

Lesson 5 Genesis 1:24-31
Genesis for Families

Gen. 1:24 And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so. 25 And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good. 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. 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. 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. 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. 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. 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.

On the sixth day God created the rest of the land creatures. We continue to notice that as each kind (species) is created God includes it is after its own kind. Notice that the Bible is careful to say that God created, “every thing that moves (creepeth) on the earth.” This means just what it says in that every thing that has life was created by God’s word at creation and not one single thing evolved from another kind of thing God created.

The last thing God creates is man. We see that in creating all other things first the love of God for the chief of his creation, which God creates in His own image. This love is manifested by the fact that everything else to include nature and the natural processes were created so that man would have need for anything when he makes his appearance. This fact also sets before us another truth about God and God’s relationship with man. God has always provided everything that God asks man to do or that man needs.

Once more God looks at his creation and not only declares it good but says it is very good. Good in this usage is not as an opposite of bad but is best understood as complete or mature. Once more then we see that things that now exist in nature and by the best human beings can understand them these things are processes and take long periods of time, God presents as good, complete, or mature in an instant. This is our answer to the evolutionist who will point to a natural wonder such as the Grand Canyon and with much ado calculate the millions of years it would take the river to cut this great gorge into the face of the earth; God created it complete in the space of six twenty four hour days and to take current rates of erosion to read that backwards into history and determine its age is not valid.

“27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.” This is an important part of the creation of man that we need to try and understand. God does not elaborate and fill in details. We know from the Bible (the only source of truth or revelation concerning God) only that about God that God chose to reveal. God does not ever give a description of Himself as such or explain His existence. God simply declares I AM, that is I exist. So what do we mean then that man was created in the image of God? We know from the Bible that God is spirit and does not have a body so it was not a physical likeness that was meant. Rather, it was the spiritual nature granted to man in that man like God has an immortal element, a soul that never dies. It is also a reference to some of the attributes of God that God partially imprints upon the soul of man. I say imprint because only Jesus Christ was the express image of God and all other men were more of the nature of a king who had his likeness imprinted on a coin. Thus man is a rational creature and able to reason. Man is able to know himself and to love but again not to the perfection of God’s ability to know and love. Likewise of those attributes of God that God chose to imprint on mankind, the imprint is not perfect as it is with God. Some attributes are considered to be incommunicable that is God did not choose to transmit them to the created. For example only God is all-powerful, knows all things, or is everywhere present.

Another difference in the creation of man is the manner of the creation. Man was created the same day as all other creatures on earth and as long as man is in the flesh man will inhabit the same place as the animals. However with all other things God simply spoke as in “Let there be light.” With man God held counsel with the whole Godhead, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It was a joint effort of the whole Trinity. All were present in the creation of all things, but the Scripture simply speaks of God the Father pronouncing the word of creation. Special attention was therefore given to mankind and man was more deliberately formed from the earth by the hand of God and an immortal soul imparted. Thus man is not only chief in the creation, but is different than any other created thing. How dare some declare man evolved from some lower species when God says man was created in such special circumstances with consultation with the eternal counsel of the Godhead and not even the holy angels were privy to this counsel? As created we also see a portion of the holiness or purity of God imparted to man. A purity that allowed God to walk and talk with Adam as none since have achieved.

Thus ends the days of creation and there is nothing left to be created and God rests from His work of creation after creating man. God does not leave His creation alone to the whims of nature or chance, but has now by eternal decree and creation created all things for His own glory. Thus ends the first chapter of the Bible and introduces the most glorious and exciting book ever written. No writer has ever come close in all of the fantasies of mankind to write a book more glorious, mysterious, exciting, or important to life today and always. An old proverb among men though not of the Bible surely has some truth in it; namely that truth is stranger than fiction. Here in the book of the ages God reveals the most sought after knowledge in the universe, the origin, purpose, and destiny of human kind.

Application:

The world claims we need self-esteem to be healthy. The Bible says we must not think more of ourselves than we should. Satan tries to convince us of how worthless and useless we

are to God and man as he introduces depression and oppression to humanity. Here in the creation as revealed by God we find the answer to perspective and life in that God cared enough to create us in His image and impart to us some portion of His divine attributes above all other creatures. God created us for His glory and here we find our only duty in life is to glorify God. At the same time we find our true destiny is to enjoy God forever. God by the power of His awesome word created all things and this same God finds value in us through Jesus Christ that God might receive the glory. If God is for us who can stand against us?

Questions:

- Why did God create man last?
- Which other creature is like man?
- What does being created in the image of God mean?
- What can we know about God?