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FALL SERIES 2022 – WEEK 3

Genesis 1:26-2:25: Made in His Image

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

– Genesis 1:27 ESV

- **The stage is set**
 - God has created a perfect environment
 - He has prepared an oxygen-rich atmosphere
 - He has provided an abundant source of food
 - The sun to generate warmth and light
 - The moon to control the seasons and tides
- **In His image** – Genesis 1:26-27
 - Man is the only “living creature” made in God’s image
 - But what does that mean?
 - How would the Israelites have understood this?

“...he [God] has decided to create man differently from any of the other creatures—in his image and likeness. God and man share a likeness that is not shared by other creatures. This apparently means that a relationship of close fellowship can exist between God and man that is unlike the relationship of God with the rest of his creation. What more important fact about God and man would be necessary if the covenant at Sinai were, in fact, to be a real relationship? Remove this and the covenant is unthinkable.” – John H. Sailhamer, “Genesis,” in *Genesis–Numbers, vol. 2 of The Expositor’s Bible Commentary*

- Man was made to “image” God
 - We were intended to reflect His glory
 - Like the moon reflects the glory of the sun
 - While creation bears His handiwork, only man can bear His image
 - But we are not God-like – we are not **divine**

And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’”

*But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and **you will be like God**, knowing good and evil.” – Genesis 3:2-5 ESV*

- Man was meant to **reflect** God, not **replace** Him
 - To **bear** His image, not **mimic** His glory
 - To be **the image of God** is to be a **son of God**

“...we know from Near Eastern backgrounds that kings would regularly leave 2-D or 3-D ‘images’ and/or ‘likenesses’ of themselves in territories and cities where they sought to establish their reign...

“By creating Adam and Eve in the divine image, God intended to stake out legal territory, establishing his jurisdiction through their image-bearing presence, wherever humanity might be found...we must think of Adam as a kind of living, sacred projection of Yahweh.” – Nicholas Perrin, *The Kingdom of God: A Biblical Theology*

“As long as we are human we are, by definition, in the image of God. But spiritual likeness – in a single word, love – can be present only where God and man are in fellowship; hence the fall destroyed it and our redemption recreates and perfects it.” – Derek Kidner, *Genesis: Kidner Classic Commentaries*

- **Man’s work begins – the creation mandate** – Genesis 1:28-31
 - God gave man a job description
 - To be fruitful and multiply – SPREAD THE IMAGE OF GOD
 - To fill the earth and subdue it – EXTEND THE DIVINE PRESENCE
 - To have dominion – RULE OVER CREATION AS GOD’S VICE REGENTS
 - God deemed it all “very good”

“But with His creation of man, God’s work was complete and He deemed all that He had made as very good. This statement of satisfaction or approval does not portray God as egotistical or boastful. It is simply a reminder that all of God’s actions regarding the creation of the universe were righteous, holy, and flawless in every regard.” – Ken Miller, *Devotionary™ on the Book of Genesis*

- **God’s work was done – creation completed** – Genesis 1:29-2:1
 - His creation plan was complete
 - He had done all that He set out to do
 - He had created a habitable domain
 - He had filled it with living creatures

- He had enabled those creatures to “multiply and fill”
- And He had appointed His image bearers as stewards

- **The significance of the Sabbath** – Genesis 2:2-3

And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

– Genesis 2:2-3 ESV

šābat – literally: to cease, desist, to be still

“No effort had been required. No energy had been expended. No rest was necessary. What God did on the seventh day was cease from any further act of creating. He had done all that He was going to do. His creation was complete and perfect.” – Ken Miller, Devotionary™ on the Book of Genesis

- God purposefully **set apart** that day from the other six holy – **qādas** – to consecrate, set apart, to regard as sacred
- There is no reference to “evening and morning”
- It was to be a distinctively different day
- God was establishing a divine pattern for mankind

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work...For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.”

– Exodus 20:8-11 ESV

- But why did God establish this pattern “in the beginning?”
- What was God trying to tell the people of Israel?
 - Their Sabbath had its origins in the creation
 - It had been modeled by God Himself
 - It provided a pre-fall picture of man’s relationship with God
- God had created a perfect environment for man

And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. – Genesis 2:8-9 ESV

- This is more about **posture** than a **place**
to posture – to position, especially strategically (Merriam-Webster Dictionary)

- The Sabbath was not an ordinance for Adam to keep
 - God does not require Adam to “keep” the Sabbath
 - Adam had been strategically placed *in* God’s rest
- Residing in God’s **šābat**
- Adam had been given...
 - ...a divinely sanctioned state of communion with God
 - ...a condition of perfect peace, joy, and purpose
 - ...unmerited access to God’s presence, power, and provision
 - Unbroken fellowship with God was the whole point of Eden
 - Adam would not need rest from his work
 - As long as he remained in God’s presence

When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man and his wife heard the LORD God walking about in the garden. – Genesis 3:8 NLT

I will live among you, and I will not despise you. I will walk among you; I will be your God, and you will be my people. – Leviticus 26:12 NLT

...for the LORD your God moves around in your camp to protect you and to defeat your enemies. – Deuteronomy 23:14 NLT

- It has always been God’s intent to dwell with man

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, a for the first heaven and earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying: “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man, and He will dwell with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them as their God.” – Revelation 21:1-4 BSB

- **The conditions** – Genesis 2:4-14

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens. – Genesis 2:4 NLT

tôwledâh – descendants, results, generations

- “This is what happened...”

This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, when the LORD God made the earth and the heavens. – Genesis 2:4 NIV

- The timing seems off
 - Hadn’t God made the plants on the third day?

- Yet it sounds like God made man, then the plants
- But verse 5 goes with verse 4

[This is an account] of the heavens and the earth when they were created...When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up...

- It describes what happened in Genesis 1:3-25
- And it focuses in man's entrance onto the scene
 - The earth had gone from **plant-less** to **plentiful**
 - There was a subterranean, spring-fed watering system
 - But it was all **uncultivated**
 - It was like a garden without a **caretaker**

*...then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and **there he put the man whom he had formed.** – Genesis 2:7 ESV*

- **Purpose, provision, and prohibition** – Genesis 2:14-17
 - To care for the garden
 - To protect and appreciate it
 - To enjoy all the requisite perks and benefits

“It was in this idyllic spot that God placed man. This location was intended to be much more than a home for the first couple. In a sense, it was to be a place of worship, a precursor to both the tabernacle and temple that God would later ordain as holy sites in which His presence might dwell and His people could worship Him. In this setting, Adam and Eve would enjoy unbroken fellowship with God.” – Ken Miller, Devotional™ on the book of Genesis

- But to avoid the one restriction
 - The tree of the knowledge of good and evil

“...but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” – Genesis 2:17 ESV

- “You shall not eat...”

“...the tree of the knowledge of good and evil offered a tantalizing fruit that could give man the ability to self-govern. It would appeal to his desire for autonomy and self-rule. The knowledge of good and evil refers to man's inherent desire to decide for himself, to self-determine what is right and wrong. In essence, to be his own god and create his own sense of what is just and acceptable behavior. **Adam had everything he needed to live in unbroken fellowship with God**, but that relationship required that he constantly submit his will to that of God.” – Ken Miller, Devotional™ on the book of Genesis

- **Discussion questions**

If the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was about self-determination and self-governance, how did it pose a threat to man's enjoyment of God rest? What about today?

What kinds of things cause us to jeopardize our unmerited access to God's presence, power, and provision?

The Israelites must have compared the garden with the land of Canaan. What lessons are there for them and us?



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FALL SERIES 2022 – WEEK 4 HOMEWORK

WEEK 4: Genesis 3:1-6:8 – Good Gone Bad

God’s good creation took a turn for the worse. Sin entered the scene. That will be the focus of this lesson. How did something so good turn out so bad? What happened? This lesson will cover the fall and its ongoing ramifications. Of course, we will have to deal with such topics as original sin, imputed sin, and the federal headship of Adam. The focus of this lesson will be on the rapid moral and spiritual decline of mankind as the effects of sin spread throughout God’s creation. What God had deemed to be very good had suddenly turned bad, to the point that God “saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually” (Genesis 6:5 ESV). This lesson will set up the story of the flood and God’s selection of Noah as “a righteous man” (Genesis 6:9 ESV).

- Since we are getting into larger sections of Scripture that contain more traditional historical narrative, try spreading your reading out over the week. Read Genesis 3:1-6:8, then write down any thoughts that jump out at you from these verses.

- Read pages 46-96 of Ken’s Devotional™ on Genesis.

- Go back and re-read the story of God creation of Eve found in Genesis 2:18-25. Then compare it with Genesis 3:1-13. What makes Eve’s presence in the garden so significant in the second account?

According to Genesis 2:16-17, Adam was given strict instructions by God to avoid the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. And Eve had been created by God to be “a helper fit for him” (Genesis 2:18). In what ways did Adam and Eve both fail at their respective jobs?

- Read Genesis 3:14-19. What happened as an immediate result of Adam and Eve’s sin?
- Look back at chapter 4 and write down an outline of the key events contained in it.

What takes place in this chapter that be tied directly to the entrance of sin into the world?

- Chapter 5 contains the genealogy of Abraham. But there is one phrase that is repeated throughout: “and he died...”

Why do you think this is significant and how is it tied to the fall?

Look closely at verses 1 and 3 of Genesis 5. Then look back at Genesis 1:27. What jumps out at you in the way Adam and Seth are described? How would this be tied to the fall?

- In Genesis 6:1-8, Moses provides a less-than-flattering description of the human race. While you may not understand what is going on in the first 4 verses, what seems to be motivating the actions of those involved?

How do verses 5-6 describe the moral situation on earth and what is God’s reaction to it?

Now read, 2 Timothy 3:1-5. What similarities do you find between the Genesis 6 account, Paul’s description in 2 Timothy, and the current conditions in which we live?