

Genesis Series 2022 #2 (7.10.22) #22055

Resting in God's Image

Gen.1:26-31; 2:4-24

I. Review of Chapter 1. Note 3 things:

- A. He created sovereignly and voluntarily.
 - 1. There is only one God. Other "gods" do not exist.
- B. He created by His Word. Jn.1:1-5
 - 1. A Word is the expression of a personal mind.
- C. He created an excellent material/spiritual world. Col.1:15-19
 - 1. Matter is good and being a physical person is good.
 - 2. Sin is the cause of death and trauma (next week)

II. Chapter 2. Up close on Creation of Humanity.

A. **He created the Day of Rest. 1-3. —Rest based on Finished Work.**

- 1. Rest, not because of being tired, but because of being finished.
 - a) This is not yet the Torah Sabbath Command, but it is the grounding of it.
- 2. A day to rest in God's work instead of our own.
 - a) *Americans worship their work, work at their play, and pay at their worship.*
- 3. It points back to a finished work (creation) and forward to a finished work (redemption/re-creation) (Jn.19:30)
 - a) Creation is not an endless cycle, but will be a completed work of art.

B. **He created us in His image/likeness to enjoy that Rest. 2:4-25.**

- 1. This is the excursus, up close on 1:26-27.

C. **Note three things about Original Humanity.**

- 1. Created in His wonderful Image. 1:26/2:7, 18-25
 - a) *Material beings with God's breath, life. Nephesh = Person.*
 - (1) Not just part of the creation, but having dominion over all of it.
 - b) Like Him so we can Know Him. Intimate, hands-on, relational Lordship. LORD God.
 - c) Likeness: similar but not identical. Created, not eternal or self-existing, or "divine", yet meant to mirror Him and live forever.
 - (1) Dust first, then made alive by sheer gracious inbreathing.
- 2. Placed in His Excellent Garden/Tabernacle. 2:4-17.
 - a) Where he can be creative and worship the Lord.
 - (1) One river becomes four, the source of life. (Rev.21)
 - b) The command to Adam:
 - (1) Do cultivate and use the garden. 15-16
 - (2) Don't eat of the Tree of Knowledge of good and evil. 17
 - (3) This tree represents the authority to decide right from wrong, which is God's prerogative only (Waltke *Genesis* [Zondervan 2001] p.86)
- 3. Modeling His Loving plurality. Given to each other. 2:18-24
 - a) Marriage is a creation mandate.
 - (1) Universal. All cultures have marriage.
 - (a) It predates all other "institutions."
 - (2) Heterosexual. This is also true in all cultures (we're trying to change this)
 - (3) Monogamous (Eve, not Eves) Matt.19:1-9
 - (a) No polygamy or polyamory
 - (b) Jesus specifies: No longer two but one (Matt.19:6)
 - (4) Legal. Public/Civic. Leave father and mother. This is official
 - (5) Intimate. Naked and not ashamed. Emotional and physical unity and intimacy. 25

D. Four implications of being created in God's image:

1. Supreme value: *The highest material being* 1:26-31; Gen.9:5-6.
 - a) God has infinite value and humans have extreme value because of being his special, personal creations.
 - b) All humans are valuable. *Abortion is a monstrous evil/sin.*
 - (1) This is the source of all human rights, creation in God's image.
2. Intimate relationship: to love/share/relate. Trinity
 - a) With the Triune God. Yhwh/Elohim Lord God. 20 times in ch.2-3
 - (1) This is the primary relationship, friendship, family of God Himself.
 - (2) *At the center of the universe is a loving relationship.*
 - b) With each other. United in multiple life--marriage. 27
 - (1) Male and female = one life composed of two people.
 - (2) Producing children = multiple life, the third element.
 - c) *We crave pure, intimate, relational love above all things. Why? Because we are created in God's image.*
3. Creative responsibility: *Stewards of the entire created order.* Heb.2/Ps.8
 - a) Representing God's authority.
 - (1) God is responsible, morally and materially and he created us to be the same.
 - (2) He created us for the same purpose, to extend his responsibility and represent him.
 - b) Creatively Cultivating the material world. 2:4-9
 - (1) Creative: bringing order and beauty out of chaos.
 - (a) Gardening, building, multiplying
 - (2) Creating from what God had created, bringing beauty and fruitfulness out of material "chaos."
4. Perfect virtue. Holiness/Goodness. *Walking with God daily.*
 - a) We were created to be morally good, reflecting the excellence of the Lord himself.
 - (1) This is why we hide ourselves when we do evil, lie about it, and make excuses.
 - b) We know intuitively what moral reality is (generally).
 - (1) We feel guilt and shame almost universally when they come in contact with God's word now.
 - c) We long to know that we are loved and good again.

III. Three closing thoughts:

A. We are so much like Him (except for sin) that He is not ashamed to become one of us permanently. Jn.1:1-5; 14

1. This makes us better than Adam and Eve. An eternal life, God's own personal Spirit, is in us. Titus.3:4-7

B. He is so committed to his world that he came personally to save it. Jn.3:16.

1. What we were created for in these four ways was largely lost in the fall, but will be restored in the regeneration. Matt.19:28.

C. Which means that the Gospel is His Rest, now and into eternity. Heb.4:3-11

1. Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath, Matt.12:8; Lk 6:5
2. He made it for us. Mark 2:27
3. He draws us into it now and forever through faith in Christ. Heb.4
4. *Note, He commands that we rest before we are finished, because it is His rest that we actually live in—His finished work at the Cross, His promised re-creation (Rev.21-22) Heb.3:11*