

## Message One

**Adam (1)****– The Purpose of God’s Creation, Image and Dominion**

Scripture reading: Gen. 1:1, 26-28; 2:7, 9, 15-17; 5:2; Zech. 12:1

**I. The book of Genesis may be considered a biography of eight great men: Adam, Abel, Enosh, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob with Joseph.**

A. The first group, from Adam to Noah, represents the created race, the Adamic race:

1. Adam, the head of God's created race, supposed to express and represent God, became fallen.
2. In Adam, man fell away from God; but through God's redemption, Abel came back to Him as an overcoming martyr for His purpose.
3. After Abel, Enosh began to call on the name of Jehovah, and Enoch walked with God, being raptured by not seeing death.
4. Enoch's life issued in Noah, whose life and work was to change the age, but his descendants rebelled against God at Babel.

B. The second group, from Abraham to Jacob with Joseph, represents the called race, the Abrahamic race.

1. God visited Abraham and called him out of the rebellious created race, beginning a new race, the called race, the Abrahamic race.
2. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob with Joseph represent a complete mature saint.
  - a. In Abraham, we see God's calling, living by faith, and fellowshiping with God.
  - b. With Isaac, we see how a called and justified saint can live in the presence of God by faith to enjoy all the riches of the inheritance.
  - c. Through Jacob, we see how God's chosen one is being dealt with by God, being broken, being transformed, and being matured.
  - d. And through Joseph, we see the reigning aspect in such matured life.

**II. The purpose of God’s creation**

- A. The motive of God’s creation was to fulfill God’s desire and to satisfy His good pleasure—Eph. 1:5, 9.
- B. God is God of a purpose, having a will of His own pleasure, and He created all things for His will so that He might accomplish and fulfill His purpose—Rev. 4:11; Eph. 3:9-11; Col. 1:9.

- C. The purpose of God's creation is to glorify the Son of God and to manifest God Himself, especially in man through His Son, who is the embodiment of God and the image, the expression—Col. 1:15-19; 2:9; Psa. 19:1-2; Rom. 1:20; 1Tim. 3:16.
- D. What pleases God and makes Him happy is having many sons who are the reproduction and multiplication of His firstborn Son for His corporate expression, first as the Body of Christ and ultimately as the New Jerusalem—Matt. 3:17; 17:5; John 3:16; Rom. 8:29; Heb. 2:10; John 12:24.

### **III. Adam, the first man, was created in God's image and according to His likeness—Gen. 1:26.**

- A. God created Adam in the image of God and according to His likeness, which means that man was created according to God's kind, not according to man's own kind—cf. vv. 11-12, 21, 24-25.
- B. God created Adam in His own image for His expression.
  - 1. God's image, referring to God's inner being, is the expression of the inward essence of God's attributes, the most prominent of which are love, light, holiness, and righteousness—1John 4:8; 1:5; Rev. 4:8; Jer. 23:6.
  - 2. God's likeness, referring to God's form, is the expression of the essence and nature of God's person—Phil. 2:6.
  - 3. Christ the Son is the "image of the invisible God," "the effulgence of His glory and the impress of His substance"—the expression of what God is—Col.1:15; Heb.1:3.
  - 4. Adam was the type of Christ—Rom. 5:14.
  - 5. God's purpose in the creation of man in His image and according to His likeness is that man would receive Him as life and express Him in all His attributes.
  - 6. For God to create man in His image means that God created man with the intention that man would become a duplicate of God, the reproduction of God, for his corporate expression; this reproduction makes God happy because it looks like Him, speaks like Him, and lives like Him—John 12:24; Rom. 8:29; Heb. 2:10; 1John 3:1-2.
    - a. The man in Genesis 1 is a corporate created man bearing God's image for His expression; the New Jerusalem in Revelation 21 is a corporate God-man transformed into the Lord's image for God's expression in glory—2Cor. 3:18.
    - b. In Genesis there is the potential for the corporate expression of God; in Revelation there is the reality of this expression.
- C. God created Adam to exercise God's dominion.

1. God's intention in giving man dominion is to subdue God's enemy, Satan, who rebelled against God—Gen. 1:26, 28; cf. 3:1, 14; Rev. 12:4, 7, 9.
  2. God's intention in giving man dominion is to recover the earth—Gen. 1:28; cf. Matt. 6:9-10; Psa. 8:1, 9; Rev. 11:15; 21:2.
  3. God's intention in giving man dominion is to bring in God's authority over the earth in order that the kingdom of God may come to the earth, the will of God may be done on the earth, and the glory of God may be manifested on the earth—Matt. 6:10, 13b.
- D. God created Adam as a corporate man, a collective man, including all humankind—Gen. 1:26-27; 5:2.
1. The corporate man created as God's kind is actually a type of the one new man, a corporate God-man regenerated and transformed to be God-mankind—Eph. 2:15; 4:24; Col. 3:10.
  2. God desires to obtain in, with, and through humanity a corporate expression of Himself.
- E. God created Adam as a tripartite vessel.
1. Adam is created as a tripartite being with spirit, soul, and body—Gen. 2:7; 1Thes. 5:23.
  2. In Genesis 2:7, that this "living soul" is a vessel is indicated by the word "formed", a translation of a Hebrew word that suggests the activity of a potter forming or shaping a vessel—Jer. 18:1-10; Rom. 9:21-23.
  3. Although we were formed with the dust of the ground to become earthen vessels, we were designed to contain the Christ of glory as our treasure—2Cor. 4:7.
  4. By creation the vessel is formed; by regeneration the vessel is filled.
    - a. The only way to be genuinely human is to be filled with God in Christ as the Spirit for His corporate expression.
    - b. For this there is a unique requirement—openness; God needs open human vessels.
    - c. Regeneration fulfills the purpose of God.
- F. God placed Adam in front of the tree of life in order for man to receive Him as life—Gen. 2:9, 15-17.

**IV. God's intention that man would express God in His image and represent God with His dominion is fulfilled not in Adam as the first man(1Cor.15:45a), the old man(Rom.6:6), but in Christ as the second man(1Cor.15:47b), the new man(Eph.2:15), comprising Christ Himself as the Head and the church as His Body(1:22-23; 1Cor.12:12; Col.3:10-11).**

## Message One

## Reference Scripture Verses:

**Gen. 1:1** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

**Gen. 1:26-28. 26** And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth. **27** And God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. **28** And God blessed them; and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.

**Gen. 2:7** Jehovah God formed man with the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul.

**Gen. 2:9** And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

**Gen. 2:15-17. 15** And Jehovah God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and to keep it. **16** And Jehovah God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden you may eat freely, **17** But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, of it you shall not eat; for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.

**Gen. 5:2** Male and female He created them, and He blessed them and called their name Adam, on the day when they were created.

**Zech. 12:1** The burden of the word of Jehovah concerning Israel. Thus declares Jehovah, who stretches forth the heavens and lays the foundations of the earth and forms the spirit of man within him,

## II.

**Eph. 1:5** Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

**Eph. 1:9** Making known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself,

**Rev. 4:11** You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power, for You have created all things, and because of Your will they were, and were created.

**Eph. 3:9-11. 9** And to enlighten all *that they may see* what the economy of the mystery is, which throughout the ages has been hidden in God, who created all things, **10** In order that now to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenlies the multifarious wisdom of God might be made known through the church, **11** According to the eternal purpose which He made in Christ Jesus our Lord,

**Col. 1:9** Therefore we also, since the day we heard of *it*, do not cease praying and asking on your behalf that you may be filled with the full knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,

**Col. 1:15-19. 15** Who is the image of the invisible God, the Firstborn of all creation, **16** Because in Him all things were created, in the heavens and on the earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or lordships or rulers

or authorities; all things have been created through Him and unto Him. **17** And He is before all things, and all things cohere in Him; **18** And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things; **19** For in Him all the fullness was pleased to dwell **Col. 2:9** For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily,

**Psa. 19:1-2. 1** The heavens declare the glory of God, And the firmament proclaims the work of His hands. **2** Day to day pours forth speech, And night to night tells out knowledge.

**Rom. 1:20** For the invisible things of Him, both His eternal power and divine characteristics, have been clearly seen since the creation of the world, being perceived by the things made, so that they would be without excuse;

**1Tim. 3:16** And confessedly, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the nations, Believed on in the world, Taken up in glory.

**Matt. 3:17** And behold, a voice out of the heavens, saying, This is My Son, the Beloved, in whom I have found My delight.

**Matt. 17:5** While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is My Son, the Beloved, in whom I have found My delight. Hear Him!

**John 3:16** For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that every one who believes into Him would not perish, but would have eternal life.

**Rom. 8:29** Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers:

**Heb. 2:10** For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and through whom are all things, in leading many sons into glory, to make the Author of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

**John 12:24** Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

### III. A.

**Gen. 1:26** And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.

**Gen. 1:11-12. 11** And God said, Let the earth sprout grass, herbs yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit according to their kind with their seed in them upon the earth; and it was so. **12** And the earth brought forth grass, herbs yielding seed according to their kind, and trees bearing fruit with their seed in them according to their kind; and God saw that it was good.

**Gen. 1:21** And God created the great sea creatures and every living animal that moves, with which the waters swarmed, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind; and God saw that it was good.

**Gen. 1:24-25. 24** And God said, Let the earth bring forth living animals according to their kind, cattle and creeping things and animals of the earth according to their kind; and it was so. **25** And God made the animals of the earth according to their kind and the cattle according to their kind and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind, and God saw that it was good.

**III. B.**

**1John 4:8** He who does not love has not known God, because God is love.

**1John 1:5** And this is the message which we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

**Rev. 4:8** And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings apiece, are full of eyes around and within; and they have no rest day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God the Almighty, who was and who is and who is coming.

**Jer. 23:6** In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell securely; And this is His name by which He will be called, Jehovah our righteousness.

**Phil. 2:6** Who, existing in the form of God, did not consider being equal with God a treasure to be grasped,

**Col. 1:15** Who is the image of the invisible God, the Firstborn of all creation,

**Heb. 1:3** Who, being the effulgence of His glory and the impress of His substance and upholding and bearing all things by the word of His power, having made purification of sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

**Rom. 5:14** But death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned after the likeness of Adam's transgression, who is a type of Him who was to come.

**John 12:24** Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

**Rom. 8:29** Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers:

**Heb. 2:10** For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and through whom are all things, in leading many sons into glory, to make the Author of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

**1John 3:1-2. 1** Behold what manner of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and we are. Because of this the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. **2** Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not yet been manifested what we will be. We know that if He is manifested, we will be like Him because we will see Him even as He is.

**2Cor. 3:18** But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.

**III. C.**

**Gen. 1:26** And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.

**Gen. 1:28** And God blessed them; and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.

**Gen. 3:1** Now the serpent was more crafty than every other animal of the field which Jehovah God had made. And

he said to the woman, Did God really say, You shall not eat of any tree of the garden?

**Gen. 3:14** And Jehovah God said to the serpent, Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all the cattle And more than all the animals of the field: Upon your stomach you will go, And dust you will eat All the days of your life.

**Rev. 12:4** And his tail drags away the third part of the stars of heaven, and he cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to bring forth, so that when she brings forth he might devour her child.

**Rev. 12:7** And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels went to war with the dragon. And the dragon warred and his angels.

**Rev. 12:9** And the great dragon was cast down, the ancient serpent, he who is called the Devil and Satan, he who deceives the whole inhabited earth; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast down with him.

**Matt. 6:9-10. 9** You then pray in this way: Our Father who is in the heavens, Your name be sanctified; **10** Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, *so* also on earth.

**Psa. 8:1** O Jehovah our Lord, How excellent is Your name In all the earth, You who have set Your glory over the heavens!

**Psa. 8:9** O Jehovah our Lord, How excellent is Your name In all the earth!

**Rev. 11:15** And the seventh angel trumpeted; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, The kingdom of the world has become the *kingdom* of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever.

**Rev. 21:1-2. 1** And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and the sea is no more. **2** And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

**Matt. 6:10** Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, *so* also on earth.

**Matt. 6:13** And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

### III. D.

**Gen. 1:26-27. 26** And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth. **27** And God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

**Gen. 5:2** Male and female He created them, and He blessed them and called their name Adam, on the day when they were created.

**Eph.2:15** Abolishing in His flesh the law of the commandments in ordinances, that He might create the two in Himself into one new man, *so* making peace,

**Eph. 4:24** And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness

of the reality.

**Col. 3:10** And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

### III. E.

**Gen. 2:7** Jehovah God formed man with the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul.

**1Thes. 5:23** And the God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly, and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Jer. 18:1-10. 1** The word which came to Jeremiah from Jehovah, saying, **2** Arise and go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear My words. **3** So I went down to the potter's house, and he was there doing work at his wheel. **4** But the vessel that he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand; so he reworked it into another vessel, as it seemed good for the potter to make. **5** And the word of Jehovah came to me, saying, **6** Am I not able to do with you, O house of Israel, as this potter does? declares Jehovah. Indeed, as the clay is in the hand of the potter, so you are in My hand, O house of Israel. **7** At the moment that I speak about a nation or about a kingdom, to pluck it up or to break it down or to destroy it, **8** And if that nation concerning which I have spoken turns from its evil, I will repent of the evil that I intended to do to it. **9** And at the moment that I speak about a nation or a kingdom, to build it up or to plant it, **10** And if it does evil in My sight by not listening to My voice, then I will repent of the good with which I said I would benefit it.

**Rom. 9:21-23. 21** Or does not the potter have authority over the clay to make out of the same lump one vessel unto honor and another unto dishonor? **22** And what if God, wishing to demonstrate His wrath and make His power known, endured with much long-suffering vessels of wrath fitted for destruction, **23** In order that He might make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He had before prepared unto glory,

**2Cor. 4:7** But we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God and not out of us.

### III. F.

**Gen. 2:9** And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

**Gen. 2:15-17. 15** And Jehovah God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and to keep it. **16** And Jehovah God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden you may eat freely, **17** But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, of it you shall not eat; for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.

### IV.

**1Cor. 15:45** So also it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul"; the last Adam *became* a life-giving Spirit.

**Rom. 6:6** Knowing this, that our old man has been crucified with *Him* in order that the body of sin might

be annulled, that we should no longer serve sin as slaves;

**1Cor. 15:47** The first man is out of the earth, earthy; the second man *is* out of heaven.

**Eph.2:15** Abolishing in His flesh the law of the commandments in ordinances, that He might create the two in Himself into one new man, *so* making peace,

**Eph. 1:22-23. 22** And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him *to be* Head over all things to the church, **23** Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

**1Cor. 12:12** For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.

**Col. 3:10-11. 10** And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, **11** Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.