

ONE STORY | ONE SAVIOR - UNIT 1 | LESSON 03

The Pentateuch – The Promise Given Through the Royal Gift Covenant

God is a PROMISE Making God




God 1) **CREATES** a place where 2) He will **MEET** with his People 3) for their **JOY**. 4) His People reject Him. 5) God binds Himself through **PROMISE (i.e. The Royal Gift Covenant)** to 6) **RESCUE** His people from their sin and 7) **RESTORE** them to Himself for their **JOY**.

ILLUSTRATION – Think of a beautiful piece of art or a carefully crafted piece of furniture. When you see the work, you think of the artisan’s abilities. You marvel that such a piece could be made. Such is the case with humanity. Our beauty and carefully designed bodies reflect the artisan’s abilities; which, in our case, is God. God made us so that we would know Him.

“God’s Good People”

Genesis 1:26-2:25

“Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.”

	<p>THE HEAD - To Know how humanity is the pinnacle of God’s creative activity. Q – If we are the top of God’s creative activity, how does this change our relationship to our environment?</p>
	<p>THE HEART - To Choose the Bible’s account of our place inside of the created universe. Q – How are we suppose to “till the soil and fill the earth” as individuals in a local church?</p>
	<p>THE HAND - To Pray we will obey all that God has said. Q – What are the kinds of activities we might engage in as we “steward” our world’s resources as those who have dominion over it?</p>

EMPHASIS

Within creation, God created in Eden a Garden where He would encounter Adam and Eve for their joy.

God made us to reflect Him in His world. We are an “icon” of God. To see us is to see God’s handiwork. He made us so that we can know and experience the joy He has within Himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and this joy is only known and experienced in His presence. This joy is known and experienced as we continue to listen to His voice through His Word.

God created Adam and Eve in His image so *that* they might know and experience the joy God has within Himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Everything created serves this singular purpose.

- In Genesis 1:1-25, God creates the “room” where He will meet His people.

- In Genesis 1:26ff, God creates His people in His image so that they might meet Him.
- The entire *Story* centers on this singular idea.
- The God whom Adam and Eve will meet is JESUS.
- This meeting is for the joy of His people.

LITERARY CONTEXT

The immediate context of Genesis 1 is before humanity's rebellion against God and the rejection of His purpose. After the Fall, the SEED PROMISE will restore us to what we had in the Garden of Eden. Although there is no shedding of blood in the Garden as of yet for the atoning of sin, Jesus still mediates between the Father and His people.

In our *Story* there is an emotional build up. We are expecting Adam and Eve to obey and listen to God for their own joy and for the joy of all creation. What happens next is tragic . . .

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Moses writes this historical account of humanity's origin to show his audience how they fit into God's Story and what their role is in it. He wrote these hundreds, if not thousands, of years after the original creation of all things.

BIBLICAL CONTEXT

In the Old Testament, there is a city named "Adam" (Joshua 3:16). Adam's genealogy occurs in 1 Chronicles 1:1 and Job references Adam's failure in Job 31:33. The Word from God to Adam is said to be a covenant [or contract / an agreement] between the two of them (Hosea 6:7) of which Adam was in violation of.

In the New Testament, Eve is known as one who was deceived by the serpent (2 Cor. 11:3) and in her relation to Adam (1 Tim. 2:13).

We will further explore the use of Adam and Jesus when we come to the GOSPEL section of our study.

STRUCTURE

I. God created you and me [humanity] in HIS IMAGE (Gen. 1:26, 27)

- ²⁶ Then God said, "**Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.** And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

- ²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Being created in God's image means we correspond to Him. We can relate to Him. Although there is an unchanging and eternal Creator/creature distinction between God and us, we can have an intentional and experiential relationship with one another and with God.

Although we like our pets and toys and many other created things, nothing but other people correspond to us. Only with others do we find the type of happiness that God designed us to know and experience.

To reject God's image in humanity, humanity divides people based on gender and color and culture and cheapens life where life becomes disposable. Many of society's ills are due to a rejection of God's divine design for humanity.

II. God created you and me [humanity] to *fill* and *till* the earth (Gen. 1:28-2:15)

- ²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, "**Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over** the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

ILLUSTRATION – if I show you a hammer, you know what the purpose of the hammer is. If I show you a screwdriver, you know what the purpose of the screwdriver is. Those created objects serve their purpose by doing what they were designed to do. This is no less true concerning you and me. We have a purpose for which God designed us.

God desires for His people to have families and to extend the boundaries of the Garden of Eden until the entire earth is covered with His presence and thus, glory.

This "filling and tilling" was done through Adam and Eve, then through the Nation of Israel, and finally, through the Local Church. It is through Adam and Eve, through the Nation of Israel, and through the local church that God's glory spreads over the entire world like the waters covering the sea.

As we see each other as "icons" of God, His glory is seen and His glory spreads. Adam and Eve's dominion over creation is seen in Adam naming the animals in chapter two.

III. God created you and me [humanity] to *obey* His Word (Gen. 2:16-17)

- ¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. ¹⁶ And **the LORD God commanded the man**, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

God expected them [and us] to listen to Him. As those who are created in God's image, we can listen to Him and obey His Word to us.

IV. God created you and me [humanity] with everything needed to *keep* His Word (Gen. 2:18-25)

Humanity has no excuse *not to obey God*. Obedience is the natural and normal consequence of hearing God's voice and being in His presence. When Adam and Eve sinned against God, they did so willingly.

ILLUSTRATION – a hammer and a screwdriver each have a purpose. They are designed to fulfill their purpose. You and I are designed to fulfill our purpose, which is to obey God.

JESUS IN THE TEXT

God made a world that was good. God placed in that world people who were good. Yet, they chose to disobey their Creator and God. Romans 5:12-21 says **where Adam failed, Jesus would succeed**. Jesus is identified in the New Testament as the "second" or "last" Adam (1 Cor. 15:45). Adam is a type of the one who would come (Rom. 5:14).

Adam represented us. He acted and spoke in our behalf. Tragically so, he failed and he failed BIG. Thankfully, our gracious and merciful God, gave us another representative. A second Adam of which the first was a type. Jesus is our representative. He acts and speaks in our behalf. It is for this reason; the New Testament identifies Jesus as our mediator (1 Timothy 2:5) and our advocate (1 John 2:1).

Jesus is the perfect Adam who does for us what we could never do for ourselves. Thankfully, Jesus acts and speaks in our behalf before the Father. In Him, we are fully accepted and loved by the Father.

APPLICATION

God designed you to long for Him. We often attempt to answer this longing by turning to the shadow, but only God can answer the invitation He extends. Jesus is our only answer to life's most perplexing question.

- **"You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you."** *St. Augustine's Confessions (Lib 1, 1-2, 2.5, 5; CSEL 33, 1-5)*

The joy God designed us to know and experience is only known and experienced in community. First and foremost, with God, and then in the community called the local church. Learn to see the local church gathering as a place of encounter and joy.

- Heb. 10:25 And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

VISUALS

MEMORY VERSE

Genesis 1:26

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

RESOURCES