

THE PERFECT CREATION

Lesson Aim: To learn where we came from and what we are to do in God's perfect creation.

Suggestion: Have the students read the Scriptures and answer the questions in the student lesson and insert the following questions where they fit the lesson for class discussion.

God made Adam and Eve in His image and in his likeness to have fellowship with them. He also gave them the authority to rule over the earth that He had just created. Adam was the "king" and Eve was the "queen." Adam also was to take care of the Garden of Eden. It was an enjoyable task. "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion . . . over all the earth . . ." (Gen 1:26).

What evidence do we have in Genesis 1 that God is more than one person and yet is one?

The name of God (Elohim) means He is strong; it fits His creation of heaven and earth out of nothing. It is a plural noun: the "im" at the end of a noun in Hebrew is like an "s" in English. It indicates that God is more than one person. This is evident in Gen 1:26 where God says, "Let **us** make man in **our** image, after **our** likeness." However, in Gen 1:27 it shows God is one: "God created man in **his** own image." God is three persons (Mt 3:16-17), but they are identical in essence, making them one God (Deut 6:4). So when the Holy Spirit lives in a believer, it is almighty God living in him! How awesome is that?

Why was the Spirit moving upon or hovering over the face of the waters (Gen 1:2)?

The Hebrew verb can be translated "brooding," which is what a hen does when she lays on her eggs to warm them and bring life to the chicks in the eggs. It also refers to the protection that a hen gives to her chicks by covering them with her wings. That is what the Spirit was doing in creation and that is what He does in making us new creatures in Christ (Jn 3:5-8; 2 Cor 5:17).

Why is it foolish for Christians to believe any type of "scientific evolution"?

1. It removes the glory of Christ's work of creation, done in six literal days (Ex 20:11), not ages. 2. He made heaven and earth out of nothing -- no pre-existing materials. 3. He made the earth first and then the sun -- opposite of evolution. 4. He made fruit-bearing trees before He made bees to pollinate them-- contrary to evolution. 5. He made birds and fish on the same day -- evolution says fish came first. 6. He said that everything He made was good -- not the survival of the fittest as evolution says.

What does it mean that man was made in the image and likeness of God (Gen 1:26-27)?

Adam was made with God's spiritual attributes, such as of knowledge, righteousness and true holiness (Col 3:10; Eph 4:24). He was a copy of Christ. This is the reason Adam had intimate fellowship with God. The image of God was lost in Adam's Fall, but is being restored to believers as they become more like Christ. That image will be fully restored to all believers when they see Christ (1 Jn 3:1-3).

What does it mean that Adam was given dominion over every living thing on earth (Gen 1:28)?

It means he was the king of the earth. He was the ruler of the earth and all living things, including sons and daughters that would be born to him. They would obey him and this would bring glory to God. He would be king of the earth forever if he would not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

How is the rest of God after His creation like the rest of Jesus after His crucifixion (Gen 1:31)?

God rested from His work of creation because it was finished and He saw that it was good. Jesus rested from His work of salvation because it was finished and He knew it was good (Jn 19:30; Heb

4:10). Believers can rest in the salvation that Jesus provides and will find that it is good when they are under attack (Heb 4:11).

How should we treat God's commands?

God commanded Adam not to eat of the tree of knowledge or he would surely die (Gen 2:16-17). Jesus commanded believers to be His witnesses to all nations or they will be responsible for their blood (Acts 1:8; 20:26-27; Ezk 3:17-19). Believers need to be ready always to witness for Christ so the Spirit can use our words to convict unbelievers of sin, righteousness and judgment (Jn 16:7-11).

Why was Eve created (Gen 2:18-21)?

God said it was not good for man to be alone, so He brought animals and birds to Adam so he could name them. The reason that God did this was to show Adam that none of them would be a suitable helper for him. So God put Adam to sleep and He took a rib or a part of his side to make Eve and then brought her to Adam. Someone has said that God did not take a bone from Adam's head to rule over his wife, nor did He take a bone from his foot to trample on her, but He took a bone from his side that he might love and care for her. It is noteworthy that God only made one wife for Adam. Polygamy was man's corrupted concept of marriage.

What is good counsel for a successful marriage (Gen 2:24)?

A man should leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife and they shall be one flesh. It is not wise to live with the parents of either partner. They need to separate from their parents and make their own home under the leadership of God.

It is worthy of notice that the word for "one" flesh is *ehud* in the Hebrew. It is the same word that is used for "one" LORD in Deuteronomy 6:4. Since Adam and Eve were two persons and one flesh, so the LORD can be three persons and one God.