

Man: The Creation of God

AIM:

To understand that human beings are uniquely created in the image of God and higher than all other creation

Theme : Human Beings : The Crown of Creation

UNIT 1, LESSON 1

Genesis 1:26-31 (NRSV)

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

²⁷ So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

²⁸ 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 the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” ²⁹ God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. ³¹ God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Genesis 2:7, 18-24 (NRSV)

⁷ Then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being.

¹⁸ Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.” ¹⁹ So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. ²¹ So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²² And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³ Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman for out of Man this one was taken.”

²⁴ Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Teacher's Preparation



In this lesson, introduce to the students the crown of God's creation, (human beings) and explain how they are the most unique of all God's creation. After creating the atmosphere, vegetation and living creatures; God finally created something in His own image. God carefully prepared the earth before man came. It is important to understand that God created human beings to live in fellowship with Him.

To understand creation, it is necessary to know the beginning. When we open the Holy Bible, we start with the book of Genesis. Genesis is a Greek word which means 'beginning'. The book of Genesis tells us the secret of the beginning or origin of the cosmos, humankind and the ancestors of Israel.

Why was Genesis written?

1. To explain to humans their origin
2. To tell humans about the fall of humanity through sin
3. To promise mankind of redemption

Student Introduction

Have you ever wondered how life began on earth and how humans came into existence?

Let us look into the Bible and see how this beautiful world was created. Many atheists believe in Darwin's theory of evolution, while other religions believe in different gods and various myths of creation. We believe and affirm our faith in our omnipotent God who created the world. Our God is Alpha and Omega; the Beginning and the End

Today, we are going to focus on the crown of God's creation, (human beings), who are uniquely created in the image of our perfect and Almighty God. What a great blessing we have been given!

Bible Exploration

Genesis chapter 1 & 2 illustrates the creation of the world by God.

Creation of Man: (Genesis 2:7)

On the sixth day of creation, God created living creatures including cattle, creeping things and wild animals. Then God created humans as His final and crowning work on the sixth day.

"Then the LORD GOD formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being." (Genesis 2:7) God also made man in His own image and likeness and gave man dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the cattle and every creeping thing as described in Genesis 1:26.

Omnipotent

*All powerful,
Almighty, Supreme
(characteristics of
God)*

Creation of Woman: (Genesis 2:18, 21, 22)

The creation of woman seems to be very different and interesting. “Then the LORD GOD said, ‘It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.’.....So the LORD GOD caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then God took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD GOD had taken from the man He made into a woman and brought her to the man.” This shows the close relationship between man and woman. In verse 2:24, we read, “Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.” The Bible says that Eve was created to be Adam’s helper or companion, to govern for God over the earth. Finally, God ended all His work and rested on the seventh day. God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it.

Image of God: Genesis 1:27

Though man is created last in the order of creation, God gives him special significance in that God created man in His own image. (Genesis 1:26-27).

The concept of ‘image of God’ is derived from the Latin word ‘imago dei.’ God’s image upon humankind is not physical. It is the soul of a human that bears the image of God. God has blessed humans with the power of thought, the power of communication, will power and emotions. Humans are spiritual beings with the ability to worship, love and serve a living God and to live in communion with Him.

The human creation is the culmination of God’s work. Man has a special relationship with God because man has been entrusted with God-like qualities.

Fruitful and multiply: Genesis: 1:28

God has blessed the humans with the power of procreation (increase and multiply) and subdue the earth. Humans were appointed to rule over the earth and its crea-



“The Creation of Adam” by the painter and sculptor, Michelangelo depicts God’s creation of man in His image.

α

Alpha & Omega

First and Last

*(letters of the Greek
alphabet)*

Ω

Activities

1. Bring in an easel or dry erase board and go thru Genesis Chapter 1&2 together verse by verse and make a list of all the Firsts. The book of Genesis is about ‘beginnings’ or ‘firsts’. Write a list of all the firsts in Genesis chapter 1 and 2.
E.g. _____ was the first man and _____ was the first woman.
2. On a sheet of paper draw a large number 6 and fill the page with things that were created on the 6th day

Let's Review

1. What did God create on the sixth day?
2. Explain "God created man in His own image".
3. Why did God create woman?

Values For Life

- Human beings are created in the image of God, their Creator. We are thus to live in fellowship with Him.
- Humans are spiritual beings who possess a divine nature.
- Human beings should live in harmony with one another.



Faith In Action

When we study the book of Genesis, we should prayerfully anticipate a change in ourselves from the words of our Creator. God created us in His image so that we can know Him personally. We are also supposed to treat all people equally since every human being is created in the image of God. Let us carefully read our Bibles and have an intimate relation with our Creator.

Memory Verse

"So God created humankind in His image, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them."

Genesis 1:27

Closing Prayer

Dear Lord, we thank you for being our Creator. You have given us a beautiful earth to live in surrounded with all types of plants and animals. Help us to live in fellowship with you and with our fellow human beings. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.