

## “Creation – Designed for God to be Known & Near”

**The Ministry of the Spirit**

February 22, 2026

### INTRO ...BACKGROUND >>>> FF >>>>> ANTICIPATE!

Gen 1:1-2 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

Gen 1:26 Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.

Gen 2:7 then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

"Man's origin is not only the unique subject of God's counsel; man is from the outset the recipient of unique endowment and dignity." **John Murray** (quoted in Systematic Theology by John Frame, p. 784)

"the dust is inanimate matter from the Earth. ...Adam becomes a living creature, not by the Earth's bringing him forth, but by a second distinct act of God: God's breathing into his nostrils, the breath of life. No other creature is the result of this in breathing.... So the picture of this verse is not that God chose some creature already living—an animal—and made him man; rather, he chose dead matter and gave life to it, and by that life the dust became man, with all of man's distinctiveness as God's image. Genesis 2:7, taken literally, describes an event quite incompatible with the theory of evolution, even theistic evolution.... So the biblical description of the creation of Adam and Eve reinforces the emphasis of Genesis 1–2 on the uniqueness of man as God's image and vassal king." **John Frame**, "Systematic Theology", p. 802

Man is uniquely endowed with both a natural & spiritual dimension—

Gen 2:8 And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed.

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

### FF... to the N.T.

**Jn 1:14** “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us”

...Now that’s a Very Different Contact Point with God!

**Jn 3** ... “Nicodemus, you must be born again ...that which is born of the flesh is flesh and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit ... the wind blows where it wishes and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit”

**Jn 4:24** ... “God is spirit and those who would worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth”

**Jn 6:63** ... “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.”

**Jn 7:38-39** ... “Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’ <sup>39</sup> Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.”

**John 20:21-22** Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” <sup>22</sup> And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.

So... we’ve taken a huge step back (in some significant way) to Genesis 2 ...a Setting Created by God, where God has a Living Exchange with “Man on Earth”

...What was that supposed to be like?

TITLE: "Creation – Designed for God to be Known and Near"

## Creation's Design

It is helpful for us to observe and appreciate the Nature, Design of what we call "Creation" (The realm of our existence)—If better understand how we "interact with" and have some kind of "exchange" with things outside of ourselves.



Character, and we want to

...It is normative and frequent for us to have an "exchange" with another human being. We are designed for a certain type of "common interaction".

...We don't relate to or encounter angelic beings in the same way that we have exchanges with human beings.

...What about God? ...How do we relate to Him?

-- What is God's nature and character and 'substance' like? ...How is God understood and explored with our 5 senses & mental processes? ...How do we come to understand, encounter, or even be mindful of His existence?

"Human beings hear with their physical ears and see with physical eyes. God, however, is master of the processes of hearing and seeing. He does without physical organs what we do with them, and far more." **John Frame**, "Systematic Theology", p. 788

"If God be a Spirit, how comes God so often to have such members as we have in our bodies ascribed to him, not only a soul, but particular bodily parts as heart, arms, hands, eyes, ears, face, and back parts? ...this is in condescension to our weakness ...As our souls are linked with our bodies so our knowledge is linked with our sense; that we can scarce imagine anything, at first, but under a corporeal form and figure... We are not able to conceive a spirit, without some kind of resemblance to something below it, nor understand the actions of a spirit, without considering the operations of a human body in its several members. As the glories of another life are signified to us by the pleasures of this; so the nature of God, by a gracious condescension to our capacities, is signified to us by a likeness to our own." **Stephen Charnock**, "The Existence and Attributes of God," vol. 1, p.188

**Is 45:9** Woe to him who strives with him who formed him, a pot among earthen pots! Does the clay say to him who forms it, 'What are you making?' or 'Your work has no handles'?

**Ps 115:16** The heavens are the LORD'S heavens, but the earth he has given to the children of man.

"Because God is infinite and we are finite or limited, we can never fully understand God. In this sense God is said to be 'incomprehensible'... Even in the age to come, when we are freed from the presence of sin, we will never be able fully to understand God or any one thing about him. This is seen from the fact that the passages cited above attribute God's incomprehensibility not to our sinfulness but to his infinite greatness. ...If this is so in eternity future, then it certainly must be so in this life. ...When we realize this, the prospect of a lifelong habit of regular Bible study, and even the prospect of a lifetime of study of theology, should be a very exciting prospect to us." **Wayne Grudem**, Systematic Theology, p. 178, 179

...I make this case to give us a better understanding and expectation for what it is like for limited creatures to have an 'exchange' with the infinite God!! ...We will need creation/nature + the Unique Presence of God + the Revealing Ministry of the Spirit to engage this deep calling to KNOW HIM!!

>> Let's face the obvious. I don't encounter God the same way I encounter my wife, my friends, other humans, my dog, the sweetness of honey, or the emotion of a grippingly sad movie!

**...YET! ...There is a Biblical Expectation that we human creatures are going to have real experiences, exchanges and encounters with God! And these exchanges are intended to touch something deep within us and will be related to our deepest appetite and longing! ... "KNOWNG GOD"!!**

Jn 17:3 And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

Php. 3:8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ

Hosea 2:20 I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the LORD.

Hosea 6:3 Let us know; let us press on to know the LORD; his going out is sure as the dawn; he will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth."

1 Jn 5:20-21 <sup>20</sup> And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. <sup>21</sup> Little children, keep yourselves from idols.

"The final goal of the blessed life, moreover, rests in the knowledge of God." **John Calvin**, "Institutes of the Christian Religion", 1.5.1

Ps. 19:1-4 [A PSALM OF DAVID]

<sup>1</sup> The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

<sup>2</sup> Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.

<sup>3</sup> There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard.

<sup>4</sup> Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

"Every plant, every atom, as well as every star, at the first meeting, whispers this in our ears, 'I have a Creator; I am witness to a Deity.'" **Stephen Charnock**, "The Existence and Attributes of God", 1:43

Rom. 1:19-21 <sup>19</sup> For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. <sup>20</sup> For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. <sup>21</sup> For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

**...I'm not inserting these thoughts to get us to acknowledge that man is without excuse for denying God in life  
...I'm trying to get us to see that, it appears that part of God's plan in "communicating Himself" to man was to be done "through creation".**

"Scripture teaches that the triune God who has planned from eternity, created the universe, and rules over it is revealed in what he has made, including the human conscience (Ps 19:1-6; Acts 14:17; 17:22-31; Rom 1:18-32). The knowledge of God in creation is best viewed as an effect of divine revelation..." **Stephen Wellum**, "Systematic Theology", p. 208

**What's This Got to do with 'The Ministry of the Spirit'??**

"We cannot have an adequate or suitable conception of God: He dwells in inaccessible light; inaccessible to the acuteness of our fancy, as well as the weakness of our sense. ...We cannot think or speak worthily enough of him, who is greater than our words, vaster than our understandings." **Stephen Charnock**, "The Existence and Attributes of God," vol. 1, p.196

**1 Cor 2:6-13** Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. <sup>7</sup> But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. <sup>8</sup> None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup> But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"—<sup>10</sup> these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup> For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup> Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. <sup>13</sup> And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

**Summary: In the beginning God created (designed) the heavens and the earth to "reveal" God—to make Him KNOWN. Man is the ultimate expression of this purpose. As "dust & breath" he is designed to know God and to make Him known (to image God). This activity is done by 'the ministry of the Spirit' in the arena of man's earthly existence!**

**Application Point—Don't Just Wait in Your Prayer Closet for a Unique Exchange with the Holy Spirit! Live Out God's Purpose in God's Created World and 'Tune-in' to the Spirit As You Do!!**

**Job 33:14** For God speaks in one way, and in two, though man does not perceive it.