

Very Good Beginnings
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A surgeon, an architect, and a politician found themselves in a friendly debate about which of their honored professions happened to be the oldest. "The Lord removed a rib from Adam's side," said the surgeon, "in order to create Eve. That was obviously a surgical procedure." "Yes," replied the architect, "but the world was formless and void before the Spirit of the Lord moved upon it. The precision of the universe had to be the result of a masterful, architectural design." The politician, taking a long puff from his cigar, smiled and said, "And who do you think created the chaos in the first place?"

As surely as families need to know their ancestors and businesses need to understand their predecessors, so people of faith need to grapple with their beginnings. Believe it or not, the Christian message does not begin with "Accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior." It begins with "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

With this simple, but profound affirmation of faith, the Bible begins. In the beginning, God created. God is in our beginning and in our ending. We are not alone. We live in God's world. We believe in God who has created and is creating.

In the beginning God created and God saw everything that He had made and it was good. But there's more: And God said, "Let us make human beings in our image." (Genesis 1:26).

Humans have a distinction that must not be denied. Before we were born, God knitted us together in our mother's womb. Even the hairs on our head are numbered by God. God knows us. We are a chip off the divine block, a "spitting image" of our Heavenly Father. When God created humans, He didn't just say it was good, God said it was very good. (vs.31)

That means we have worth, value, purpose and place in this universe. Whether we are red, yellow, black or white, all of us are precious in God's sight.

Some years ago a severely handicapped child sang in a special camp meeting concert. The crowd waited as he pulled his crippled body to the microphone and began with these words, "I am a promise, I am a possibility, I am a promise with a capital P. I am a great big bundle of potentiality." In a standing ovation, the crowd applauded in praise for the faith and joy of the Lord shared by this little boy.

Let the creation story empower us to understand that we are the creation of God, and like this little boy, no matter what obstacles we face in life, let us never forget we were created with promise. We were born with possibility. Praise be to our Creator God!