

Lesson Three — The Purpose of Man's Creation

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Have you ever wondered why God created you? What is the reason for *your* existence? Or generally, what is God's reason for man's existence? Can you give specific answers to these questions?

Did you know that Scripture records God's *spoken intent* for creating man just *prior* to creating him (Gen. 1:26), and reiterated His purpose just *after* creating him (Gen. 1:28)? Scripture records the very first words of God concerning man at this time, revealing His purpose for man's creation.

This week we will look closely at the question — Why did God create man? Remember to pray for a clearer understanding. Seek help, guidance, and understanding from the Holy Spirit. And remember to *lean not on your own understanding*, but listen to what God says in His recorded Word.

Day One — Observations of the Beginning

Today we are going to observe Genesis chapter one. As we learned in last week's lecture this chapter, along with the first three verses of chapter two, form the very foundation upon which all of Scripture rests. There is good reason why God places this information at the beginning. His placing it there was not happenstance!

Right now we are simply turning up the puzzle pieces. In upcoming weeks, you should be able to easily see how these things begin to fit together in the big picture. Give yourself time to study! These things are important.

Let's begin by reading the first two verses of the Bible —

Genesis 1

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 And the earth was <01961> formless <08414> and void <0922>, and darkness <02822> was over the surface of the deep <08415>; and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.

We'll come back to v. 1 in next week's lesson, but for now, look up the following words from v. 2 in the Appendix —

was <01961>

formless <08414>

void <0922>

After looking up the definitions, state the condition of the earth, as found in v. 2 —

Now we will see what God did to bring the earth into order out of such a horrible disorder. The remainder of Genesis chapter one is divided into *six days of time*. In the NOTES section after each passage, briefly write out which day it was, and what God did on that particular day. The first one is done for you.

Genesis 1

3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. 4 And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. 5 And God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.

NOTES:

The first day — God brought forth light; made a separation between light and darkness; called the light day, and the darkness night.

Genesis 1

6 Then God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." 7 And God made the expanse, and separated the waters which were below the expanse from the waters which were above the expanse; and it was so. 8 And God called the expanse heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day.

NOTES:

Genesis 1

9 Then God said, "Let the waters below the heavens be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so. **10** And God called the dry land earth, and the gathering of the waters He called seas; and God saw that it was good. **11** Then God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit after their kind, with seed in them, on the earth"; and it was so. **12** And the earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed after their kind, and trees bearing fruit, with seed in them, after their kind; and God saw that it was good. **13** And there was evening and there was morning, a third day.

NOTES:

Genesis 1

14 Then God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days and years; **15** and let them be for lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so. **16** And God made the two great lights, the greater light to govern the day, and the lesser light to govern the night; He made the stars also. **17** And God placed them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, **18** and to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness; and God saw that it was good. **19** And there was evening and there was morning, a fourth day.

NOTES:

Genesis 1

20 Then God said, "Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens." **21** And God created the great sea monsters, and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarmed after their kind, and every winged bird after its kind; and God saw that it was good. **22** And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." **23** And there was evening and there was morning, a fifth day.

NOTES:

Genesis 1

24 Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after their kind"; and it was so. 25 And God made the beasts of the earth after their kind, and the cattle after their kind, and everything that creeps on the ground after its kind; and God saw that it was good.

26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 And 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 rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

29 Then God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you; 30 and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, I have given every green plant for food"; and it was so.

31 And God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

NOTES:

And now for the seventh day! Read the first three verses of chapter two and make notes of what the seventh day was all about.

Genesis 2

1 Thus the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their hosts. 2 And by the seventh day God completed His work which He had done; and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. 3 Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

NOTES:

That's it for the day. See you tomorrow.

Day Two — The Question of the Purpose for Man's Creation

Begin today in prayer.

Before we begin to grasp a clear understanding from Scripture as to the purpose for man's creation, and without looking beyond this point in your workbook, write down what you think is/are the purpose(s) for man's creation and, if possible, give Scripture references. It is good to spend a bit of time on this, for if you do not know the purpose for man having been created, then how can you begin to know how to fulfill that which should be your life's goal? So without going any further, state in your own words why you think man was created.

Go back and add any Biblical references you can use to substantiate what you just wrote.

Usually a person will answer the question of God's purpose for creating man by saying that man was created "to glorify God." They may get this idea from the passage below —

Isaiah 43

7 Everyone who is called by My name, And whom I have created for My glory, whom I have formed, even whom I have made.

According to Isaiah 43:7, who is created for God's glory?

Would that be all of mankind, or just those who *are called by His name*?

Who would that be?

If you looked up the context of this verse in Isaiah, you would see that the verse is referring to Israel, not mankind in general. This is *not* to say that mankind was not created to glorify God! Man *is* to glorify God! So let's think it through — How would man glorify God? Very specifically, *how* does one accomplish this task?

Do you know of any other place(s) in Scripture where God's purpose is specifically stated? If so, write down the reference(s), briefly stating what the passages say —

Finding and fulfilling God's purpose in your life should be paramount in your mind. This should become our intended goal. So let me ask — What is the goal of your life? And how does this goal relate to God's created purpose for you?

How do you plan to accomplish your goal? Name three specific things that may help you accomplish the goal of your life:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

The reason it is important to think these things through is that if God has a purpose for you — and He does — it becomes important for you to understand *exactly* what His purpose is, so that you can take the necessary steps to work toward fulfilling that purpose. But if you do not know what His specific purpose is, then how will you accomplish it, or how will you know if and when you have accomplished it? Simply stated — it's good to think these things through, and to see if our thoughts on the subject are in complete agreement with God's Word. If any of us lack understanding in this area, it is best to find out now, while there may be time to make necessary adjustments. That is why I had you spend time writing out your thoughts. Just think it through a bit.

See you tomorrow.

Day Three — The Answer Spelled Out

Remember to begin today in prayer.

Now back to the original question — WHY DID GOD CREATE MAN? In the very beginning, *even before He had need to redeem man*, why did He *create* him? Did God specifically state His reason? Did He state His own purpose for mankind at the moment of creation? Yes, He did!

His intended purpose for man's creation is very clearly stated! You read this passage yesterday, but you may have missed the fact that God spelled out His purpose for creating man! Read it again (printed below) and underline God's stated purpose when you see it.

Genesis 1

26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Write out God's stated purpose for creating man according to His own words.

Do you feel that God meant this literally?

How important do you think this first statement is? (Remember the Law of First Mention.)

Is there any reason for us to believe that God changed His mind about this?

Let's think through a few things. At this point in your understanding of mankind's history, has Adam or his offspring ever ruled over *all the earth*? In other words, from the moment Adam was created until now, has man had dominion over all the earth, including the birds of the air, the fish in the seas, and animals that roam over the whole earth?

“And let them rule,” were the very words that came out of the mouth of God at the very moment He was creating man. This was God's plan. Was God's plan thwarted? Was His plan never to be in place again? Is it yet to happen? When? Where? With whom? Write down any thoughts you might have about these things.

Let's go back to the passage in Genesis chapter one. Included are some words with Strong's numbers for you to look up the definitions —

Genesis 1

28 God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful <06509> and multiply <07235>, and fill <04390> the earth, and subdue <03533> it; and rule <07287> over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” 29 Then God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you; 30 and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, I have given every green plant for food”; and it was so.

be fruitful <06509>

multiply <07235>

fill <04390>

subdue <03533>

rule <07287>

Now go back and plug these definitions into the passage and write it out in your own words.

Now for the details of man's creation. God saw fit **not** to give these details in chapter one, however, He does give minimal detail in chapter two —

Genesis 2

7 Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

8 And the LORD God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed. 9 And out of the ground the LORD God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

NOTES:

What was the man's body made from?

Genesis 2

15 Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate <05647> it and keep it <08104>.

NOTES:

cultivate the garden <05647>

keep it <08104>

Genesis 2

16 The LORD God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; 17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.”

What was God's command?

What would be the result if man disobeyed this command?

Think for a moment...what did God mean when He said that “man would die”? What would it mean *to die*? (We'll look at this again at the end of the lesson.)

We'll stop here for the day. I hope you are persevering, as we are laying down needed and necessary foundational information. Keep seeking understanding for these things from the Lord.

Day Four — “It is Not Good...”

A careful look at Genesis chapter one reveals that every time God looked to see what He had done, He saw that it was good! But now we come to a place where He states, “It is not good...” After God created man and placed him in the garden, He saw that *it was not good for the man to be alone*.

Genesis 2

18 Then the LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.”

And in the passage following this, we see that God gave Adam the job of naming all of the animals, all the while he was to be looking to see if there might be a suitable helpmate for him.

Genesis 2

19 And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. 20 The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him.

21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh at that place. 22 And the LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. 23

And the man said, "This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man." 24 For this cause a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and they shall become one flesh. 25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

NOTES:

Thus, God created woman. What was the woman's body made from?

Write out the steps that God took to create the woman —

What did Adam name this new creation, and why?

From the text, what was the specific purpose for God creating woman?

Given the context of what we have studied thus far, what would it be that the woman was to help Adam do?

Since today's study is rather brief, this would be a good time for you to briefly summarize what you have learned in the past four days, particularly noting the specific commands that God gave the man. Writing a summary at this point will help seal what you have learned.

Day Five — What Happened?

In the past four days we have glimpsed the stated purpose for man, as well as the actual creation of the man and the woman. We have also glimpsed the commands God gave Adam prior to His placing the man and the women in the garden. Today we want to see a little more of the detail of the ongoing story. We are laying part of the foundation of the Bible, so these study days are important. Be sure to continue to pray for understanding.

From the passages studied yesterday, what two trees did God place in center of the garden, and what was man to do with respect to these trees (Gen. 2:8 [see pg. 48])?

And just to get you thinking, why do you think God put the tree of knowledge of good and evil in the garden?

Let's read what happened.

Genesis 3

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?'"

2 And the woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; **3** but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, lest you die.'"

4 And the serpent said to the woman, "You surely shall not die! **5** For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. **7** Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.

8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. **9** Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" **10** And he said, "I heard the sound of Thee in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself." **11** And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" **12** And the man said, "The woman whom Thou gavest to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate." **13** Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

Summarize what happened in the various sections of this passage —

Verses 1-6:

Verse 7:

Verses: 8-13

Continuing in Genesis chapter three, study the sections below and analyze carefully what is taking place in the NOTES section.

Genesis 3

14 And the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, Cursed are you more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; On your belly shall you go, and dust shall you eat all the days of your life; 15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."

NOTES:

Genesis 3

16 To the woman He said, "I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth, in pain you shall bring forth children; yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he will rule over you."

NOTES:

Genesis 3

17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat from it'; Cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. 18 Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field; 19

By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, because from it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

NOTES:

Back in Genesis 1:26, man was created *to rule* <07287> *over all the earth*. In Genesis 3:16, we see that man is now *to rule* <04910> *over the woman*. These are not the same Hebrew words. *Prior to the fall*, when part of the man's body was taken out of him and formed into the woman and presented back to him, so the two become one flesh, the man and his wife were to rule as one over the earth. But *after the fall*, after the woman had become deceived, and both of them ate of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, the man was now to rule over the woman.

rule <04910>

rule <07287>

What differences do you see in the two words?

Briefly write a comparison of what the man was created to do (prior to the fall), and what he was going to have to do now?

Before

After

Genesis 3

20 Now the man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all the living. 21 And the LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them. 22 Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, lest he stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever" — 23 therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken. 24 So He drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction to guard the way to the tree of life.

NOTES:

Taking into account all that has happened up to this point in time, do you see any significance in Genesis 3:20? If so, what?

What might be the significance of Genesis 3:21?

What might be the significance of Genesis 3:22, 24?

Again we will consider — what does it mean to die? Is it ceasing to exist? Does it ever mean ceasing to exist? It is important to see the context wherein *death* was first presented in Scripture and go from there. How was it first presented in Scripture? See Genesis 2:16, 17. It refers to a *separation*. It meant that in the day that Adam ate of the forbidden fruit, he would be *separated from God* — he would *die* that day. Only later do we see that it also had reference to the complete triune nature of man as well — his spirit, soul and body — becoming *separated* from one another. We'll understand more of this as we go, and will see the importance of understanding what it means *to die*.

Much was lost in this decision to disobey. It literally changed all of mankind. As a result of Adam's sin corrupting his line of descendants, we see one of Adam's offspring, Cain, rising up and killing his brother, Abel (Gen. 4). Ultimately, the ramifications of Adam's sin are spelled out in the passage below.

Genesis 5

1 This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day when God created man, He made him in the likeness of God. 2 He created them male and female, and He blessed them and named them Man in the day when they were created. 3 When Adam had lived one hundred and thirty years, he became the father of a son in his own likeness, according to his image, and named him Seth.

What comparison can you make between Genesis 5:1 and 3?

We'll cover more detail on these things in class. See you there.