and not believe that God is creator?” That’s a good question and seeing history as God’s story from beginning to end as we mark history actually answers the question. If God is not God from the beginning, that is in control, what makes you think that He is control when History one day will come to an end. This is why the story of God begins at the beginning. So, let’s consider God’s story in creation.

### **God’s Story in Creation**

I have read that a preacher ought to be able to deliver his sermon in one sentence. I would readily admit that I don’t always practice this (and I am not going to do it actually today), but I want to summarize my sermon today in one single thought (2 sentences) and then unpack that thought for you. Here’s the summary:

Humanity is the planned, crown jewel of God’s creative activity, but humanity is not the first of creation. This is both honoring and humbling.

Planned—One of the first things that I want us to remember about God’s creative work is that He knows where it is all headed. Listen to what is recorded about God in Isaiah 46:10—

*I declare the end from the beginning,  
And from long ago what is not yet done,  
Saying: My plan will take place,  
And I will do all My will*

Crowned Jewel—That humanity is the crowning jewel of God’s creative activity is pointed out in several ways in the Genesis text.

1. A little longer detail especially in the Heavenly court conversation, “Let us...”
2. We are made in His image.
3. A retelling of the creation account in chapter with sole detail about the creation of humanity.

Not First—But, before you get too carried away with you being the crowned jewel of creation, acknowledge just a moment that we were not the first of creation. This is what God meant when He answered Job as recorded in Job 38-41. (I will read several of these rhetorical questions.)

This creation account leaves us both honored and humbled and it is here that we find our story.

## Finding My Story in Creation

Creation points to God's desire for relationship with me. This is the honor. God desires relationship with you. He created you for relationship. Notice Genesis 1:28. After creating Adam and Eve, He blessed them. Think of that! He created you for the purpose of blessing you! You were created to enjoy God's grace in a relationship with Him.

Creation points to God's decree for the purpose of my life. He decides the purpose. Again, notice verse 28. God followed up the blessing with a command. Take my image and multiply that image. This is your purpose! And to miss this purpose is going to miss the whole point of the story.

Rick Warren did our generation one of our greatest favors in writing *The Purpose Driven Life*. I certainly realize that some don't like Warren. They have done what they think good Christians ought to do and have found fault with his methods and maligned him in ways too numerous to describe. But, Warren, absolutely got it right in the opening words of his book.

*It's not about you.*

*The purpose of your life is far greater than your own personal fulfillment, your peace of mind, or even your happiness. It's far greater than your family, your career, or even your wildest dreams and ambitions. If you want to know why you were placed on this planet, you must begin with God. You were born by His purpose and for His purpose. (Rick Warren, The Purpose Driven Life, 17.)*

Let me conclude by having you hear how the Apostle Paul described Jesus. Colossians 1:15-20:

<sup>15</sup> He is the image of the invisible God,  
the firstborn over all creation.

<sup>16</sup> For everything was created by Him,  
in heaven and on earth,  
the visible and the invisible,  
whether thrones or dominions  
or rulers or authorities—  
all things have been created through Him and for Him.

<sup>17</sup> He is before all things,  
and by Him all things hold together.

<sup>18</sup> He is also the head of the body, the church;  
He is the beginning,  
the firstborn from the dead,  
so that He might come to have  
first place in everything.

<sup>19</sup> For God was pleased to have  
all His fullness dwell in Him,

<sup>20</sup> and through Him to reconcile  
everything to Himself  
by making peace  
through the blood of His cross—  
whether things on earth or things in heaven.