

# Abounding Grace Christian Church

## A Look at Creation – Part 6

**I. Introduction:** In this final lesson in this series, we are going to examine the creation of humanity. Within the theory of Darwinian evolution is the portrayal of man evolving from cell matter, to life forms, to fish and apes. Of course this is contrary to the Biblical narrative. In fact, there is no scientific evidence for this whatsoever but has been conveyed as though it was absolute fact. The Bible reveals clearly that man is a special creation of God, made in His image and likeness and given profound purpose and meaning.

### II. What does the Bible say about Mankind's Origins?

A. On the sixth day of God's creative work (whether it was a literal 24 hour day or a day-age), God created mankind - **Genesis 1:26-31**.

1. The word "man" means; **"mankind, humanity. Refers typically to humanity collectively or of man as a representative human being."**<sup>1</sup>
2. **"Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness..." (verse 26).** The words "Us" and "Our" are usually understood as referring to what the New Testament reveals as the Trinity. The word "image" **"Refers generally to something that is a likeness or representation resembling something or someone."**<sup>2</sup> The word "likeness" means; **"similarity in appearance, character, or nature between persons or things"**<sup>3</sup> Dr. Bob Utley writes; **"In my opinion, they are synonymous and describe that part of humanity that is uniquely capable of relating to God."**<sup>4</sup> Dr. Wayne Grudem adds;

**"When Scripture reports that God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness' (Gen. 1:26), it simply would have meant to the original readers, 'Let us make man to be like us and to represent us..'"**<sup>5</sup>

3. See also, **Ephesians 4:24; Colossians 3:10 and James 3:9.**
4. Due to the Fall, God's Image in humanity is distorted but not Lost - **Genesis 9:6, James 3:9.**
5. Through redemption in Christ we experience a progressive recovering of more of God's image. - **Colossians 3:10.**
6. At Christ's return we will experience the complete restoration of God's image. – **I Corinthians 15:49.**
7. Some ways human beings are like God.
  - a) Moral Aspects: We have an inner sense of right and wrong that sets us apart from animals.
  - b) Spiritual Aspects: We have immaterial spirits. **I Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 12:9.** And we have immortality – **I Corinthians 15:50-54.**
  - c) Mental Aspects:
    - 1) We can think logically and with reason, problem solve.
    - 2) We can use complex language.
    - 3) We are creative in areas such as art, music, literature, and scientific and technological inventiveness.
    - 4) We have complex emotions.

**"Crickets brought more crickets, and chimps more chimps. All very good. Humans, on the other hand, brought the products of their own contemplation: music and drama and literature and painting and sculpture and philosophy and theology and mathematics and science and technology and athletics and culture and movements and politics and war. The best of good mixed with the worst of bad, all of it categorically unlike what came before—the chirping of crickets and the screeching of chimps."**<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Tamra Hernandez, "Men," in *Lexham Theological Wordbook*, ed. Douglas Mangum et al., Lexham Bible Reference Series (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2014).

<sup>2</sup> Douglas Mangum, "Idolatry," in *Lexham Theological Wordbook*, ed. Douglas Mangum et al., Lexham Bible Reference Series (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2014).

<sup>3</sup> *The Lexham Analytical Lexicon of the Hebrew Bible* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2017).

<sup>4</sup> Robert James Utley, *How It All Began: Genesis 1–11*, vol. Vol. 1A, Study Guide Commentary Series (Marshall, Texas: Bible Lessons International, 2001), 33.

<sup>5</sup> Wayne A. Grudem, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine* (Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; Zondervan Pub. House, 2004), 443.

<sup>6</sup> Ann Gauger, Douglas Axe and Casey Luskin, *Science and Human Origins*, (Seattle, WA: Discovery Institute Press, 2012)

8. The ways in which we are like God can be enhanced (e.g., our moral behavior can reflect more and more of God's character through study of the Scriptures and prayer) – **II Corinthians 7:1, I Peter 1:16)**

9. God commanded man to; **“Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” – Genesis 1:28.**

a. The word **“subdue”** means; **“tread down, beat or make a path,”**<sup>7</sup>. Scholar John Oswalt adds; **“to make to serve, by force if necessary... Therefore “subdue” in Gen 1:28 implies that creation will not do man’s bidding gladly or easily and that man must now bring creation into submission by main strength. It is not to rule man.”**<sup>8</sup> We could conclude from this that man was created to rule the earth. He became earth's ruler under the rulership of God.

b. The word **“dominion”** has a very similar meaning; **“to exercise authority over”**<sup>9</sup>

c. In summary we learn from this passage:

1) God desired offspring – a people created in His image and likeness.

2) God desired that His offspring would govern (subdue and have dominion) over the earth.

3) God desired His offspring to reproduce and to fill the earth.

B. Why did God create Humanity? It's important to note that God did not need humanity. He was never lacking in anything. God chose to create humanity.

1. The Bible states that He created us for His own glory. - **Isaiah 43:7; John 17:5; John 17:24; I Corinthians 10:31; Ephesians 1:11-12.**

**“Everyone who is called by My name, Whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him.” – Isaiah 43:7**

a. Once again, Dr. Wayne Grudem gives great insight:

**“But Scripture tells us that we were created to glorify God, indicating that we are important to God himself. This is the final definition of genuine importance or significance to our lives: If we are truly important to God for all eternity, then what greater measure of importance or significance could we want? When we realize that God created us to glorify him, and when we start to act in ways that fulfill that purpose, then we begin to experience an intensity of joy in the Lord that we have never before known. When we add to that the realization that God himself is rejoicing in our fellowship with him, our joy becomes “inexpressible and filled with heavenly glory” (1 Peter 1:8).”**<sup>10</sup>

2. God created Humanity for relationship. Kevin J. Conner writes;

**“Throughout Scripture God’s desire for fellowship and communion with man is revealed. From the time that God sought Adam “in the garden in the cool of the day” God has been seeking fellowship with man (Genesis 3:8). However, the sin which caused Adam to hide from God has been hindering man’s relationship with God ever since (Isaiah 59:1, 2). It is only through the New Covenant that God’s purpose of relationship with man is fully accomplished. Now God indwells each believer making fellowship constantly available (John 14:16–20, 23).”**<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Francis Brown, Samuel Rolles Driver, and Charles Augustus Briggs, *Enhanced Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1977), 461.

<sup>8</sup> John N. Oswalt, “קָבַשׁ 951,” in *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, ed. R. Laird Harris, Gleason L. Archer Jr., and Bruce K. Waltke (Chicago: Moody Press, 1999), 430.

<sup>9</sup> *The Lexham Analytical Lexicon of the Hebrew Bible* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2017).

<sup>10</sup> Wayne A. Grudem, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*, 440–442.

<sup>11</sup> Kevin J. Conner, *Foundations of Christian Doctrine* (Conner Ministries, 2022), 129.