

TEXT: Genesis 1:26-2:3

Meaning: God created mankind in His image and placed him in a world perfectly suited for life.

Big Idea: God made mankind on purpose for a purpose.

Objective: I want the hearers to understand the purpose of their existence

Theme: Implications

CREATION – WHAT IS YOUR PURPOSE?

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How do we know God exists? The greatest evidence is in creation itself. The beauty, complexity, and specificity of the world God made and of mankind proves there is a God behind it all.

The evolutionist and the atheist claim SOMETHING came from NOTHING. To be honest I can't logically get my mind around that. SOMETHING came from NO THING. The systems and processes of the natural world certainly seem to suggest that EVERYTHING COMES FROM SOMETHING. A plant comes from a seed. An animal reproduces another animal. Human life comes from existing human life. It seems clear that EVERYTHING COMES FROM SOMETHING.

Today we continue our series, UNDER OATH, and in this series we are looking at truth – the truth of the Scriptures. The purpose is to arm us with truth so that we will defend the faith.

1 Peter 3:15

but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth

Genesis 1:27 – God created man in His own image, in the image of God he created him, male and female He created them.

God made you ON PURPOSE FOR A PURPOSE. We were made BY GOD FOR GOD. We are not random accidents of some arbitrary natural process. That means you have VALUE and are ONE OF A KIND. What is your purpose? You'll find it in CHRIST!

Jeremiah 1:5

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." The big question today is

WHAT IS YOUR PURPOSE?

READ GENESIS 1:26-2:3

Some people will make the statement that they believe in science not the Scriptures when it comes to the origin of all things. Science and the Scriptures are not mutually exclusive of one another. Science does not contradict the Scriptures. In fact, there are Ph. D. level scientists: astronomers, astrologers, biologists, archaeologists and others who have provided incredible evidence to the creation account.

IS THE CREATION ACCOUNT JUST A POEM?

Some argue that this section of Scripture is simply a poetic way to describe the general truth that God made the world. In other words, we should not take Genesis 1-2 literally, we should only adhere to the main idea that God is the progenitor of life. I would argue that if the Scriptural explanation of creation is allegorical then how do we know the Scriptural explanation of salvation isn't allegorical? If I can't trust God's account of CREATION then how can I trust His teaching on SALVATION.

Church, the Bible is not a SCIENCE BOOK, however, when scripture talks about science we can TRUST THE BOOK.

Which leads to another criticism of the creation account some have...

WAS THE EARTH MADE IN 6 DAYS?

I believe that it was. Some argue that the word "day" here, which is the word "YOM" in the Hebrew could mean something much different than a literal 24-hour period. It could mean millions of years even. As we read this passage we all would agree that the word "day" here is speaking of a definitive amount of time. Moses talks about the first day, the second day, the third day, and so on and so forth. We all would agree that throughout the pages of Scripture when the Word day is used it is used the overwhelming majority of the time to refer to a 24 hour period. If it is referred to as a definite amount of time and it is most often used to speak of a 24-hour period why would we interpret it different here?

Also, consider chapter 2 verse 3 which says God blessed the seventh day and made it holy because He rested from His work. When it says God blessed the seventh day is it more logical to believe that He blessed a 1,000 or a 10,000 or a 1,000,000 year period or that He blessed the sabbath day and set it aside as a day of rest for mankind?

In Exodus 20, we have the famous 10 commandments. Thou shall not steal, thou shall not kill, thou shall not bear false witness, thou shall not commit adultery, and so on and so forth. In verses 8-11 of that chapter Scriptures says that the Lord Himself spoke directly to Moses and said, "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days you shall do your labor but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord and on it you shall do no work....For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth....and rested on the seventh day."

Did the Hebrew people take this to mean a literal 7th day or just a figurative 7th day? They understood it to mean every 7th day they

were not to work but to worship and rest. This seems to be the obvious meaning of that text.

While belief in a literal 6 day creation and 7th day rest is not required for salvation, it seems as though the most straight forward understanding of the Scripture lends itself to this.

Consider the words of Jesus.....

Matthew 12:30

Whoever is not with me is against me

Mark 10:17-31

Rich young guy asks Jesus, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said, "go sell all you possess, give it to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven and come follow me."

So, Jesus said you either surrender all or you don't know Him at all.

HOW DID GOD MAKE THE WORLD?

OUT OF NOTHING

The term is ex-nihilo, from nothing. The Lord neither used nor needed any prior substance with which to create. He is the ultimate cause of all things.

Hebrews 11:3

By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

BY HIS POWER

Jeremiah 10:12

It is He who made the earth by His power,
Who established the world by His wisdom;

And by His understanding He has stretched out the heavens.

FOR HIS GLORY

Romans 11:36

For **from him** and **through him** and to **him** are all things. To **him** be glory forever.

What are the implications of creation?

God is FOR SOME THINGS:

GOD IS PRO-LIFE

This is not a political statement. I say this simply based on the fact that God created man and animals and nature and gave everything life. God is not for death, destruction, war, or disease. Mankind has brought these things into God's world through our sin, our disobedience to Him.

John 10:10

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

GOD IS PRO-FAMILY

God made man and woman and told them to "be fruitful and multiply."

Our culture says that your gender is an expression of your sexuality. The Bible teaches the opposite. Scripture teaches that your sexuality is an expression of your gender. If you are biologically male, if you have male reproductive organs then you were made to have sex with females. And God says that the most healthy sexuality is between one man and one woman within the bounds of a legally and spiritually binding covenant called marriage.

Our first impact is made on the world is through our homes. A Christ exalting marriage is a display of God's love for His Church. Raising

our children in the ways of the Lord extends the glory of God's Kingdom on this earth.

GOD IS PRO-EARTH

This is the world God made and we should take care of it. I don't spend my time researching climate change.

GOD IS PRO-MANKIND

God is for mankind. The big question for me in terms of creation is why would an all powerful, all knowing, all sufficient, everlasting, and triune God make mankind?

Why did God make mankind? Simply out of His benevolent transcendence. He wanted to shower His love upon other beings – that's the best scriptural explanation I can give you this morning.

Ezekiel 33:10

As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live

God is also AGAINST SOME THINGS:

GOD IS ANTI-EXCUSES

Mankind was created in the image of God, and God breathed in us the breath of life. Though we have sinned against Him our God sent His Son Jesus to rescue us from sin and give us new life.

Romans 1:20

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.

GOD IS ANTI-NARCISSISM

With creation comes this sense of collective responsibility. All are made in God's image, so we have a responsibility to one another. Also, with creation comes this sense of ultimate authority and accountability – I AM NOT MY OWN.

Philippians 2:3

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

God made the devil – originally an angel of God with a defined role in the cosmos. Yet the devil wanted to be worshipped as God, so he rebelled and was cast out of heaven.

Living for my own glory is DEVIL STUFF.

We were made BY GOD FOR GOD

We were made ON PURPOSE FOR A PURPOSE

God has supernatural stuff in store for your life – but you have to surrender to the supernatural, specifically to Jesus as Lord, in order to fulfill this purpose

WHAT IS YOUR PURPOSE?

Rick Warren Purpose Driven Life

Rick Warren writes in "The Purpose Driven Life," "I have been at the bedside of many people in their final moments, when they stand on the edge of eternity, and I have never heard anyone say, "Bring me my diplomas! I want to look at them one more time. Show me my awards, my medals, that gold watch I was given." When life on earth is ending, people don't surround themselves with objects. What we want around us is people – people we love and have relationships with. In our final moments we all realize that relationships are what life is all about. Wisdom is learning that truth sooner rather than later. Don't wait until you're on your deathbed to figure out that nothing matters more."