

# THE STORY OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN I: CREATION

(GENESIS 1:1-31)

- I. Introduction
- II. Genesis 1:1-31: Creation and the Beginning of God's Kingdom on Earth
  - A. What Genesis 1:1-31 Teaches Us About God
    - 1. God made the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1)
    - 2. God made the heavens and the earth by speaking (Genesis 1:3, 6-7, 9)
    - 3. God made the heavens and the earth in six days.
    - 4. God made the heavens and the earth for us.
  - B. What Genesis 1:1-31 Teaches Us About Mankind
    - 1. Mankind was made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27)
    - 2. Mankind was given authority of creation (Genesis 1:28)
  - C. How does all this relate to the kingdom of heaven? Genesis 1 features (1) the creation of the territory in which God's kingdom will be established and (2) the creation of the race that would implement and apply his rule in that territory.
- III. Subduing All to God; Being Subdued to God
  - A. Main Point: *If we are indeed God's holy and royal image on earth, called from the dust to enforce God's kingdom in the world, then we are to obey God by subduing all things to God on the one hand and by being ourselves subdued to God on the other*
  - B. Subduing All Things to God
    - 1. We subdue all things to God when we use them for the genuine advancement of human civilization (Genesis 1:28).
    - 2. We subdue all things to God only when we do all things for his glory (1 Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 3:17).
  - C. Being Subdued to God: What does it look like?
    - 1. Gladly accepting God's right to be our master.
    - 2. Loving the Bible—God's written word.
    - 3. Worship God—our response to God's word.

## Questions for Further Discussion

- 1. What are some things that Genesis 1 teaches us about God and mankind?
- 2. What is the significance of God creating the world in six days? (see Exodus 20:8- 11)
- 3. What does it mean to be the image of God?
- 4. What is the cultural mandate? (see Genesis 1:28)
- 5. "We serve our calling as farmers, bankers, housewives, doctors, artists, secretaries, teachers, and factory workers—the list goes on and on. Our gifts and callings vary, but all of our specific jobs fit within the general mandate to rule over the earth" (Richard L. Pratt, *Designed for Dignity*, p.35). Do you agree with this statement? If so or if not, why?
- 6. How does the creation account of Genesis 1 relate to the kingdom of God?
- 7. How do we subdue creation to God? And what would life look like if we ourselves are subdued by creation?
- 8. What does a life of being subdued (being conquered) to God look like?