

3. Creation: made to worship

Discuss while waiting to begin...

The Bible tells us (and we all know) that God is the creator...

1. When does this reality most come to mind? Why?
2. When do most forget about this? Why?

Recap: the story of the Old Testament

***** looking for a COVENANT... and a KING... and JESUS *****

1. God's world: He made it (Genesis 1:1-23)

- | | | |
|---------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 1 Light | → | 4 Sun, moon, stars |
| 2 Sky | → | 5 Sea creatures, birds |
| 3 Land & seas | → | 6 Beasts of the earth, mankind |

What does the rest of the Bible say we should "do" with God the creator?

Revelation 4:11
Romans 1:18-20
Isaiah 45:17-18
Psalm 104:1-5 etc

2. God's images: man and woman (Genesis 1:26-31)

Made in God's image

- fruitful... rule... obediently

A positive command

- subdue and fill → the "cultural mandate"

A negative command

- eating the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good & evil

Promise and warning:

- tree of life... OR death

= all of the elements of a biblical covenant¹

- An agreement between God and Adam (and all humanity in him)... with conditions and obligations... and promised blessings... and threat of curse
- “covenant of life” / “covenant of creation” / “covenant of works”
- Reality of the Fall → another “Adam” (Romans 5:14, 1 Corinthians 15:45)

From the dust

To work the garden

With a wife for whom he gives thanks

Naked, but unashamed

FALL – Genesis 3:6-8

Naked and ashamed

With a wife, about whom he complains

To fight thorns and thistles

And return to the dust

3. Glimpses of future grace

There is a sabbath rest for the people of God

- Genesis 2:3, Exodus 20, Deuteronomy 5:15, Matthew 11:28, Hebrews 4:8-10

There is a temple where God dwells

- God... priests... Law... lampstand like a tree... gold and precious stones... cherubim
- Adam = a priest – “work and keep” (Genesis 2:15) → unique task of the Levites²

A marriage (Genesis 2:18-25, Ephesians 5:22-33)

¹ There are lots of reasons why it’s right to think of this as a “covenant”: (1) Explicitly the NT talks about the parallels between Adam and Christ, see Romans 5:14 and 1 Cor. 15:45. (2) The first occurrence of “covenant” in the Bible is with Noah. But this is *not* the normal word for establishing a new covenant (which is to “cut”). Rather, in Genesis 6:18 God “establishes” his covenant, assuming that this covenant already exists. (3) Not all biblical covenants are termed as such at the time of their creation. E.g. the Davidic covenant formed in 2 Samuel 7 (termed as such later in Ps 89). Likewise marriage is not called a covenant in Genesis 2, but is in Malachi 2:14.

² E.g. Numbers 3:7, “They shall keep guard (*shamar*) over him and over the whole congregation before the tent of meeting, as they minister (*abad*) at the tabernacle.” See also Numbers 8:26, 18:5-6.