

Bridgeway Community Church
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Series: God's Got Your Number
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God's Got Your Number

Four

INTRODUCTION

Today, I will be talking about the number 4 and how it symbolizes creation. Did you know that there are some very significant examples of the number 4 in the Bible?

- There are 4 Gospels and 4 Gospel writers: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John
- The 4 witnesses of God on earth are miracles, wonders, signs, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit (Hebrews 2).
- Revelation 6: 1–8 mentions Four Horsemen are symbolic depictions of different events that will take place in the end times one riding a White Horse, another riding a Red Horse, another a Black Horse, and the other a Pale Horse
- While the name “Mary” was popular in Biblical times, here are the four prominent women named Mary in the NT:
 - o Mary, Mother of Jesus
 - o Mary Magdalene
 - o Mary of Bethany
 - o Mary, the wife of Clopas (the other Mary at the foot of the cross)
- Even some of our favorite Bible verses have variations of 4, like 1 John 4:4
- The cross has 4 points, left, right, top and bottom.

RECENT NASA IMAGES OF THE JAMES WEBB TELESCOPE



Isaiah 40:26 ESV

Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name; by the greatness of his might and because he is strong in power, not one is missing.

NUMBER 4 AND CREATION

So how does the number 4 correspond with creation? After all, weren't there really 7 days of creation. Yes, there were. And the first 3 days of creation, we see the Triune God, Elohim (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), doing some magnificent things:

- On the 1st daylight was created.
- On the 2nd day - the sky was created.
- On the 3rd day - dry land, bodies of water, plants, and trees were created.

Consider these first 3 days of creation as a divine outline without all the detail. It's sort of like watching the construction of a Bob Ross painting. You see him starting with the outline of a sky, land, and all the happy little trees.

But it is on the 4th day of creation where we see more significant expanses of God's almighty power as it adds major features to the tapestry of creation.

Genesis 1:14-19 ESV

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. 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 the fourth day of creation, God created 4 things:

- The stars (Genesis 1:14)
- The overall universe, which includes many planets, nebulae, and galaxies (Genesis 1:14–15)
- The Sun, which governed the day (Genesis 1:16–18)
- The Moon, which governed the night (Genesis 1:16–18)
- From the creation of all of these things on the 4th day, we are able to do 4 things:

- o Able to discern 4 areas of direction: North, South, East, and West
- o Able to discern the seasons. Most regions have 4: Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall.
- o Given time as a measurement – not to govern God who is outside time, but to help humanity measure four things: hours, days, months, and years.
- o Given light - Illumination, Brilliance, Brightness, and Radiance from the Sun, Moon, and stars

God noted that all of these things were very good. Thus placing his signature and stamp of approval on the completion of his beautiful creation. Any theory or mythology that tries to take credit for God's creation is a forgery and a lie.

1. God's Signature in Creation is Undeniably Authentic

The Triune God created the universe. God the Father is the creator.

Colossians 1:16 ESV

For by him [Christ] all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

Therefore, Jesus is also the Creator of the universe.

Genesis 1:2 ESV

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.

The Holy Spirit is present during creation.

Some theories claim that the immense complexity of the universe as we know it was created coincidentally in a massive “big bang” explosion where all space, time, and energy came into existence together in a single moment.

There are theories, and then there's theology affirmed by the Holy Scriptures. Theology teaches about all of God's attributes and demonstrates that God's ability far exceeds human comprehension and theories. In other words, what may seem impossible for humanity, but with God all things are possible.

Jeremiah 32:17 ESV

Ah, Lord God! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you.

The ever-expanding universe has such precise detail, order, and symmetry that many scientists have no choice but to acknowledge a creator. So, here's some simplified theology for you. Whether the universe was created in a bing, a bang or a boom, or a divine finger snap, God said, "LET THERE BE", and the universe came into being with all of its beauty and complexity. It was an only God moment showing us that nothing is too hard for him.

God knew what the exact distance and the precise measurements of the sun, moon, stars, earth, and all of the planets in our solar system needed to be. God knew:

- The earth needed to be 93 million miles away from the sun.
- The earth needed to rotate tilted on a 23.5-degree axis at a speed of a 1000 mph.
- As the moon orbits the earth at 2300 mph, at a distance from Earth that averages about 238,900 miles, it creates a gravitational pull on the Earth that is the main cause of the rise and fall of the ocean tides.
- Gravitational forces keep the stars in their place and control the orbit of the other planets around the sun. EVERYTHING STAYS IN ITS PLACE, AND NOTHING COLLIDES.
- In addition to all of this, there exists an estimate of 100 billion – 200 billion galaxies in the universe. The universe that God created is vast and is still expanding. His words "LET THERE BE" and his signature continues to reverberate and create.

We see God's Signature and glory in all of it!

- The sun is at the center of all things and gives light and life to all. Even in creation, God demonstrated that Christ would be at the center of all things.
- When the sun rises and sets, we remember the faithfulness of God.
- When we live to see another day, we remember that God gives us new mercies each and every day.

Science cannot deny the existence of God. Not all scientists are atheists, but many noted scientists are former atheists who saw God's signature on creation, they repented from their unbelief.

Dr. Francis Collins said in his book, "The Language of God, "The God of the Bible is also the God of the genome," he wrote. "He can be worshipped in the cathedral or in the laboratory."

Dr. Alister McGrath said this: “That Jesus Christ is now the oxygen of his existence.”

To deny God, the creator is to deny Christ himself.

Romans 1:18-21 ESV

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. ¹⁹ For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰ For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. ²¹ For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

It's like going to an art museum and admiring beautiful images and never asking who the artist is by ignoring the signature on the painting and giving full credit to the paintbrush and then worshiping the objects in the painting.

Also, know this:

- Your destiny and your future are not written in the stars or the constellations that they form. Only God gives you a future and a hope.
- The season of your birth month did not determine your character and your personality.

“God warned the people of the Old Testament about worshiping creation and I still think this applies today.”

Deuteronomy 4:19 ESV

[God speaking] And beware lest you raise your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun and the moon and the stars, all the host of heaven, you be drawn away and bow down to them and serve them, things that the Lord your God has allotted to all the peoples under the whole heaven.

Look only to Almighty God who created all things and has the power to be all-powerful, all-knowing, and all-present simultaneously and keeps the earth in its balance and universe from caving in on itself.

2. God's Signature was Embedded in You Before the Creation of the World.

Ephesians 1:4 ESV

even as he [God the Father] chose us in him [God the Son] before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.

“It is astonishing to me - and really meditate on this - that the God who created the universe with such complexity is knowable and personable and that he wants to have intimate relationship with his creation.”

When sin entered the world, God could have relegated the world to the bench, but because of God's love, grace and mercy toward us, he created a way for us to be reconciled through his son Jesus Christ. Once a person repents of their sins a transformational transaction takes place that is symbolically finalized like a signature of authority.

Symbolically, it's like a check:

- Bank Name: God's Riches in Glory (Philippians 4:19)
- Paid to the Order of: God the Father
- Cost: The Cross
- Amount: The Priceless and Precious Blood of Jesus
- Memo: PAID IN FULL
- Signed by: Jesus Christ

NOW CASH THAT CHECK AND LIVE AS ONE OF GOD'S REDEEMED!

Just like the beauty of the universe, you yourselves are a unique masterpiece. The complexity of the human body is just as awe-inspiring as the creation of the universe. The human body is a single structure, but it comprises billions of smaller structures of four major kinds: cells, tissues, organs, and systems.

Psalm 139:14 ESV

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.

Psalm 139:6 ESV

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.

“This is why when you are broken in pieces from life, you don't run away from God. You run to the God who created you in the first place. He's the only one who can put you back together again.”

When God created you, he didn't create junk, or a mistake, or garbage. God knew you before the universe, and the base of the molecular structure of your DNA existed. So as we are to be gracious to others, be gracious to yourself. Just in case any of you are experiencing spiritual amnesia, here is what God says about you:

- You are a masterpiece (Ephesians 2:10)
- You are more than a conqueror (Romans 8:37)
- You have a future and a hope (Jeremiah 29:11)
- You are secure. Nothing can pluck you out of his hands (John 10:29)
- God delights in you. (Psalms 18:19)
- Nothing can separate you from the love of God (Romans 8:39)
- You are a child of God (John 1:15)

You were created to worship God. Worship is attributing reference and honor to God in everything we do. Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!

3. God's Signature is in the Times and the Seasons

We see ourselves progress through life through different phases and different seasons. We see ourselves begin to change and age. At one time we effortlessly bounced out of bed to start our day, and now for some of us our joints sound like "snap, crackle, and pop."

In whatever season of life that you are in it is so important to keep Christ at the center of your lives and grow in your discipleship. It is through your Christian growth that you discern the seasons of the end times. Jesus provides us with a warning of the things to come in Matthew 24.

- There would be false Christs (Matthew 24:5)
- There would be wars and rumors of wars (Matthew 24:6-7)
- There would be famines and pestilences (Matthew 24:7)
- There would be earthquakes in new or different locations (Matthew 24:7)
- There would be persecution, killings, and hatred of the Jewish people (Matthew 24:9)
- There would be many people who are easily offended (Matthew 24:10)
- There would be widespread betrayal of one another (Matthew 24:10)
- There would be widespread hatred of people against other people (Matthew 24:10)
- There would be many false prophets that will deceive the masses (Matthew 24:11)
- There would be widespread injustice, immoral behavior, crime, and unholiness (Matthew 24:12)
- There would be a coldness or indifference to others instead of love (Matthew 24:12)

Nature and creation also suffered when sin entered the world. Just as we see people morally declining, we see creation steadily declining. We even see and feel changes in creation in the weather and the atmosphere and the environment. As believers, we should absolutely be concerned about the environment and be good stewards of environment, but not idolize or worship the creation. This is a sign of the times for us. Scripture shows that God's very creation is crying out to him to be made whole again.

Romans 8:22 ESV

For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.

“Both humanity and creation are crying out ‘Come soon Lord Jesus.’ “

4. God's Signature is in the New Creation. The Curse is Reversed.

John 14:2-3 ESV

In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

“Here are somethings in fours that are God's signature in the new creation.”

There is the Throne of Heaven in Revelation 4 surrounded by the 4 living creatures who never cease to say “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!”

Revelation 4:8 ESV

And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!”

Revelation 7:9-10 ESV

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!

GENESIS	SCRIPTURE	REVELATION	SCRIPTURE
The creation of heaven and earth.	Genesis 1:1-2	The creation of the new heaven and earth.	Revelation 21:1–5
Sun was created to govern the day and the moon to govern the night.	Genesis 1:16	No need for the sun and the moon.	Revelation 22:5
As a result of sin, death and sorrow enter the world.	Genesis 3:14–19	No more death and sorrow.	Revelation 21:4
The curse is initiated.	Genesis 3:14–19	The curse is reversed.	Revelation 22:3–4

“A new day is coming when we will be released from the old and we will transition into the new and to God’s new signature on his new creation.”

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

1. Watch a sunrise or a sunset. Glorify God and have and have a Psalm 19:1 moment.

Psalm 19:1 ESV

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

Take a picture and hashtag it Psalm 19:1.