

# Before

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you”

Jeremiah 1:5

Dear Precious One,

Before the beginning of time God dreamed of you. Before He laid the foundations of the earth – before the sun ever rose in the sky, before any living thing took their first breath of air, God knew you. He sketched the shape of your nose and painted the hue of your skin. He inscribed your name on the palm of His hand. God was the first to know you - before your mom or your dad, before the nurse with the sonogram. Before God formed you in your mother’s womb, He knew you. He saw you. He wanted you for His own.

Who knows how long it took Him to design your mind? Did he linger long over your special skill sets? Your likes and dislikes? Did he paint your hair a dozen shades before He found the one that suited you best? Did He write draft after draft of your story, trying different plot lines and introducing different characters or did He just know you all at once?

When God looked at time stretched out before Him like a scroll, did He shuffle you around the timeline, considering different decades and families until He found just the right place? We don’t know how Elohim our strong Creator dreamed you and designed you but we know He loved you. We know because He saw your best days and your worst days before a single day came to pass. He knew your heart. That fist sized heart that would somehow stretch to hold eternity, He knew it would be wicked and run from Him. He saw the sin that would separate you from Him and the cross that would ultimately buy you back. We know that He loved you from the moment He dreamed you because even when God saw all of this He said “Yes, let Us make this child in Our image.”

And surely God was thinking of you when He dreamed up the world. God knew you and loved you already and He wanted *you* to know and love *Him* someday too. When He imagined the towering mountains and the faithful sunrise He thought “Yes! My child will see something of me here.” When He mapped out the heavens and measured the oceans He said “Yes! My child will learn something of me here.” *You* were on His mind as He dreamed up ways to introduce Himself through His glorious creation. The resilient wildflowers, the intricate patterns painted on fish, the seasons, the giraffe, the acorn...all of these were designed for you. A love note from a God who knows you and wants to be known.

And if you are ever tempted to think you are too small or too bad or too far for God to want you, remember this: Before the foundation of the world, He saw you, He chose you, He loved you, He planned good things for you, He laid down His life for you and after weighing the cost of you against the joy of you God said “Yes. Let us begin. Let us create this child for Our glory.”

And with the knowledge of you and the desire for you and the deep, eternal love of you God said,

“Let there be light, and there was light.”



## **Scripture verses for additional study and discussion:**

### **Jeremiah 1:5**

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,  
before you were born I set you apart;

**Isaiah 49:16a** - See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands

**Ephesians 1:4** - For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

### **Ecclesiastes 3:11**

He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

### **Acts 17:26-27**

From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us.

**Psalms 19:1** - The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

**Romans 1:20** - For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

**John 13:1b** - Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

**Psalms 139:16** - Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.