

Have Dominion, Mankind!

How It All Ends

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Bible Text: Genesis 1:28-31; Revelation 5:9-10

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It looks like God is showing us in Genesis 1 where he created everything. Does Genesis 1 tell us how he created everything? No. Does he try to prove his existence? No. There are a lot of things that are given. What is given is: first of all, that the Hebrew audience assumed that there was a God, assumed that God created, assumed that God created everything and so he narrows the focus down to man. And so we get down to basics: God creates man in his own image and then you might remember Genesis chapter 5 begins a genealogy and it says that this guy lives so many hundreds of years, he had a son and then he died and his total number of years was this many years. Chapter 5, the genealogy begins, chapter 10 it continues. What happens in chapters 6, 7, 8, and 9? One story really, about Noah. And the reason that it's stuck right there in chapter 6, 7, 8 and 9 is because the last person spoken of in chapter 5 is Noah.

And what God is showing us through his writer, Moses, is that God is narrowing his focus. Think about creation week: he created day one like day two, the firmament or the heavens; day three the dry land and the herb yielding seed and their fruit bearing seed; day four he populated the firmament with heavenly bodies, cosmic bodies; day five he populated the water and the air; day six he populated the dry land with land animals and with man. And so, God gets all the way down to day six and he focuses then on man. He doesn't talk much anymore about the development of plant life or of animal life. We will come back to it, but that is not the goal of Genesis. God wants you to know the main thing happening in his economy is not what's happening on Neptune or what's happening on earth in the animal kingdom. God is not a green God; God's not going green. Mankind is the pinnacle of his creation and that is why after day six it says, "it was very good."

And he starts talking about mankind from there on and then what happens in chapter 12 as he narrows his focus even further? He pulls a man out of the Ur of the Chaldees named Abram and he is known as "the Hebrew" which means "wanderer." So, Abram becomes the first Hebrew. This is important because then you realize all a sudden that yes, other things happen in other countries but that wasn't God's focus. He did not want you to see everything that happened on Neptune, in the animal kingdom or even in the Moabites and the Hittites and the Gergasites and the Canaanites. No, that's not the focus. The focus is: what happens through Abraham. So, in Genesis 3 the focus gets very narrow: mankind and the redemption of mankind. We'll look at that in a minute. Then in Genesis 12 he

says, "But who within mankind?" Ah, the line of Abraham, the one who I will call out of his luxurious retirement lifestyle at the age of 75.

So, I wanted you to see that God is narrowing our focus. He wants the reader to notice. We are not talking about creation in general, we're talking about the pinnacle of his creation, mankind. Look at verse 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. So God created man in his own image," he says it again a second time, "in the image of God created he him," third time, "male and female created he them. And God blessed them," and for the second time, "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. 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. 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. 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. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them."

Over here we have a summary of the six days of creation: "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." We remember that that is a summary happening before it takes place. Remember, earth is dry land on day three. Heavens are the firmament, day two. So, Genesis 1:1 is a summary of the coming six days of creation and then we find the other bookend here on the other end of creation week, chapter 2:1 where it says, "Thus the heavens and earth were finished, and all the host of them." And to be exact, once again, it's the same language of Genesis 1:1, the heavens created day two and the earth, dry land called earth created on day three. So, we see that Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 2:1 are both summaries of what takes place in between, the six days of creation. We're still talking about day six, talking about the crowning achievement.

Now, you might notice that it says 2 or 3 times that man was created in the image of God. I want to just give you a quote in this book that I was checking out this week, "Perspectives in Missions," and it says, "Kings and Emperors in ancient times would set up an image of themselves in their far-flung corners of their domains to signify their sovereignty over that territory and its people." Did you get that? In the ancient world, the king would say, "Alright, I'm going to set up statues of myself in all the corners of my domain so that everyone knows it's mine." Well, God does the same thing with earth. Don't you remember Psalm 24:1, "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof; the world, and all that dwell therein." And so, God says, "To prove that, I, the Sovereign, am going to put images of myself down there around my domain so that everyone knows every time they see someone, every time they see an image of God, they will know, Ah, God owns this place." That's good stuff.

Now, let us talk about verse 28 and this is where we're going to kind of talk through it this week. "And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion."

Let's talk about 1:28: are we talking about males or are we talking about males and females? Who is to have dominion over the fish of the sea, the fowl of the air, the cattle, every creeping thing that creeps on the earth? Between 26 and 27 and 28 it says that "God blessed them" in verse 28 and "God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it; and have dominion." Now, how do we know we're not just talking to males? Verse 27 says, "God created man in his own image," so we know we're talking about mankind and not males. Why? Because he defines man at the end of the verse, "male and female created he them."

So, when people say Christianity subjugates women, no it doesn't. It raises them up to the level of men. Men are the nurturing leaders and they are restored to the pre-fall condition of men and women with the man gently leading, men and women together conquering God's creation. Men and women together conquering God's creation within the institution of marriage is God's idea. It is furthermore God's ideal for man to gently lead his wife as they both dominate the earth to the point where they are both conquering what God has given them to do through the vision of the husband. It's the idea that the man is to be the king of his home and the wife is to be the queen and there is no trampling underfoot. There is a gentle leadership taking place with one vision in the home.

Here's how it used to be: Psalm 8, you created mankind a little lower than the angels and they are both under the Creator/God. Both of them are under the Creator/God. And then we see a reality that we'll look at here in a few minutes, 2 Corinthians 4:4, where Satan is the god of this world. Somewhere Satan took the dominion of man. Take one trip through Ezekiel and Daniel and you'll find the Prince of Persia, the Prince of Damascus, the Prince of Moab, the Prince of Babylon, all spirit entities that are in charge of certain sections of this world.

Ephesians 6:12, "We wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this world, spiritual wickedness in high places." Since the fall, the spirit world has been under the watchful eye and the sovereign hand of God running things. So, we see how we were intended to be in Genesis 1 and I wonder if we'll ever get back there? Christ subdues Satan and restores all things and subjugation of Satan will fully occur at the Second Coming.

We're reminded of Genesis 3:15, the seed of the woman will crush the serpent's head. So, eventually, Satan will be a defeated foe. Now, he is and he is not yet. Those are realities that you're going to have to get used to as a student of the Word of God. There are things that are effective and there are things that are not yet taking place.

Let's go to Psalm 8 together, jump ahead there. Psalm 8:1, "O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens. Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies,

that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger. When I consider thy heavens,” David says, “the work of thy fingers.” David just said it didn’t even take the whole arm of God to make the heavens, it didn’t even take his whole hand, it’s the work of his little fingers. “I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.” He’s going back to creation week there. I intended you on ruling things with glory and honor.

Look at verse 6, “Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands.” That’s how he was made. Man was created in God’s image. What does that mean? Well, God is a Sovereign, man was intended to be a sovereign. Do you see how we are marred images of God? Mankind is intended to rule, not be afraid. Fear is something that came with the fall. So, I’m looking forward to restoration, aren’t you?

Let’s look at Isaiah 11:1, “And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots.” Verse 2, “And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD.” Do you see that? The Lord Jesus had to learn the fear of the Lord. Did you see that? Everyone with me? “He shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears.” We’re not taking away the humanity of Jesus, you can forget it.

Verse 4, “But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth.” Just like he created the earth in six days with speaking, he will also crush his enemies at the end of the world with speaking. Okay. It’s a good parallel.

“And with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.” Look here, “The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion,” look here, “the lion shall eat straw like the ox.” Here, again, we’re looking at a time in the future when animals will again be vegetarian.

Verse 8, “And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp.” I suppose you don’t let that happen today. “And the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice’ den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.” Even so, come Lord Jesus!

So, we’re looking forward to a day when everything will be as it was before the curse. And it’s not the first Adam that’s going to make it happen. 1 Corinthians 15 and Romans 5 speak of the last Adam. Remember, the first Adam brought a curse to us by sinning with a tree in the Garden? And the last Adam took away our curse by becoming the curse

for us on a tree in a garden. The Bible is not a collection of disjointed tales, it is one story of redemption.

Let's look at Luke 4. This is a pretty key Scripture and something I said earlier. We are in the middle of the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness. This is also, by the way, found in Matthew 4. Matthew 4:4 and Luke 4:4 are almost identical. It's easy to remember it that way.

Let's look at the second of three temptations in Luke 4's account. Look at verse 5, "And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." Hang on. Do you see what Jesus did not do? Someone help me out. How Jesus should have answered him if Satan was wrong? Satan said, "This is all mine to give you." Jesus didn't say, "You Bozo, no it's not. Are you kidding? I'm the Creator. Do you think I'm going to let you have this thing?" He didn't do that, though, did he? But here's what Satan is offering Jesus, we got this in Matthew 4 like three years ago. Here is what Satan was offering Jesus, "You can have what you came to get without dying for it if you'll just worship me. You can have what you came to get without dying for it." He's trying to trick Jesus.

By the way, you might be interested to know that Satan offers him here all the power of the kingdoms, in verse 6. Well, after the crucifixion and resurrection in Matthew 28:18, Jesus says, "All power is given unto me in heaven and earth." So, Jesus say, "It is accomplished. The wicked one is cast out." It won't be long it says in Romans 16, Paul says to the saints in Rome, he say, "It won't be long. Satan will be crushed under your feet shortly." So, we're just waiting for the Second Coming for all this to take affect. You need to know that the sovereign Lord God and his Son, the sovereign Jesus Christ, are well in hand. They've got this taken care of. The curse has been removed, it's just a matter of it being removed. The earth has been re-won, it's just a matter of it being taken back. It's already owned. It's already taken back. It's already been paid for.

And in us, get this, this will be enough to make the hair on your bald head stand up right here, are you ready? Ephesians 1 it says that the Holy Spirit is put within our hearts as the earnest of redemption. Anyone here ever paid earnest money before? I sure have and you'd better know that when I pay earnest money on something I'm going back to get it. I paid \$500 nonrefundable dollars on my house called earnest money and I went back and closed. I didn't want to lose \$500. The earnest of this entire creation, are you listening? God is going to – in Romans 8 it uses the term redemption – the redemption of all creation will take place very soon and to guarantee that, God has invested earnest money down here and he says the earnest money, Ephesians 1, is the Holy Ghost in the heart of the believer. So, do you want a guarantee that soon this thing is going to come to pass and Jesus is going to take over the planet again? Do you want a guarantee? Okay, the Holy

Spirit in your heart is the earnest money from the Lord. Very soon, he's going to close and move on in. Very, very soon. What a joy.

Now, I don't have time here to look at Acts. So, Acts 3:21 talks about Jesus restoring all things. Romans 8, I just alluded to. 2 Corinthians 4:4 I talked about earlier, Satan being the god of this world. Here's an interesting verse, remember I'll send these out so if you get me the card, visitors, I'll make sure you're on my email list and I won't send you any coupons or anything. 2 Timothy 2:12, "If we suffer with him," help me, "we will also reign with him." We will be able to do with the second Adam what the first Adam could not secure for us. We will reign over the earth with the second Adam, with the last Adam, with Jesus Christ we will rule the earth. Easy enough.

Well, we probably need another Scripture. Let's look at Revelation. Let's close this thing out with Revelation 5. The time is gone, do you believe that? Let's rehearse while you're turning: God created man to rule over his creation, man gave that rulership in an accursed state to the wicked one, Christ crushed the head of the wicked one and took back ownership, not from a sovereign God standpoint but from a resident standpoint. That's even inadequate, I don't even know how to say it. Just don't hear what I'm not saying. Okay? I'm not saying God was on vacation during the Old Testament before Christ died. At the death and resurrection of Christ, Satan's head was crushed, dominion was given back to the last Adam and now Revelation 5:9 we find a scene in the future, "And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation." Look at verse 10, "And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth."

We'll have dominion again with our last Adam. We lost it with Adam, we get it back in Jesus. When? Another one I should have put up there, 2 Timothy 4:1. Here's what Paul said to Timothy, "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom." The prayer of the disciples in Matthew 6 was "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven." When Jesus comes visibly, literally, physically, he is coming to bring the Kingdom of God to earth so that things that are done in heaven are done on earth and those of us who have been redeemed, Revelation 5, we will share in that rulership.