

Today's reading is about new beginnings. It's a new beginning for so many things. I've had a discussion going on for about three months now, with another Pastor talking about this verse in particular. And we've been arguing about it because she believes that the world isn't smart enough to realize that there's more than one creation story. And I think that's awful. I think it's really awful. She thinks that we should only teach this version and that the other five versions in the Bible don't matter. And I ask her why. I ask her why every time she feels that's the one that has to be read. And she says it's the one that everybody knows. So, I asked her to tell it to me. I say, this is the one that everybody knows. This has to be the one that we teach. So tell it to me. And she says, in the beginning, God created the heavens and the Earth. That's not what this said. She tells me that God took a rib from Adam and made Eve. That's not what this one says. And I tell her that. And that's where the conversation ends. That's where it always ends.

We remember the creation story based on how we learned it when we were kids, how we heard it. We heard, let there be light, which is what this one says. We heard about the separation of the sky and the land, the water. We heard about God, creating the sun and the moon. We heard about the change of days. We remember all of those things. We remember hearing about Adam and Eve, and that is a creation story. It's the next creation story.

But we still go to what we learned. Initially, we go to the one that speaks the most truth to us. But if we stick with this reading, then there can be only one beginning because it says, "In the beginning,....." But we know the world, and life isn't about just one beginning.

Each year, we start a new school year. It's a new beginning for all these kids, for all of these teachers. We start new jobs. We start new relationships. We start new battles. We start new friendships. We start new things all the time. God didn't mean for us to be fixed. He didn't mean for us to start just once. And then that's how the world goes. That's how our lives go. That's not what they meant.

There are constant new beginnings and changes in our lives because we grow and change. Just like God, we were made in their image, not physically, because none of us can see or have seen God, but spiritually. If you read the Bible in order, you see God changes over time. Their love grows and changes. They see what we have done and how they learn from it. God made the Covenant with Noah because they realized that just ending everybody wasn't necessarily the right thing to do. God realized that having Saul become king wasn't the best interest for all of those around and brought forth David. God learned and changed and grew, just like us, to the point that he gave his only son for us. And that's another change because God walked among us, lived as us, and saw the new beginnings. How we can grow, how we can continue to love each other, even in the darkest of times.

The beginning isn't just the beginning, beginning of each and every day. It's a new day. It's a new choice. It's a new life that we get to live, a love that we get to share going forward. Every day we get to share the love that they put in us with everyone around us. And we don't have to fixate on the bad. We don't have to fixate on the past because tomorrow is something new. Let us pray.