

Creation



OPENING COMMENT

The bible is a story. A grand story. The greatest story ever told. It is a story rooted in a God who is beyond time and space. It is a story that starts with nothing but God. Genesis 1 starts with God hovering above a formless and purposeless world and in his glory, he brings order and creativity to the nothing. This creative genius culminates in the creation and commissioning of a creature like none other. This creation will be imaged after God himself and be ordained caretaker of all that God has created. Male and female, they will image God and joyfully pursue His purpose and plan. It is in this creation, that we begin to understand our place in the world around us and why we so desperately long for purpose, meaning, and abundant life.

READ THE TEXT: Genesis 1:26-28

Then 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 birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

²⁷ So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

1. Who is defining what man ought to engage in? What does the pronoun used in verse 26 hint at?
2. What is God's creative purpose for man? What are its boundaries?
3. What is God's blueprint for the creation of Man?



4. How does that blueprint take on flesh?
5. Verse 26 and 28 are very similar in content. How does verse 28 differ from 26?

APPLYING THE TEXT

1. How should the plural pronoun used to personify God guide us as we read the rest of scripture? How does it help us understand the creation of male and female?
2. What should it look like to have dominion over the earth?
3. What impact does being created in the image of God have on our disposition towards others and ourselves?
4. Verse 28 is a command, born out of God's creative purpose in verse 26. How are you actively obeying this command as you engage the world around you?
5. How does God's creative purpose help us understand heaven and the life we will lead when God makes all things new?

BIBLICAL THREAD

1. Genesis 1 – 2 – Biblical starting point is God of creation
2. Nehemiah 9:6 – God as sole creator
3. Job 38 – 39 – God confronts Job and points to his creative power.
4. Psalm 148 – God exalted as Creator
5. Isaiah 40 – the greatness of God as creator and savior.
6. John 1:1-5 – All things created through the Word (Christ)
7. Romans 1: 18-20 – creation as a picture of God's invisible attributes
8. Colossians 1:15-20 – All things were made for Christ and by Christ.
9. Revelation 4 – John's vision of the Throne of God culminating in praise for his creative work.

CONCLUSION

Creation is not solely about origin. It is in some sense a story of the history of the world. More importantly it is a picture of a purposed filled God who has an intention for all that He does. In looking at creation we should see a God of order, purpose, relationship, and creativity. We should see a God who commands, a God who is holy, a God who will bring to completion what he has started. In the creation we should see hope for a glorious future where man has dominion over the earth in perfect obedience to the God who created. In creation we should see inherent value in every person that we encounter. In creation, we should see hints of a God who redeems the formless nothingness and brings life.

SHARE & PRAY

LIFE GROUP VISION:

The goal to meeting together around the word of God is three fold. First, we want to more clearly understand what God is saying to us through his Word and apply it to our own hearts and minds. Secondly, we want to build a loving community with each other to disciple one another toward maturity in Christ. Thirdly, we desire each of us, as ambassadors of Christ, to look outwards to our community and ask how we can bring the truth of the gospel to bear on those whom God has placed in our lives.

