

Beginnings: Study and Discussion Questions

Lesson Two: Creation: The Beginning of Human History – Genesis 1:26-2:3

Overview

- 1) Read Genesis 1:26-2:3 carefully. The New Testament describes God as being one in three persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), also known as the Trinity. Which words in Genesis 1:26-2:3 seem to suggest the plurality of God?

- 2) List the phrases in the following passages that describe the involvement of the different persons of the Trinity in creation: Genesis 1:2; Psalm 104:30; Malachi 2:10; John 1:1-3, 10; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Colossians 1:15-16; Hebrews 1:2.

- 3) According to the New Testament, every individual who receives Christ as Savior by faith is radically changed into a “*new creation*” (2 Corinthians 5:17).
 - a) Which persons of the Trinity are involved in regenerating a believer in Jesus Christ? See John 3:8 and Ephesians 2:5 with Colossians 2:13 (assume “God” refers to the Father).

 - b) Do you see evidence in your own life that “the old has gone, the new has come” (2 Corinthians 5:17)? If so, what has changed?

Reread Genesis 1:26-28.

- 4) What clues does Genesis 1 give about the implications of mankind being made in God’s image? In other words, based on Genesis 1 alone, in what ways are we like Him?

- 5) Use any general knowledge about God that you have from the Bible to suggest other ways in which human beings are created in God’s image.

- 6) How does God's command to man in verse 28 differ from His command to the animals in verse 22?
- 7) Read Psalm 8. What is your present domain (area of influence)? Considering that you are made in God's image, how can you better "rule" over it? Be as specific as possible. For example, are there people on whom you can pronounce words of blessing this week, specific decisions or tasks for which you need to look to God, etc.?

Reread Genesis 1:29-31.

- 8) How do these verses describe the diet of the man in the Garden of Eden?
- 9) Verse 31 says, "God saw all that He had made, and it was very good."
 a) According to the following passages, what does God *see*? Genesis 6:5; 2 Chronicles 16:9, 24:22; Job 38:41-39:2; Psalm 17:1-3, 94:1-11, 139:7-24; Jeremiah 23:23-24
- b) In light of this information, what can you deduce about God in His declaration of everything as He originally made it "very good"?
- 10) Creation is presently fallen from its original state. We will read about how this happened in Lessons 4 and 5.
 a) What is God's ultimate plan for His creation (see Acts 3:21, Romans 8:18-22, Ephesians 1:9-10, and Revelation 22:1-5)?
- b) What is God's ultimate plan *for you* (see Romans 8:29; Ephesians 1:4, 12; Philippians 1:6; 2 Timothy 2:20-21; and Hebrews 13:20-21)? How does this encourage you today?

Reread Genesis 2:1.

11) Consider the “vast array” (“all the host” or “all the details”) of God’s creation.

a) Which parts of His creation do you enjoy most? Why?

b) How does pondering and enjoying the wonders of God’s creation influence your thinking about who God is and who you are?

12) Is there anything you have consciously (or subconsciously) considered God incapable of changing or helping you with? Allow God to speak to you about this as you read Genesis 2:1 and Isaiah 51:12-16. Then write out your response to Him about whatever you hear Him telling you (sharing your answer in your discussion group will be voluntary).

Reread Genesis 2:2-3.

13) Read Colossians 1:16-17 (especially 17b) and Hebrews 1:3a. Considering the complete and ongoing dependence of God’s creation on Him, in what sense did God “rest” on the seventh day?

14) What do you learn about the purpose of the Sabbath from Genesis 2:3, Exodus 20:8-11, Isaiah 58:13-14, Matthew 12:1-12, Mark 2:27-28, and Hebrews 4:1-11?

15) How could you make the gift of the Sabbath more meaningful for yourself and anyone else in your household?