

“The Nature of Man”

a study of Genesis 2

part one:

Genesis

1:26 – 2:7

WELCOME! We are grateful you are here,
and we are excited to share God's word with you!

Saturday, February 22, 2020 – 2:00 pm

← The Nature of Man →

Genesis 1:26-31

“...God said, ‘Let *Us* make man in *Our* image...*Our* likeness’” [v26]

- with *whom* is God speaking here? [v26]



**God the Father
was speaking with
Jesus, His Son!!**

Some erroneously teach that God is speaking with the angels or even Satan, but in the New Testament we have a clear answer:

“*All things* were made through *Him*, and without *Him* nothing was made that was made.” [John 1:3; cp Hb 1:2]

“...by Him *all things* were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. *All things* were created through Him and for Him.” [Colossians 1:16]

Genesis 1

← The Nature of Man →

Genesis 1:26-31

“...God said, ‘Let *Us* make man in *Our* image...*Our* likeness’” [v26]

- with *whom* is God speaking here? [v26]

? - what is the *image* and *likeness* of God? [v26]



Remember: God is *SPIRIT* [Gn 1:2; John 4:24]; He has no physical body as we do! From the context of Genesis 1, the idea that man is made in the image and likeness of God **cannot** be speaking of some **physical** trait or characteristic...

- This is exactly the **opposite** of what the Bible teaches, and emphasizes the idea of God **in the image of man!!**

Genesis 1

← The Nature of Man →

Genesis 1:26-31

“...God said, ‘Let *Us* make man in *Our* image...

In this way, both the man and the woman are made in the “image” and “likeness” of God!
[Genesis 1:27]

- with *whom* is God speaking here? [v26]

? - what is the *image* and *likeness* of God? [v26]

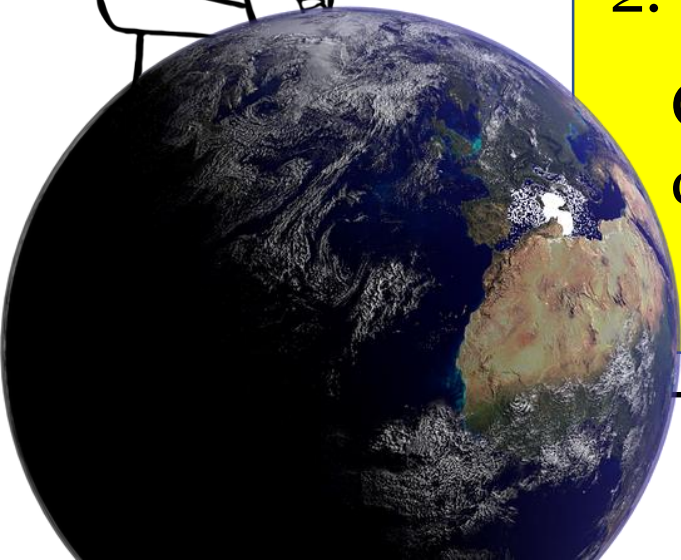
The context here actually reveals *two ways* man is “like” God:

1. “let them *have dominion* over...every living thing” [v26, 28];
2. “*Be fruitful and multiply; fill* the earth...” [v28]

God made man with capacity and purpose for *governing* the creation, and for *procreation* to continue to fill the earth...

These two things we have seen only God do up to this point!

Genesis 1



← The Nature of Man →

Genesis 1:26-31

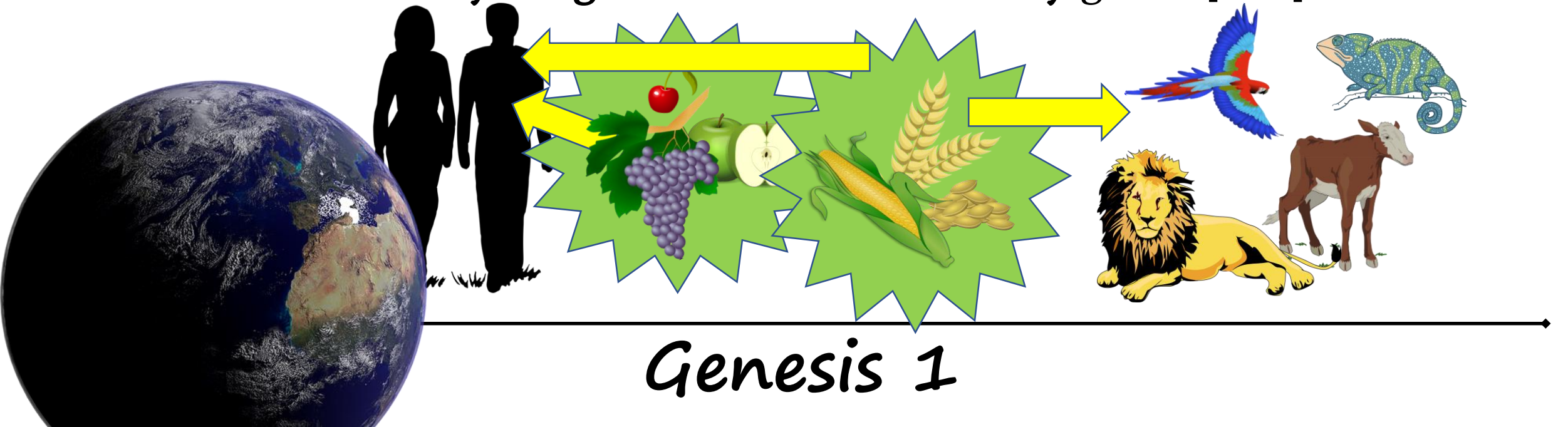
“...God said, ‘Let *Us* make man in *Our* image...*Our* likeness” [v26]

“...God said, ‘See, I have given you every herb...” [v29]

◆ “...to you it shall be for food” [v29]

◆ “Also, to every beast of the earth...every green herb for food” [v30]

◆ “Then God saw everything...and indeed it was very good” [v31]



← The Nature of Man →

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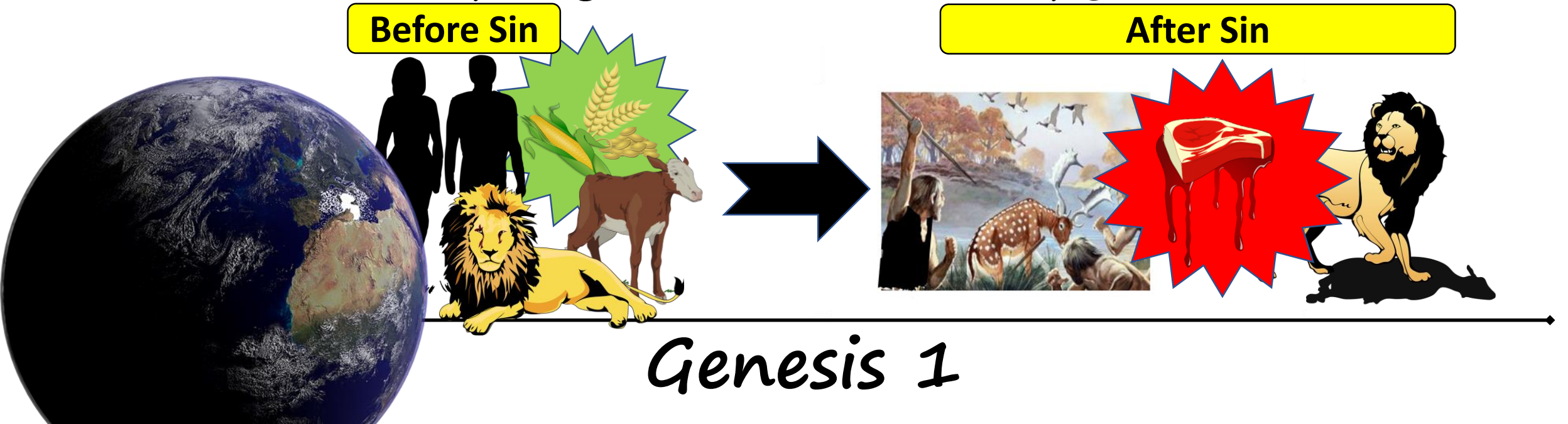
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Before Sin

After Sin



← The Nature of Man →

Genesis 1:26-31

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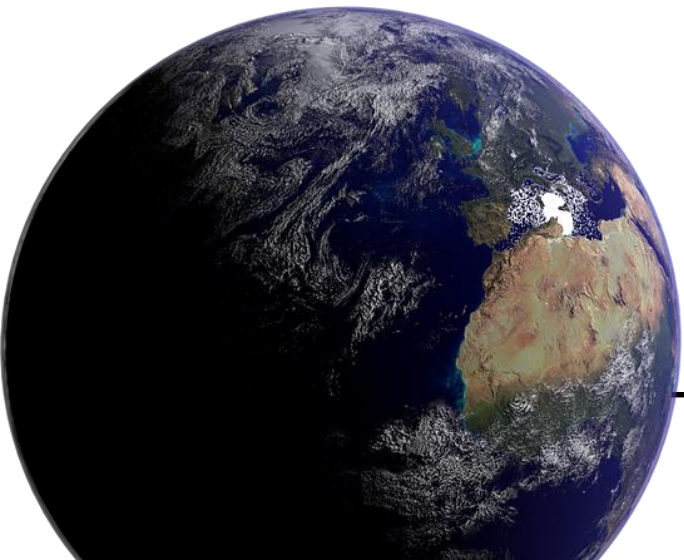
◆ “Also, to every beast of the earth...every green herb for food” [v30]

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Restoration From Sin in Old Testament Prophetic Vision

“The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together...

The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; ...the lion shall eat straw like the ox.”
[Isaiah 11:6-7; cp Isaiah 65:25; etc] This is not meant to be *literal*; it is an image of Eden’s pre-sin paradise.



Genesis 1

← The Nature of God →

- ✓ He is **ETERNAL** (an attribute that is unique to the Divine Nature) [1:1]
- ✓ He is **SPIRIT** (He is not physical, He is not like man) [1:2]
- ✓ His creative power resides in His **WORD** [1:3]
- ✓ He is only **GOOD** (it is impossible for Him to think of or do evil) [1:4]
- ✓ He is **HOLY** ('separate'; it is His nature to "divide", "separate", "sanctify") [1:4]
- ✓ He **NAMES** things, gives them their roles, their purposes [1:5, 8, 10, 16, 27]
- ✓ He **ORDERS** His creation by His word (disobedience leads to disorder) [1:6-10]
- ✓ He **PLANS** (He made the physical creation for man before man ever existed) [1:14; cp Ephesians 1:4; etc ("before the foundation of the world")]
 - ✓ He is **LORD** and governs His creation by fixed laws [1:11, 21, 24]; only He has power to break these laws: we call that a "miracle"
 - ✓ He made man in His own image, so that in a world made to be 'very good' man might share in His good nature [1:26-31]



Genesis 1

←———— *The Nature of Man* —————→

Genesis 2:1-3

“...the heavens and the earth, and *all the host* of them” [v1]

♦ During creation week, God made the heavens and the earth (universe) *and* “all the host of them” – every **type** of created being (i.e. angels, even Satan!)

- The Bible is not an encyclopedia of everything we would like to know: it contains “all things that pertain to life and godliness” [2 Pet 1:3] There is nothing more revealed to us about the creation of the celestial beings because the Bible is concerned with God’s relationship to *man*; the other information is a *curiosity*, but not needed for salvation

[cp Deuteronomy 29:29; many false doctrines have arisen based on myths surrounding the creation of the angels and Satan...]



Genesis 2

←———— *The Nature of Man* —————→

Genesis 2:1-3

“...the heavens and the earth, and *all the host* of them” [v1]

“...on the seventh day God *ended* His work...and He *rested*” [v2]

♦ God *completed* all the work of creation (“finished”, v1); His “rest” is not an *absolute* rest [cp Heb 1:3; John 5:17], but His creative work was definitive: God is not creating new things in His physical universe – only *pro*creation now continues



Genesis 2

← The Nature of Man →

Genesis 2:1-3

“...the heavens and the earth, and *all the host* of them” [v1]

“...on the seventh day God *ended* His work...and He *rested*” [v2]

“Then God *blessed* the seventh day and *sanctified* it...” [v3]

♦ What instruction does God give concerning this day?

God’s *instruction* to man regarding this day will only come centuries later, to the Jews once they are in the desert of Sinai! [Dt 5:12-15; Ex 20; cp Neh 9:13-14]

None
whatsoever
HERE!!!



Genesis 2

←———— The Nature of Man —————→

Genesis 2:4-7

“...the history (lit. ‘genealogy’) of the heavens and the earth” [v4]

- ◆ This is the account of the creation of all that is of the ‘family line’ of heaven and of earth; this historical account has already been told in a generic form in Genesis 1 – we will now be given more details about the most important part of the inspired historical register: *the creation of man!*



Genesis 2

←———— *The Nature of Man* —————→

Genesis 2:4-7

“...the history (lit. ‘genealogy’) of the heavens and the earth” [v4]

“...before any plant...before any herb of the field had grown” [v5]

- ◆ This more specific account of a part of the creation follows a similar format to the first, more generic account: there are “issues” God must resolve
 - There had as yet been no “growth” in the plant life (i.e., no generational growth; it is obvious that the plants must have been created with fruit on them, just as Adam and Eve were created in an ‘adult’ state)



There are *two* reasons given for why plants have not grown:

1. “the **Lord God** had not caused it **to rain** on the earth”
2. “there was **no man to till** the ground”

God creates man *from the beginning to work with Him!*

Genesis 2

The Name

Genesis 2:4-7

“...the history (lit. ‘genealogy’)”

“...before any plant...before any

◆ This more specific account of a part of
to the first, more generic account: there are

God does ‘His part’, creating a *mist* to water the ground [v6; no rain pre flood!? cp Hb 11:7]

God creates *man* to take care of the other necessary part: this is a ‘partnership’ [vv7-17]



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Genesis 2

God often uses man in His primary works here on earth. Consider these:
He sent Moses to free Israel [Ex 3:10];
He used nations as judges [Is 45:1-4];
He uses men to preach the gospel!
[Mt 28:18-20; Ac 9:15; 2 Tm 2:1-2]

← The Nature of Man →

“...the Lord God *formed man* of the *dust* of the ground,
and *breathed into his nostrils* the breath of life;
and man *became a living being.*”

- ◆ With the rest of creation, “God said, ‘Let there be...’ ...and it was so”; but for man, God had a conversation with Jesus (and the Spirit?), then formed man
- This verb describes the more intimate process by which God ‘designed’ man ‘by hand’



Genesis 2:7

← The Nature of Man →

“...the Lord God *formed man* of the *dust* of the ground, and *breathed into his nostrils* the breath of life; and made *him a living being.*”

- God forms man *from the dust* – the earth...
- from the breath (lit. ‘spirit’) of life... to man’s *nostrils*...

“...we are the
and You are
[Isaiah 64:8]

In this way, man is uniquely the perfect “*marriage*” of heaven and earth, having a body made of dust united with the breath that comes from God

...gives to all life,
and all
ings.” [Acts 17:25]



Genesis 2:7

← The Nature of Man →

“...the Lord God *formed man* of the *dust* of the ground, and *breathed into his nostrils* the breath of life; and man *became a living being.*”

- God forms man *from the dust* – the most basic, “dirtiest” material on the earth...
- from the breath (lit. ‘spirit’) of life that is His alone, He breathes into man’s *nostrils*...
- this ‘union’ produces a living ‘soul’ which transcends physical life into immortality

“...we are the clay,
and You our potter.”
[Isaiah 64:8]



“He gives to all life,
breath, and all
things.” [Acts 17:25]



[‘dust’, ‘spirit’ return to their places;
the soul lives on (Ec 12:7; Mt 10:28)]

Genesis 2:7



← The Nature of Man →

“Seeking His Face”

Understanding the **intimate** way that God created man gives new meaning to a familiar Old Testament expression:

The Lord told Moses, “Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, ‘**This** is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them: “The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD **make His face to shine upon you**, And be gracious to you; The LORD **lift up His countenance upon you**, and give you peace.’” [Numbers 6:22-26]

Consider these other similar examples:



He shall pray to God, and He will delight in him, he **shall see His face** with joy, For He restores to man His righteousness.

[Job 33:26]

Seek the LORD and His strength; Seek **His face** evermore! [1 Chron 16:11]

...the LORD spoke to Moses **face to face**, as a man speaks to his friend.

[Exodus 33:11]

...the LORD your God is gracious and merciful, and **will not turn His face** from you if you return to Him.

[2 Chronicles 30:9]

Genesis 2:7

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Behold, the LORD’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But **your iniquities** have separated you from your God; and **your sins have hidden His face from you**, so that He will not hear. [Isaiah 59:1-2]

Would you
turn from your sins,
seek His face, and
wear His name?

However, for the faithful who turn from their sins, a promise: they shall **see His face**, and **His name** shall be on their foreheads.

[Revelation 22:4; contrast Exodus 33:18-23]

Genesis 2:7