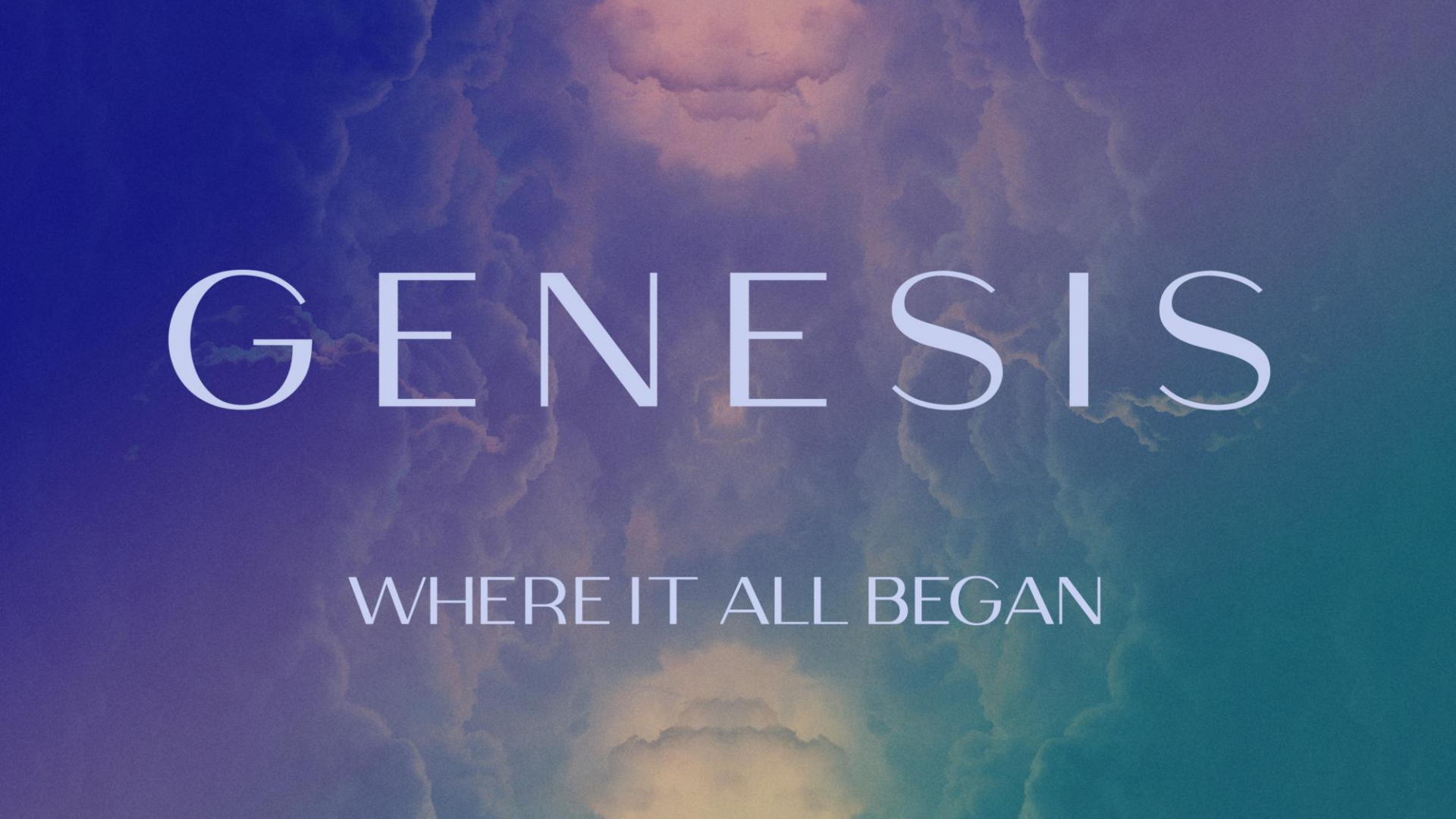

GENESIS
WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

To be the people of God is to live WITHIN, UNDER, and BY God's story and to tell His stories to all who will listen—including to ourselves.

Deuteronomy 11:18-19 (ESV)

18 You shall therefore lay up these words of
mine in your heart and in your soul, and you
shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and
they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 19
You shall teach them to your children, talking of
them when you are sitting in your house, and
when you are walking by the way, and when
you lie down, and when you rise.

Deuteronomy 11:20-21 (ESV)

20 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, 21 that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers to give them, as long as the heavens are above the earth.

Are we living in the light of God's stories?

“You have heard that it was said to those of old…, but I say to you…”
(Matthew 5:20-21)

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֵת הַשָּׁמַיִם
וְאֵת הָאָרֶץ׃

“In the beginning, God created
the heavens and the earth.”

Those focused on the PROCESSES of creation, ask “What?” and “How?”.

Those focused on the PURPOSES of creation, ask “Why?” and “To what end?”.

Us:

"How on earth were these made?"

Them:

"Why on earth were these made?"

The primary focus of God's creation account is to share with us His WHY and to help us understand our PURPOSE and ROLE in relation to Himself and the universe He has made.

“All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.” (John 1:3)

“In heaven and on earth, visible and invisible… all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.” (Colossians 1:16-17)

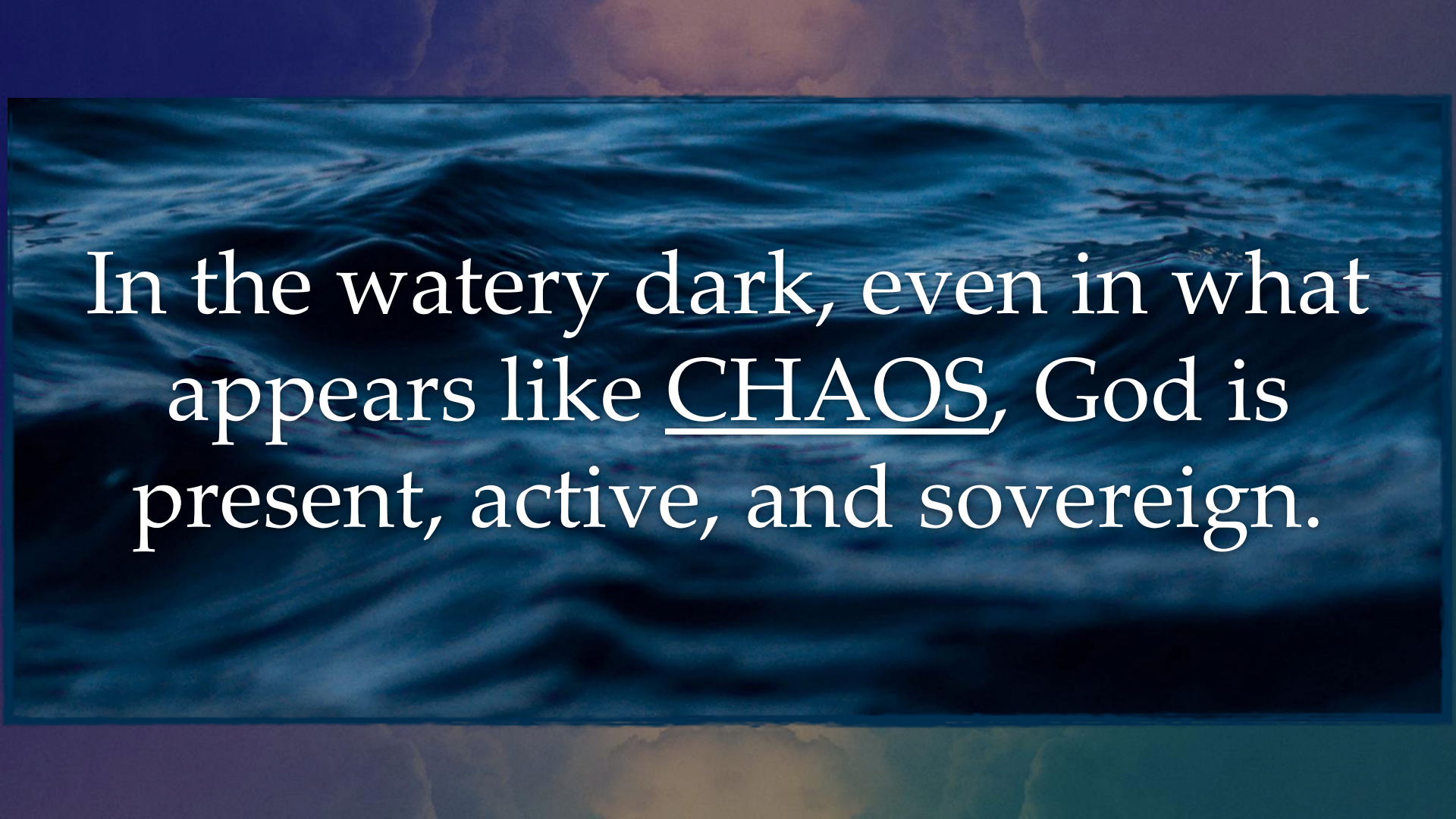
Before God there was nothing.
From nothing God made all that is.

Genesis 1:2 (ESV)

2 The earth was without form and void,
and darkness was over the face of the
deep. And the Spirit of God was
hovering over the face of the waters.

תֹהוּ וָבֹהוּ *tōhû wabōhû*

- wild & waste
- unformed & uninhabited
- devoid of any purpose, meaning, or intention


In the watery dark, even in what appears like CHAOS, God is present, active, and sovereign.

The TASKS OF CREATION:

- Separating & setting apart
- Assigning roles & functions
- Naming (speaking identity over)
- Installing & empowering partners

Genesis 1:3-5 (ESV)

3 And God said, “Let there be light,” and
there was light. 4 And God saw that the
light was good. And God 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.

On Day 1, God creates TIME.

Genesis 1:6-8 (ESV)

6 And God said, “Let there be an expanse in the
midst of the waters, and let it separate the
waters from the waters.” 7 And God made the
expanse and separated the waters that were
under the expanse from the waters that were
above the expanse. And it was so. 8 And God
called the expanse Heaven. And there was
evening and there was morning, the second day.

On Day 2, God creates LIVING SPACE and WEATHER.

Genesis 1:9-10 (ESV)

9 And God said, “Let the waters under
the heavens be gathered together into one
place, and let the dry land appear.” And
it was so. 10 God called the dry land
Earth, and the waters that were gathered
together he called Seas. And God saw
that it was good.

Genesis 1:11-12 (ESV)

11 And God said, “Let the earth sprout
vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees
bearing fruit in which is their seed, each
according to its kind, on the earth.” And it was so.
12 The earth brought forth vegetation, plants
yielding seed according to their own kinds, and
trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each
according to its kind. And God saw that it was
good.

Genesis 1:13 (ESV)

13 And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

On Day 3, God creates a stable, sustainable FOOD SUPPLY.

Genesis 1:14-15 (ESV)

14 And God said, “Let there be lights in
the expanse of the heavens to separate the
day from the night. And let them be for
signs and for seasons, and for days and
years, 15 and let them be lights in the
expanse of the heavens to give light upon
the earth.” And it was so.

Genesis 1:16-19 (ESV)

16 And God made the two great lights—the
greater light to rule the day and the lesser light
to rule the night—and the stars. 17 And God set
them in the expanse of the heavens to give light
on the earth, 18 to rule over the day and over
the night, and to separate the light from the
darkness. And God saw that it was good. 19
And there was evening and there was morning,
the fourth day.

On Day 4, God deputizes the SUN, MOON, and STARS to be His emissaries in the HIGH HEAVENS.

Genesis 1:20-21 (ESV)

20 And God said, “Let the waters swarm with
swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly
above the earth across the expanse of the
heavens.” 21 So God created the great sea
creatures and every living creature that moves,
with which the waters swarm, according to
their kinds, and every winged bird according
to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

Genesis 1:22-23 (ESV)

22 And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” 23 And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

On Day 5, God deputizes the BIRDS and the CREATURES OF THE SEA to be His emissaries in the realms of SKY and SEA.

Genesis 1:24-25 (ESV)

24 And God said, “Let the earth bring forth
living creatures according to their kinds—
livestock and creeping things and beasts of the
earth according to their kinds.” And it was so.
25 And God made the beasts of the earth
according to their kinds and the livestock
according to their kinds, and everything that
creeps on the ground according to its kind. And
God saw that it was good.

On Day 6, God creates a diverse variety of CREATURES to fill the LAND with life and deputizes HUMANITY to be His special emissaries to all creation.

טָוֹב*tōv*

- pleasant, agreeable to the senses, inspiring delight
- wholesome, pure
- orderly, functional, purposeful