

# GENESIS 1:26-2:3

## LESSON: THE FIRST MAN — September 16, 2018

### SYNOPSIS:

**1:20-25** God commanded the waters to bring forth moving creatures and fowl that will fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. The water was filled with moving creatures and the sky was open to the flying creatures. Great whales and every living creature that moves in the water after their kind filled the water. And every winged fowl after their kind filled the sky? God saw that **it was good**, and He Blessed His creation and commanded them to be fruitful and multiply in the seas and on earth. This was the evening and morning of the **fifth day** (20-23). God also created the land animals; living creatures from the earth having living souls after their kind. From the earth they were formed and from the earth they will return. And it was so. He caused the beast, cattle and every creeping thing to exist, and saw that it was good (24-25).

### LESSON: I. THE CLIMAX OF CREATION GENESIS 1:26-30

**1:26** And God said, **Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. AT GOD'S SPOKEN WORD** He commanded, "***Let us make man in our image, after our likeness... let them have dominion...***" Now, it's the second half of coming toward the end of the sixth day. God made sure the earth was filled with what God needed for man. All had a purpose for man, that's why he was made last of all the creatures. Man is the crowning glory of God's creation because man is created in the image (model or reflection) of God (*in our image*) and God's glory will be seen through man.

- Man is of the earth, but he is also of God.
  - Man is of the physical world, but he is also of the spiritual world. Man is flesh, but he is also spirit.
  - Man is related to the animals of the earth (both from the earth), but he is also related to God.
- God's Word created man. Man exists because God spoke man into existence. The point is:
1. **God held a very special conference**, a divine counsel to create man. The Holy Spirit who inspires Scripture is using the plural "*let us*" to tell us this. Man was given the glorious privilege of being created by all the Godhead—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
  2. **God created man to be after our likeness**. We know God created the animals as living souls and gave them an earthly life and a temporal breath, but God went beyond what He had made when His Omnipotent Word created **human** life. Man will have **God's** inner nature, being pure and having no sin. Man's image and likeness were to reflect and embrace all the dignity and nobility of God's mind, light, love, holiness, Spirit, and perfectness. Just as God relates to the Trinity, His nature relates to the image and likeness within man; there's a spiritual relationship. And man could reveal all the wonderfulness and awesomeness of God. God did not

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say that man would be in the image of angels or any other heavenly creature, but in the likeness of Himself. So, *"in our image and after our likeness"* means:

1. God is perfect —God created man just like himself, perfect.
2. God is light—God created man and clothed him with the glory of His light.
3. God is holy, sinless, righteous, pure, and moral. God created man distinctively the same—set apart from all other creatures.
4. God is love, devoted, loyal, loving, merciful, gracious, and compassionate. God created His creation (man) with the same characteristics.
5. God is Spirit, eternal Spirit, and eternal Life. God is the only Person who has lived forever, who never had a beginning and shall never have an ending. Therefore, God created man and gave him a spirit, an immortal breath, a life that lives forever just like God.

Our hearts should throb with excitement of God's care and plan that went in to consider, and speak of man, to give and place His image and likeness in us! He already saw what He wanted in us. And He already knew our outcome, and yet, He still created us! That's why the counsel had to come together, for His only begotten Son would take it upon Himself to bail us out of the sin of man. There was no flaw in God's creation. No, because God is perfect and He made man after His image and likeness, however He did not want robots, so He gave "free will" to man when He commanded *"...Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it..."* (Gen.2:16-17a). God wanted obedient hearts. And as we will see, that all three Persons of the Godhead were actively involved in the redemption of man, in the rebirth of man, just as they were in the initial creation of man! We should be in thanks and awe of God's Love!

3. God gave them to have dominion over. Man will have *dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.* His purpose was like no other creature on earth, and he was given phenomenal power over God's realm to do just that. Man was the being, fully capable to exercise dominion.

**1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.** After the counsel of the Godheads, there was a need to say this again, man was created in God's own image. *"Male and female created he him."* "Them" was spoken of in verse 26 and now God's purpose is made known to have male and female. Woman's creation was made special no matter how some may think. To look at it now in this verse is still a mystery because we don't see God actually creating woman, but to take God at His Word, **"created he them,"** female was created on the same sixth day because this is when all creation was completed. We will see this in 2:21-22. The bible is taking us in stages.

**1:28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.** Surrounded by all this beauty, God's meeting with male and female for the first time is met with deepest care and love as He command the blessing upon them (male and female). It's no doubt about it: they both— male and female received the blessing. The blessing meant *"The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: the LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee; the LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace"* Num.6:24-26.

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- They have the privilege of God's presence, of fellowship with God.
- They have the privilege of life, both abundant and eternal.
- They have the privilege of being created in the image of God, of being the crown of His creation.
- They have the privilege of living upon earth with all its provisions for food and beauty.
- They have the privilege of being male and female, of having the companionship of one another.
- They have the privilege of reproduction, of filling the earth with their own species.
- They have the privilege of having animals as fellow companions on earth.
- They have the privilege of ruling and reigning over all the creatures of earth.
- They have the privilege of work, of finding satisfaction and fulfillment in subduing the earth.

The blessings and privileges are given to every man and woman, but every person has to claim the privileges and diligently work at using them more and more for the benefit of oneself and of society.

Both male and female heard and received the blessing and were given three great assignments or purposes, or commandments: (1) *Be fruitful, multiply, and replenish the earth*, (2) *subdue it*: (3) *and have dominion...*

1. Reproduce and fill the earth. The relationship they build was to serve as the basis for all other relationships upon earth and within societies and nations of earth. The word "*replenish*" in this instance would be to fill the earth. Therefore, to be fruitful, multiply, and replenish includes...
  - *To establish the family*: to institute the rule and principle of one man and one woman for each other. There was to be no separation or divorce—no split families, no children without a father or mother when God first created man and woman.
  - *To build a much stronger love, trust, and loyalty* within man and woman, and God being as the center of that love.
2. Subdue the earth here means to make the earth's resources beneficial for themselves which implies that they would investigate and carry on the earth's resources to make them useful to humans generally. The command provides foundation for the abundance it will bring.
3. Have dominion (leadership, rule, manage) over all the animals—fish, birds, and land animals.

So, it is both man and woman's duty to manage the earth for God.

**1:29 And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.** God has shared their purpose, and now, He supplies physical food: every herb bearing seed—every tree that yields seed to be for meat (food).

- Man and animal were to be vegetarians in creation when God first created man and woman.
- Man and animal were given an abundance of food: vegetables, berries, and fruit. They were given every plant that bore seed and every tree that bore fruit.
- All the land of the earth was fruitful. There was vegetation and plant life everywhere; there was more than enough.

**1:30 And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so.** Now every

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beast upon the earth, every fowl of the air, every creeping thing upon the earth also had excess, to every green herb for meat. God had anticipated and met all the need for food for the animals. **And it was so.**

## II. GOD'S REST AFTER CREATION GENESIS 1:31—2:3

**1:31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.** All was prepared *before* man *for* man *by* God. Everything was exactly as God had planned it. Everything was perfect in sustaining man upon the earth. After God had seen all that He had done; after looking back, He saw that everything had fulfilled its function, and said **it was very good.** He had completed all this in **the sixth day** as the evening and morning passed.

**2:1 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.** God finished the creation of the heavens and the earth. The universe had begun as an idea in God's mind. God had set out to bring His idea of the world into being. He had created step by step.

- God had created all the basic elements of the universe—all the atoms, protons, neutrons, and electrons—whatever basic substance that makes up matter, God had created all matter and energy within the universe.
- God had now organized all matter and energy to form the heavens and the earth. It's finished.
- God had now created everything that was necessary to maintain life upon earth. Light, air, water, dry land, vegetation, day and night, seasons and years had all been completed.

The hosts may refer to stars (Neh.9:6) or angels (1Kgs.22:19), but here it is probably a simple reference to all the things that God created. All the hosts of creation had now been commanded and ordered, arranged, organized, and placed where they belonged, just as God willed.

**2:2 And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.** After the sixth day creation, God says it's time to rest. Whatever God had created, He had finished the work and ended what He had set out to do. He's really not tired, burdened, pressured, or exhausted from His work in creation. The Word of God says *"...that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary..."* Is.40:28b. Therefore, God ended His work, which put a rest to what he had made. He didn't have to go back and touch up or change His creation. He was pleased with His work.

**2:3 And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.** There are two significant things in this seventh day.

1. God blessed the seventh day.
2. God sanctified the seventh day. The word *"sanctified"* means to set apart and make holy. God consecrated and declared the seventh day holy. Many rest, but few give the day over to holiness.

This is a model for us.

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## SUMMARY:

At this point God held a divine counsel to say let us make man in our image and after our likeness; and let them have dominion. The dominion for man (them) would be over the fish, the fowl, cattle, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. So, man was created in the image of God. And He created male and female and blessed them gave them a command to be fruitful, multiply, replenish the earth, subdue it and have dominion over the fish, fowl, and every living thing that moves on the earth. God tells them of the food He has supplied for them— every herb bearing seed, and every tree that has seed in its fruit is for food. He tells them even of the food for the animals (1:26-30).

God beheld that everything He had made was very good. This brings about the close of the evening and morning of the sixth day. And God finished the creation of the heavens and the earth. All the hosts of creation had now been commanded and ordered, arranged, organized, and placed where they belonged, just as God willed. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had made; and He rested on the seventh day from all the work of creation (1:31—2:1-3).