

## Session 2

March 14, 2021

### THE PURPOSE OF HUMANITY

#### Genesis 1:1-5, 26-31

Sooner or later, every person ponders the question, “What am I really doing here?” Perhaps King David had that very thought when, looking up at the night sky, he wrote,

“When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained, what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him?” (Ps. 8:3-4).

The answer to that question lies in the concept of *meaning*. Once we understand our Creator, and the purpose for which we were created, life takes on meaning.

From the first pages of the Bible, we are introduced to both the Creator and mankind, His most special creation. Three key ideas are highlighted when understanding the purpose for which we live.

**Perspective (vv. 1-5).** The six days of creation have much to say about the relationship between God, mankind, and the rest of creation. First, notice the assumed *existence* of God. “In the beginning, God.” No argument is ever offered in the Bible regarding the existence of God. It is simply assumed as fact. Second, notice the *activity* of God. “In the beginning, God created.” The biblical account gives no room for any other means of creation. Evolution fails by assuming there is no God. Theistic evolution (the idea that God somehow *used* evolution to create) is also untenable, as it conflicts with the clear teaching of Scripture. Third, notice the *unity* of God. Remember: the trinity always works in concert. The second verse of the Bible introduces us to the Holy Spirit. Yahweh (the second person of the godhead) appears in chapter 2. He is identified as the Lord Jesus in Colossians 1:15-17 (see also John 1:2-3). He acts as the *agent* of creation. When we consider the *order* of creation, we see the really big things created first, with God moving towards the detailed, minute things culminating in man. This puts everything into proper perspective. Big God. Little man. For reflection: *Read Romans 1:19-20. What does this say about those who deny God’s existence?*

**Position (vv. 26-27).** Notice that once again the trinity is involved in the creation of man. We see this in the plural pronouns “Us” and “Our.” The Bible is clear that God consults with no one (see Is. 40:13 for example). And while the angels rejoiced in creation (Job 38:7), they were not active participants in it. No, God consulted *with Himself* and man was formed. (By the way, while the Bible contains only one creation account, Genesis 1 gives the overview and Genesis 2 then goes back and fills in the details; see especially Gen. 2:7; 18-23). We often talk of man’s creation as “special creation,” because only man was made in the image of God. This does not mean that we *look like* God, but rather that we share certain characteristics with Him. This sets us apart from the animal kingdom and enables us to commune with God like no other part of creation can. It also places us at the top of God’s created order. For reflection: *What do you think of the end of verse 27? How does it apply in today’s mixed-up culture?*

**Purpose (vv. 28-31).** Nothing about God is random. He works His plan according to His divine purpose. And He built into humanity that same obligation. Our first obligation, then, is to God our Creator. He created man and blessed him. He then charged him to be fruitful and multiply (v. 28); to take dominion over the natural realm (v. 28); and to enjoy the provision He made in advance of their creation (vv. 29-31). When those obligations are met, mankind is fulfilled, and the question of our purpose on earth has been answered. For reflection: *How do you think sin has tarnished the image of God in man? Can we, in our fallen world, truly fulfill God's purpose for us? How?*