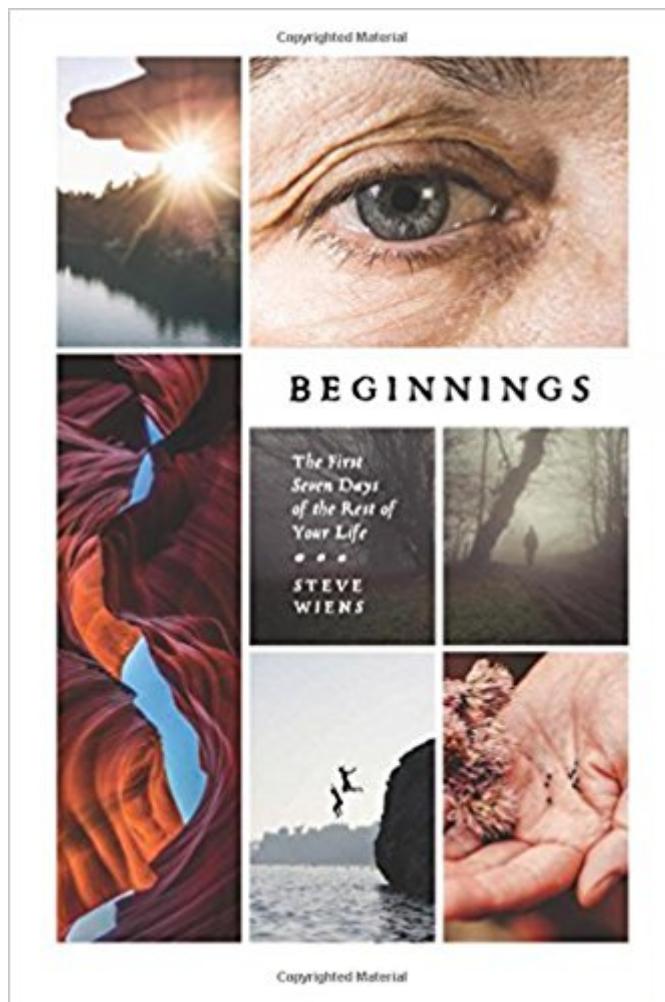


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# **Beginnings: The First Seven Days Of The Rest Of Your Life**



## **Synopsis**

Have you ever found yourself at the beginning of a big life change? Maybe you're getting married, or divorced. Maybe you're having a child, or burying a parent. Maybe you've been promoted, or lost a job you loved. Maybe you've moved; maybe you feel stuck. These big changes hit us hard. It's easy to lose our way. It's easy to think that God is leaving us alone in them. The good news is that the God who spoke the world into existence, who lovingly brought into being everything seen and unseen, is speaking into your big change. Drawing from the story of creation in Genesis, *Beginnings* offers an empowering message of how God works through the transition in our lives. As God orchestrated the ultimate transition when he created everything from nothing, he can handle the overwhelming details in your life. *Beginnings* is for everyone who faces significant transition—in career, in relationships, in life stage, whether good or bad. By exploring the first chapter in Genesis day by day, creative act by creative act, Steve Wiens shows us how beginnings work, and how God works through our beginnings.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

*Beginnings* is very highly recommended for all members of the Christian community regardless of their denomination affiliation. (Midwest Book Review)

God . . . is the master of beginnings. Your circumstances may overwhelm you—but not God,

who created everything from nothing. God lovingly offers relief, hope, and renewed energy for every beginning in your life. Join Steve Wiens on a paradigm-shifting walk through the seven days of creation, where he reveals how to apply the genesis of life to every one of your transitions. Discover your place in the creation process and how God longs to work in and through every change you encounter.

I heard Steve Wiens talking about this book on the Lead Stories Podcast and was intrigued by the use of the creation account as a pattern (a metaphor) for the types of experiences we go through in life some of them difficult but always transformative---what others often call seasons, or pivots; and what Steve calls beginnings. I loved the personal nature of the book. This is the author's life theme I believe--the Genesis story. It is not only how he brings the perceived chaos of the world to order in his mind, Genesis is the name of the church he leads. I won't say I can agree with him on every point, but I love that he got me to thinking about what I do believe. I will read this book again. Next time slower and with the intention of pausing and processing my own stories of beginnings as I do. I think that is what makes this book more than just a book that is interesting and well-written, it can be used as a way to see what God is using to create the unique story He is writing in his unique creations. It is an authentic book which I believe is hard to find in the Christian life category. I would recommend this book for book clubs as I think it would be a great catalyst to conversation. You will be encouraged' when you find your life experiences in the author's stories.

I know I've read a good book when, at the end, I feel sad that it's over. This is one of those books. This book is honest. I love Steve's writing because it smells like reality. He tells stories from his life that are funny, awkward, cinematic, and sometimes painful. Things that happen in your life and mine. This book is deep. Wiens draws out observations and insights from the biblical text that I'd honestly never had the curiosity or imagination to see. Beginnings thrives on Steve's endless curiosity and sense of wonder toward God's story. It oozes with genuine fascination, and its poetry feels unforced. This book is rich. Lots of Christians books feel like the same thing. Get honest with God to get a better life. Believe God to do amazing things in your life. This is what Jesus is REALLY about. That's fine. After all, sometimes being Christian feels like living by a bunch of cliches stacked upon each other. But Steve's writing voice cracks the window open a little. Gives these truths a little room to breathe. As Wiens write about Jesus' resurrection in the last chapter, I felt myself get emotional about it. The first time in a while. This isn't a breezy book. It's a stop-every-other-paragraph kind of book. And, having known Steve personally, he's even more

delightful than the book he writes. Which is pretty impressive. So buy it, ians. You won't regret it.

Not often enough do we look to the beginning of the Christian story to find how God intimately works to find us in our suffering, our loss, our emptiness. If you're looking for a book that explicitly makes the connection for you of God's creation story to God's incarnate being in Jesus Christ, this is not your book. And neither do I interpret that to be this book's intention. Its primary source is Genesis, and you need only look quickly to the first chapter of John for your connection. If, however, you'd like a book that draws you closer to God in realizing God's creative and redemptive work that is constantly working within you to draw out goodness and holiness in this world, this is a more than worthwhile read. Wiens helps bring the reader to that discovery, a new way of looking at what God truly did in the beginning, and how that might speak to our own beginnings. To me, there is no way to read this book without seeing the way that God has and continues to work through Christ and the Holy Spirit to turn us to Him and to draw something good out of that which God created. While, at times, the book did uncomfortably toe the line of reading as a self-improvement book, the way that Wiens overwhelmingly identifies God's work as the source of anything we might do or know leaves the reader with a great sense of something happening within them solely through the creativity of God.

I excitedly bought this book as I have been a follower of Mr. Wiens blog for quite some time. I anticipated that his book would be equally as inspiring to me as his blog has been--and I was right! I finished the book a while ago but had yet to put it away. As I grabbed it to flip through it while getting ready to sit down and type out a quick review, I was reminded of why I left it out upon my finishing. Page after page of this book is scribbled in by me. Page after page has the corners folded over. . . the cover is already curled up. This is what I do to books that touch my soul, I guess! The words penned by Mr. Wiens are thought-provoking, emotion-stirring, and inspiring. I will no doubt be reaching for this book, time and time again. Beginnings is definitely worth the read!

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