

**Manny  
Arango**

# CRUSHING CHAOS



**STUDY GUIDE**

**Calm Your Storms.  
Order Your Life.  
Find Your Peace.**





# CRUSHING CHAOS STUDY GUIDE

*Calm Your Storms.*

*Order Your Life.*

*Find Your Peace.*

**Manny Arango**



Water Brook

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## How to Use This Guide

Hey,

I'm glad you're here. Reaching out to you through these pages is a privilege. And I prayed for you as I wrote. Consider this an invitation to pray for me, too, as you read—I need it!

This is a six-week study of *Crushing Chaos*. You'll be reading through the book on your own and discussing it with a group. I've set it up so the guide is split into six sessions, and each session has work for you to do yourself—On Your Own—before your group then meets—All Together.

Here's the rhythm: Read the content for yourself, wrestling with it as you go, then gather as a group and take your understanding to the next level. There are four to seven chapters for each session—that's about a chapter a day of reading if you're meeting once a week. But I know that some readers will do all the work in one day, while others of you will spread the reading out over the whole week. I'm not here to judge—I want you to make this time of study your own.

### On Your Own

The On Your Own portion of each session is split into three parts:

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<b>Before You Read</b>	<b>While You Read</b>	<b>After You Read</b>
A guided reflection from me to prepare you for the chapters	Your own notes on scripture, insights from and questions about the text, and quotes of significance to you	A space to prepare your thoughts and questions for the group

### All Together

The All Together portion will be a time for your group to dive deeply into the scripture and chapter themes through group discussion and prayer. A huge feature of the group discussion will be the thoughts and questions you come up with during your own reading.

Here's the overview of the chapters for each session:

<b>Session 1</b>	<b>Session 2</b>	<b>Session 3</b>	<b>Session 4</b>	<b>Session 5</b>	<b>Session 6</b>
<b>A World of Chaos: First Half</b>	<b>A World of Chaos: Second Half</b>	<b>Taming the Beast</b>	<b>Come Hell or High Water</b>	<b>The Prince of Peace: First Half</b>	<b>The Prince of Peace: Second Half</b>
Chapters 1–4	Chapters 5–7	Chapters 8–13	Chapters 14–20	Chapters 21–24	Chapters 25–29

I can't wait to introduce you to the Chaos-crushing God of the Bible. There's a whole world for us to discover and a totally, radically new way to see it. Let's do this together.



## SESSION 1

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# A WORLD OF CHAOS: FIRST HALF

### On Your Own

*Chapter 1:* Panic in the Lobby

*Chapter 2:* Peace in the Temple

*Chapter 3:* Monsters in the Bible

*Chapter 4:* A Dragon in the Garden

### Before You Read

You don't have to look very far to find chaos. The word *chaos* means "a state of complete confusion and lack of order." Generally speaking, chaos is the reality that all is not well, that things are not right. You've felt chaos before. If I asked what you think the most chaotic thing happening in the world today is, you'd probably have trouble

\* *Oxford Learner's Dictionaries*, "chaos," accessed October 28, 2024, [www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/us/definition/american\\_english/chaos](http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/us/definition/american_english/chaos).

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choosing just one. If I asked about the most chaotic thing that happened to you last week, I know you'd have a story for me.

Chaos is everywhere—in our world and in us.

This week, we're exploring a story that you've heard and read before. Even if you don't think you've heard it, I'll bet you probably have. But I want you to hear it differently this time. I want you to notice something new.

So, before we get started, what do you remember about the creation story? Don't look at your Bible—not yet, at any rate. I just want you to remember what you've heard. I'll help you start: In the beginning . . .

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So, what is the creation story about? I want to know what you think before we get into it together. Why is this story in the Bible? Why does Scripture start here? What are we supposed to be learning?

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Now, open a Bible. Any Bible. It's right there at the beginning—Genesis 1. Take a deep breath, and quiet your heart and mind. Read through the verses slowly.

Where's the Chaos in the creation story? And what did God decide to do about it?

That's what these first chapters are about.

## While You Read

Use these pages to take notes as you read each chapter. There are no right or wrong answers. If making an outline helps you focus, do that. If you want to pay special attention to definitions, to write questions about things that confuse you, or to write out why you disagree with me, do that.

In case you need some motivation, here's what I've got: Reading the content ahead of time and taking a few notes is a great way to prepare some thoughts for anyone else you're studying with. Maybe someone needs to ponder the question or hear the insight you're going to think of as you're reading. You're not just doing this for yourself.

So, while you read, have this study guide nearby. For each chapter, I want you to do these three things:

1. Make a note of any scripture in the chapter that stands out to you. Mark significant passages in your Bible.
2. Write a few thoughts inspired by the chapter, or copy a few phrases that are significant to you. I'm talking about phrases that make you stop and think, phrases that inspire wonder, ideas that confuse you, and even things that make you angry or that you totally disagree with. You can copy them straight from the book or use your own words. This is your space to interact with the chapter—make it your own.
3. Finally, summarize your experience of the chapter, writing out a thought, question, or insight in the space marked "I want to remember . . ." Think of this as the one thing you want to make sure to bring to your group.

## Chapter 1

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# Panic in the Lobby

Creation was a . . . barren, unintelligible, chaotic ocean abyss. . . . However, God didn't bring peace to this chaos. God began organizing the creation and moved the earth from chaos into *order*. God began to separate, pull apart, gather, and bring structure to the chaos of creation.  
(page 00)

### *Scripture in This Chapter*

Genesis 1:1-2, 6-7, 9

Galatians 5:22-23

Matthew 13:23

Genesis 2:7

### **Thoughts, Insights, Questions**

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*I want to remember . . .*

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## Chapter 2

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# Peace in the Temple

Ancient audiences understood that deities rested only once their temples were ordered and sanctified. Rest was the final confirmation that the space was sacred. Rest was synonymous with divine approval. . . . In the ancient world, gods rested only in temples, nowhere else. Because *where* you rest will dictate *how* you rest.  
(page 00)

### *Scripture in This Chapter*

Genesis 2:2

Judges 16:19

Matthew 11:28

John 2:19–21

Genesis 1:26

1 Corinthians 6:19–20

Genesis 4:11–14

Genesis 3:8

### **Thoughts, Insights, Questions**

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*I want to remember . . .*

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## Chapter 3

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# Monsters in the Bible

Yahweh never calls anything in the creation narrative perfect; He calls everything He made good. Everything. No exceptions. That includes the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. And the crafty Serpent. And the fruit that Adam and Eve are forbidden to eat.

This is a curveball. There are elements of Chaos residing in God's temple, and it seems to be okay with God. There's some Chaos in the garden, yet God calls it good. That's odd, to say the least. (page 00)

### *Scripture in This Chapter*

Genesis 1:21

Ezekiel 44:14

Revelation 12:7

Genesis 2:8

Genesis 2:15

Romans 12:2

Numbers 3:7–8

Philippians 2:5

1 Chronicles 23:32

John 20:14–15

### **Thoughts, Insights, Questions**

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*I want to remember . . .*

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## Chapter 4

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# A Dragon in the Garden

That is what we are all wired for. It is the common dream that drives our species. We all want to kill the beasts, slay the dragons, overcome the monsters, and restore peace and order to the temple of creation. We're all standing in front of our own trees of knowledge, facing off with our own beasts and trying our best to defeat them. Which means the original story of Adam and Eve has something to teach us. (page 00)

### *Scripture in This Chapter*

Genesis 3:14

Revelation 12:3, 9

Isaiah 27:1

Genesis 3:15

Amos 9:3

### **Thoughts, Insights, Questions**

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*I want to remember . . .*

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### After You Read

How does this book's take on the creation account differ from what you remembered? Flip back to your stab at writing about the creation story before you read any of these chapters. Do you look at this story any differently now? What details stand out that you hadn't noticed before?

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Look back at your chapter notes, and gather everything you wrote after "I want to remember . . ." here in this space. These are the thoughts and questions you want to bring to your group.

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Take a moment now to say a prayer for your group before you gather, asking the Holy Spirit to guide the conversation.