

Daniel 7:13-14; Matthew 24:30; Rev 5:9-10: One like a man is given everlasting dominion over the earth.

Matthew 28:18-20: Jesus commands his disciples to bring people of all nations into submission to him before he returns.

QUOTATIONS

“The main point of [Genesis 1–2], could be stated as follows: God has prepared human beings, male and female, with the spiritual capacity and communal assistance to serve him and to keep his commands so that they might live and enjoy the bounty of his creation” (Ross, *Creation and Blessing*, 127).

“We see [the image of God] expressed in concepts such as the possibility of fellowship and communication with God, the exercise of responsible dominion and leadership over the creation owned by God, and the fact that in some way unspecified as yet [in the Bible], God is the prototype of which man and woman are merely copies, replicas (*selem*, ‘carved or hewn statue or copy’) and facsimiles (*d’mût*, ‘likeness’)” (Kaiser, *Promise-Plan of God*, 40).

GOING FARTHER

1. How should the truth of man’s being made in the image of God affect your view of God’s purpose for your life, your view of others, and your understanding of Jesus?
2. Read each of the passages in the “Later Revelation” section in light of Genesis 1:26-28. How do you understand each?
3. How do modern views of evolution and homosexuality attack the foundation of a biblical worldview?

PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT STUDY

1. Read Genesis 3. Try to determine the author’s main point.
2. What is the nature of the sin? How is Eve guilty? How is Adam?
3. How do the curses in Gen 3:14-19 relate to Gen 1-2?
4. Study Gen 3:15. What does it mean?

GENESIS 1-2: CREATION AND THE IMAGE OF GOD

OUTLINE

- I. God’s creation of the world is marred by the sinfulness of man (1:1–11:26).
 - A. The creation of the world: God creates a good world in seven days through his mighty word (1:1–2:3).
 1. In the beginning God creates the heavens and the earth (1:1-2).
 2. On the first three days God creates the forms of heaven and earth (1:3-13).
 - a. On the first day God creates light & darkness (1:3-5).
 - b. On the second day God creates waters above and below (1:6-8).
 - c. On the third day God creates vegetation on the land (1:9-13).
 3. On the second three days God fills the heavens and earth (1:14-31).
 - a. On the fourth day God fills the sky with the objects of light (1:14-19).
 - b. On the fifth day God fills the air with birds and the sea with creatures (1:20-23).
 - c. On the sixth day God fills the land with animals and man (1:24-31).
 4. On the seventh day God rests from his work (2:1-3).
 - B. The account of the heavens and the earth: God creates man as his own image who then rebels against him (2:4–4:26).
 1. God created man and woman and put them in the garden of Eden (2:4-25).
 - a. God creates man at the very beginning (2:4-7).
 - b. God plants a garden for the enjoyment of man (2:8-17).
 - 1) God places man in a beautiful garden (2:8-14).
 - 2) God gives man charge over the beautiful garden (2:15).
 - 3) God restricts man from eating from one tree in the beautiful garden (2:16-17).
 - c. God reveals that man needs a helper (2:18-20).
 - d. God creates woman to be one flesh with the man (2:21-25).

PREPARATION FOR THIS STUDY

Read Genesis 1-2. Try to determine the author's purpose(s) in writing this section of Scripture. What is the heart of the passage?

What does this passage teach us about God? Creation? Humanity? Marriage?

Study Genesis 1:26-28. What does it mean that God made man in his own image? Why did God give the commands in verse 28?

OBSERVATIONS

1. God created a good world marked by order.
2. The pinnacle of God's creation was man, the only creature made in the image of God.
3. God gave man dominion over the earth, making him ruler over all of creation. As such, God delegated his sovereignty over creation to man. Being made in God's image, man exercises God's rule as his *mediator*.
4. God created both male and female in his image. There is no distinction in *intrinsic value* between the sexes. In chapter 2, God establishes that there is a created distinction in *function*, for the woman was made as a helper for man.
5. As part of man's mandate to subdue the earth, he was commanded to be fruitful and to fill it.
6. God gave this created world to man to use and enjoy.
7. God blessed fish/birds, man, and the seventh day.
8. Genesis 1:1-2:3 reveals God's creation of the earth as a whole. Genesis 2:4-25 focuses on God's creation of man and woman.
9. In chapter 1, God is named as *Elohim*, emphasizing his majestic supremacy. In chapter 2, he is called *Yahweh Elohim*, pointing to his identity as the personal God of Israel.
10. God formed man from the earth. Man is part of the earth (an "earthling"). God formed woman from the man. Though not "born of man," in this way God establishes the original unity of Adam and Eve.
11. The garden of Eden was the center of the earth; the rivers flowed down to give life to the whole earth.
12. God created the garden, and man was to work and take care of the garden. Work precedes and is not a result of the curse.
13. Man was to remember that his sovereignty was limited; he was always under God. The restriction on eating from the tree of knowledge of good and evil would test man's submission to God's authority.
14. By naming the animals, Adam demonstrated his authority and ownership of them. One can only name what belongs to him.
15. God designed man and woman for each other and in their unity they became one flesh.
16. Creation was repeatedly deemed "good" until after the creation of man when God saw that it was "very good."
17. Creation is portrayed as a simple task for God. He is not shown as straining or requiring extra time. He creates by speaking except in the case of man whom he forms from the dust and breathes into him the breath of life.
18. God is depicted as entirely outside his creation. He is not in creation like all the other gods of the ancient world. Worship of the sun, moon, or anything other than God is clearly shown to be worship of an object that God created.
19. Man was created to not die. He would only die if he disobeyed God.

GENESIS 1:26-28 IN LATER REVELATION

Psalms 8: While man appears so small in the created world, the psalmist recalls that God made man as the pinnacle of his creation and gave him rule over all created beings. Man's mandate to rule continued after the Fall (cf. Gen 9:1-7).

Daniel 2:37-38; 4:12, 17: Because Nebuchadnezzar did not give glory to God in exercising his rule, his humanity was taken away. He was restored to his kingdom when he recognized God's sovereignty.

God forms the formless	God fills the empty
Day 1: Light	Day 4: Bodies of light: Sun, moon, stars
Day 2: Sky/Seas	Day 5: Birds and fish
Day 3: Fertile earth	Day 6: Animals and man
Day 7: Sabbath	