

Origins Matter! (Pt. 2)

The Ministry of Genesis (The Law Scriptures)

March 16, 2025

INTRO ...Icebreaker Game - "Who/What am I?"

Genesis = "**Historical Narrative**" (Handpicked stories from History that are designed to REVEAL something—The Bible's Main Storyline = Creation ...Fall ...Redemption ...Restoration)

Gen. 1-2 ... "Creation Concentrate"

...Learning to Read Our Bibles EFFECTIVELY often means Slowing Down to Meditate/Consider the Implications of What is Being Revealed.

Gen 1:1-25 ...THE MOMENT that Put Every Moment in Motion!! ...6 Days of Specific Creation/Design

Gen 1-2 ...Creation Headlines: "Substance" ... "Man" ... "Eden" ... "Mandate" ...

Gen 1:26-28, 31

Gen 2:4-15

Gen 2:18, 21-25

Let's Play - Who/What Am I? (...w/ Gen. 1-2)

SUBSTANCE

(What am I made of? What am I NOT? Where are my boundaries/limitations?)

- I am "dust" + breath ...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."*

"The omnipotent one made a being from raw earthly material. ...'Dust as constitute of human existence ...'dust' may also show that man is fragile physically (Job 10:8-9; Ps 103:14), the intent of the passage is the association of human life and the basic substance of our making.'" **Kenneth Mathews** (quoted in "Reenchanting Humanity", p. 22)

Ps 103:14 "For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust."

"It is only when the Lord breathed into this physical body that man became a 'nephesh haya', a 'living being.' Here we learn as a surety that humanity is more than joints and bones, ventricles and pores. The man is not alive when he has structure and shape; he is alive when God breathes into him." **Owen Strachan**, "Reenchanting Humanity", p. 22

- My life will be filled with both Physical & Non-physical Experiences—Be Ready!
 - 5 senses
 - The Soulsh Dimension

Gen 3:6 "So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit..."

Physical hard wiring is in place for being affected by what we SEE, SMELL, TASTE, SENSE ...We also have a "WiFi" connection with the Soulsh & Spiritual Realm! ...We are going to have "influential exchanges" with both!

MAN

- **I am made in the "Image of God"** ...Gen 1:26 "Then God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness"

"the universe is created as a place of harmony and order, where each creation is good; that is, it fulfils its function. Yet, for all the concern with the creation of the universe and its creatures, this text clearly has a goal to which everything in it is directed, namely the creation of humanity on the sixth day: ...humanity is crowned the royalty of creation. Whereas other creations come about by the divine word in a predictable manner ('Let there be ... and it was so. '), there is a pregnant theological pause before the creation of humanity. God takes counsel with himself before speaking." **Stephen Dempster**, *Dominion and Dynasty: A Theology of the Hebrew Bible* (NSBT)

...I am similar to other created beings--But Highly Distinct & Unique!

"The Genesis account draws a clear and unmistakable line between the beasts of the field, and the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea on the one hand and mankind on the other. The former are made on one day; humanity is made on another. Genesis 1 distinguishes between God-made creatures and does to draw genetic linkage of any kind between animal and mankind." **Owen Strachan**, "Reenchanting Humanity", p. 16

Ps 8:4-6 "what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? ⁵ Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. ⁶ You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet."

The Creation Story (The WORD)—Reveals GOD, reveals MAN, reveals Our WORLD

- GOD... is not random! ...God installs Order & Design. ...God CARES uniquely about Man!
- MAN... is uniquely placed in creation ...Uniquely Higher/Over ...but also Lower/Under

...The use of the terms 'image' (šelem) and 'likeness' (dēmût) to describe humanity constitutes it as unique among the creatures. ... they indicate that humanity is uniquely related to both God and the created order. ... Since they are like God, they are best suited for a unique relationship to God, and this means that they also have a unique relation to their natural environment. ...It is indispensable for understanding the Bible, sketching out an understanding of what it means to be human, namely to bring the world under the dominion of the image of God." **Stephen Dempster**, *Dominion and Dynasty: A Theology of the Hebrew Bible* (NSBT)

- WORLD ...God's World is an ORDERED Place! ...By His Will some things go first, some go second, some are higher, some are lower

...It is right for humanity to "steward earth/creation" ...but not right to place man on the same par with other animals

Gen 9:6 "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image."

Jam 3:9 "With it [the tongue] we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God."

THIS is given a place of "Definitive Prominence"!—When I go to figure out "Who/what am I?"—THIS is the First Defining Thing Revealed! THIS is the Most important thing about us!! ...I am an IMAGE BEARER of God!

...What Does THIS Mean? ...ponder 3 common views/aspects—

- (1) the Substantive view (man's rationality, morality, volitional freedom);
- (2) the Relational View (God's trinitarian relational qualities);
- (3) the Representative view (ruling the earth as a 'vice-regent' of God)

"The human race is the race made to display the glory of God in all the earth in a special way." (Owen Strachan) ..."we need to view the imago Dei as a declaration that God intended to create human persons to be the physical means through which he would manifest his own divine presence in the world." (Marc Cortez) (from "Reenchanting Humanity", p. 30-31)

Hab 2:14 For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

...To follow the Storyline of Scripture is to see a "PURPOSE" that is inextricably connected to God revealing His Glory via the "canvas of creation"—and Man is a Unique Manifestation of that Glory!

Jesus (the second Adam) brings helpful clarity! ...1Cor 15:45, 49 Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ... 49 Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

Jn 1:1-3, 14, 18

Col 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

Heb 1:3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature,

Rom 8:29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

2 Cor 3:17-18

...What is taking place in our lives? How do we explain and understand the multi-varied activity & experiences of our lives?—God is at work RESTORING His Image in Us

"From time immemorial, the Lord had planned this moment, the moment when he would produce his greatest creation, his masterwork, the only being made in the 'image' and carrying the 'likeness' of God himself. This was not true of the animals, marvelous as they are; it was not true of the celestial bodies, brilliant as they are; it was not true of the oceans, much as they roar. Humanity is the piece de resistance of the holy work of God." Owen Strachan, "Reenchanting Humanity", p. 14

- **I am Made MALE or FEMALE** ...Gen 1:27 "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."

...After I 'get my bearings' and find my 'true north' (my reference point)—I am God's Image Bearer—the next reference point I need in life is whether I'm MALE or FEMALE

NOTE: This is Not a Hostile Act on God's Part! This doesn't raise questions of "inferiority" or "2nd rate" or "anti-self-fulfillment"!! ...This is Presented as Necessary, Intrinsically Valuable, Strategic, and Meaningfully Purposeful—to man's highest calling of IMAGING the Glory of God!

- Thus, there is something "inherently GLORIOUS" ...about being a MAN ...&... about being a WOMAN!!

If that's true ...then I should be plunging the depths of those unique elements! ...I should want to understand and aim at what makes us unique as men & women—NOT to seek every effort to BLUR the DISTINCTIONS that are in the Created Design!

- David to Solomon. ...1Ki 2:1-2 ¹ When David's time to die drew near, he commanded Solomon his son, saying, ² "I am about to go the way of all the earth. Be strong, and show yourself a man,"

"The phrase 'show yourself a man' stands out here. The modern equivalent, 'be a man,' usually signifies the need to exhibit toughness and assertiveness in the face of difficulty. To be weak means to compromise the nature of manliness. ...his charge points to the performative nature of this God-given calling; Solomon must not fail to act out this vision of masculine strength. He was to be strong. Failure to show strength means a failure of manhood." **Owen Strachan**, "Reenchanting Humanity", p. 139

- Peter to women... 1Pet 3:1-6 ¹ Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, ² when they see your respectful and pure conduct. ³ Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear—⁴ but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious. ⁵ For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, ⁶ as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.

...There are unique ways of acting and living that uniquely express the Glory of God that are designed in Creating someone Female.

Cultural Rejection & Confusion

Our Culture has Decided it has the RIGHT and the Power to RELABEL & REPURPOSE God's Creation!

If Gen 1:27 is true ...then I should question the strong "cultural confusion" surrounding "Gender-Identity".

Insights on "Gender-Identity-Confusion"

- (1) Since the fall ...everything about being a human is vulnerable to "feeling off".
- (2) You Are NOT trapped in the Wrong Body

The Creation Narrative has Revealed ORDER & ASSIGNMENT—to Humans (higher than creation, lower than angels) ...to MALE & FEMALE (leading, submitting) ...to Angels