

## DESTINED TO

Welcome back. Hey, this is Mary Ethel Eckard with Drawing Near.

This show continues our 40 days of prayer for the new year. We are in the first chapter of Genesis, discovering more of God's attributes and character, and seeing how scripture throughout the Bible confirms what we read in these same verses.

Each day, I add a prayer to my blog, [maryetheleckard.com](http://maryetheleckard.com), that includes the attributes or characteristics of God we discuss in this podcast series. Each week, we will cover more scripture, discover more about God, and dig deeper into the Bible – both Old and New Testaments – to see how the themes are woven throughout.

Journey with me and allow the words spoken and written to saturate your heart and spirit and prepare you for the year ahead with great faith and belief in the power of God to create, change, and improve your life.

Stay with me.

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This week, I am going to read scripture to you from Genesis 1, starting with verse 14. Take in a deep breath and relax as you hear God's word, as I share with you verses 14 through 25:

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*And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years and let them be lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so. God made two great lights – the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. God set them in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth, to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was morning – the fourth day.*

*And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky." So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. 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." And there was evening, and there was morning – the fifth day.*

*And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so. 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. And God saw that it was good.*

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## **GOD FILLS**

On this show, we will cover days four through six of creation and see how God used these three days to fill (f-i-l-l) what was created the first three days.

Remember, on the first day of creation, God separated the light from the darkness. He called the light “day” and the darkness he called “night.” Now, on the fourth day, God put lights in the sky to govern the day and the night. He filled what was created on the first day. He filled the day with the sunshine, and he filled the night with the moon and stars. What does it mean they were put in place to govern the day and night?

First, the sun, moon and stars were created by God and given an important role to play. On [bibleref.com](http://bibleref.com), I found this explanation, “These things “rule” only in the sense that without their light, all productive life on the earth would come to a halt. Directly or indirectly, all life on earth has become dependent on the sun’s light during the day, and the light of the moon and stars at night. Also, the movement of the sun, moon and stars display the passage of time, though they themselves don’t make time itself operate.”

On the third day of creation, God created land, and separated the land and the sea. On the fifth day of creation, God filled the sky with birds, He filled the sea with fish and on the sixth day, He filled the land with animals and bugs and spiders and worms.

But for the sake of pointing out the obvious, let me just add here that God filled His creation with His creation ---

## **GOD GOVERNS**

God governs the earth. He set boundaries in place at the time of creation that will exist as long as the earth exists. Let me show you a bit of what I’m talking about by looking in the 38<sup>th</sup> chapter of Job, which is – by the way – one of my favorite chapters in the entire Bible. It gives us a glimpse into the orderliness and creativity of God, and how all His creation from days 1 to 6 obey His voice, with the exception of humankind.

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- Job 38:4 God asked, “Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation? Who marked off its dimensions? Who stretched a measuring line across it?”
  - Job 38:12, God asked, “Have you ever given orders to the morning, or shown the dawn its place?”
  - Job 38:19, God asked, “What is the way to the abode of light? And where does darkness reside? Can you take them to their places? Do you know the paths to their dwellings?”
  - Jeremiah 5:22 God said, “I made the sand a boundary for the sea, an everlasting barrier it cannot cross. The waves may roll, but they cannot prevail; they may roar, but they cannot cross it.
  - Job 38:8 God asked, “Who shut up the sea behind doors when it burst forth from the womb, when I made the clouds its garment and wrapped it in thick darkness, when I fixed limits for it

and set its doors and bars in place, when I said, 'This far you may come and no farther; here is where your proud waves halt'?

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## GOD DESTINES

God creates with boundaries, He also creates with a purpose or destiny in mind for everything He creates. Each thing created by God serves a divine purpose and is used by God to minister to His creation. How does God use His creation to minister to His creation?

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- He used the vision of the stars in the night sky as a symbol to Abraham of how his descendants would be as numerous as the stars. (Genesis 22:17)
- He divided the sea so the Israelites could cross through on dry ground. (Exodus 14:21)
- He used a star to point the Wise Men to the birthplace of Jesus, so they could come and worship Him. (Matthew 2:2)
- He appointed the sun to shine by day, He decreed the moon and stars to shine by night, He stirs up the sea so that its waves roar. (Jeremiah 31:35)
- God uses the vision of the stars to encourage us to walk in righteousness, saying, "Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever and ever. (Daniel 12:3)
- Before the second coming of Christ, God will give signs in the sun, moon and stars. (Luke 21:25)

Remember when I pointed out that ALL of God's creation was created with a purpose in mind, appointed to a specific role to carry out in creation? And all of creation is obedient to carry out the purpose and role that was appointed them at creation, with the exception of man. We will get to that later.

God's creation will fulfill the purpose for which it was created.

To worship God,

To be a display of His splendor

To do as He directs.

All of creation WILL fulfill its purpose because it is obedient to what God has called and appointed it to do and be. The various things God created in the six days of creation know and worship God. Scripture says it like this:

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- Job 12:7-10 "As the animals and they will teach you, or the birds of the air, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish of the sea inform you. In His hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind."
- Psalm 96:11-12, "Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it. Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them; let all the trees of the forest sing for joy."
- Psalm 19:1, "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands."
- Isaiah 43:20, "The wild animals honor me, the jackals and the owls, because I provide water in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."
- Isaiah 55:12, "For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands."

- Revelation 5:13, “And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”
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Let me share the remainder of our text from Genesis for today. We are still in the sixth day, the second part of the day. Earlier, we read that God created the animals and bugs that live on the land. I’m reading from Genesis 1: verses 26-31:

*“Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*

*God blessed them and said to them, Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.*

*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. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground – everything that has the breath of life in it – I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.*

*God saw all that He had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning, the sixth day.*

I want to briefly apply all three points made earlier to the text as it applies to mankind.

#### **God Fills:**

On the sixth day, God continued to fill the land, which was created on the third day. Remember, I said that God filled His creation with His creation? Well, again, He filled the earth with His creation – He added humans, or mankind. And then He gave mankind the blessing of being fruitful and increasing in number so mankind could fill the earth! With more of their kind!

#### **God Governs:**

In this scripture, we see how God gave mankind a role to fulfill in creation. He delegated to mankind the role of governing, or ruling over, the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and every living creature that moves on the ground. He gave man permission to eat every seedbearing plant and fruit.

#### **God Destines:**

Each element of God’s creation was created with purpose, with a destiny. Including mankind. Scripture confirms this in the following ways:

Jeremiah 29:11, “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord.”

Ephesians 2:10, “So we can do the good things He planned for us long ago.”

Hebrews 12:1, “Run with endurance the race God has set out before us.”

Most of God’s creation will fulfill its purpose, or destiny, because it does what God says, with the exception of man. Mankind reaching our destiny or purpose is not so sure. God created man with a free

will, as we will see next show, and with that free will comes the opportunity for us to choose our behavior, actions, motives, beliefs, etc. In order to fulfill our destiny, we need to understand a few things:

1. We are created by God for a purpose. Only GOD knows that purpose. We don't determine our own purpose, nor do we negotiate with God about what that purpose is. Just as He spoke purpose to the sun, moon and stars, He speaks purpose to each person. He alone knows the purpose, and He alone can communicate that purpose to the heart of man.
2. Our purpose, or destiny, will not be outside our natural abilities and interests. But our purpose will stretch us outside our comfort zone, require steps of faith in God, and require waiting for His revelation and His timing.
3. Our purpose will be revealed as we walk in obedience to God's ways, promptings, and His truth. Obedience opens the door for us to begin taking steps toward discovering and fulfilling our purpose.
4. Our purpose will require a season of preparation, of waiting on God, of leaning into Him to learn and grow into spiritual maturity. Understand that the purpose of each person is for God's kingdom and is not for individual gain, wealth, or notoriety. Selfishness and self-promotion will keep us stuck in spiritual growth and emotional immaturity. Chew on that for a while.

When we walk in obedience to God, He opens doors – He also puts us in the refiner's fire to purify our heart and prepare us for that purpose. Because He loves us and He wants what is best for us. His desire is that we live out our purpose, that we fulfill what He put us here to do. But we will not know what that is if we refuse to walk in obedience to Him. **KNOWING AND FULFILLING OUR DESTINY REQUIRES OUR OBEDIENCE TO GOD.** And way too often, the self will we were given at the time of our creation interferes with our willingness to obey God – which interferes with us fulfilling what we were put here to achieve.

But I'll throw in a pearl of wisdom, found in Ecclesiastes 12:13, that will direct you toward finding your purpose. "Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man." This means we are to have reverence of God, love Him, faith in Him and in His Son, Jesus Christ, and to obey Him.

That's about all the words I have for this show.

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As I've said before, my goal is to show how the entire Bible is one story and how things from the beginning of time are themed throughout scripture and brought to a greater understanding as we read through the Bible. Be encouraged – you are His creation, He knows and calls you by name, He sustains and provides for you all the days of our life. To God be the Glory.

The 40 days of prayer can be found on my website, [www.maryetheleckard.com](http://www.maryetheleckard.com) and are also daily posted on my Facebook Page, Mary Ethel Eckard. I encourage to visit the website or Facebook page daily to discover these prayers. Pray them over yourself and your family. Let me close with this prayer:

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Remember, God's word brings hope, freedom, and peace to those who hear it. Send this podcast to someone who needs a word of encouragement today. A transcript of this podcast is posted on my website, [maryetheleckard.com](http://maryetheleckard.com) under the LISTEN tab.

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To those who are supporting this podcast with a monthly donation, thank you so much. You sustain me. If you would like to support my ministry, you can do that in two ways. Order my book for yourself or for a friend. It is entitled "The making of a dragonfly, following Christ through the winds of change." It is available on Amazon, Walmart.com or barnes&noble.com. Or you can become a monthly subscriber to the podcast by tapping the link in this episode's description or visit [anchor.fm/mary-ethel-eckard](https://anchor.fm/mary-ethel-eckard).

Thank you for tuning in to the show. This is Mary Ethel Eckard, signing off.