

January 1

Scriptures: Read Genesis 1 & 2

Key Verse: “So God created man in His own image...”(Genesis 1:27)

Overview

In these first two chapters of the Bible, we come to understand how the world and all that is in it came into being. Our all powerful God created everything there is out of nothing. He merely spoke the word and it was. In fact, all His marvelous creation was found to be “very Good” (Gen. 1:31)

Mankind was the grande finale, the crown and climax of His creation. Only with the creation of the first man and woman did there proceed a divine counsel and an announcement showing the dignity, high position, and importance of mankind (Gen. 1:26). Although all the animals and birds were formed out of the ground (Gen. 2:9), it was only man into whose nostrils God breathed the breath of life (Gen. 2:7). Thus the human race was made in the image of God. What kind of image was this? Was it a physical likeness? Most certainly not, for God is Spirit and does not have physical parts like a man.

(1) It was a mental likeness. God endowed mankind with the gift of reason, conscience, and will, making him a free agent.

(2) It was a moral likeness. Adam and Eve were made righteous and holy and were therefore able to have communion with God. This moral likeness of sinlessness was lost when Adam and Eve exercised their free will and fell into sin. From then on, mankind suffered the loss of a holy and righteous nature. We are now born with a sinful nature, but through faith in Jesus Christ, we can be renewed to this original likeness of God (Romans 3:21-24); Colossians 3:10; Ephesians 4:23, 24). This is called spiritual regeneration or the process of sanctification.

(3) It was a social likeness. God has a social nature, and He created people to have fellowship with Him. God gave them a social nature as will; consequently, human beings seek for and need fellowship and love. The most fulfilling fellowship is that which we have with God. God loves you and desires that you would love Him and daily commune with Him in prayer.

(4) It was a ruler ship likeness. Mankind has a similarity to God at least partially fulfilled in his having been created to rule over the earth. Just as God is sovereign over all, man was intended to share in this dominion by God’s will.

What an honor it is to be made in the image of God. It should make us desire to bring glory to our Maker. Each human life is very important and worthy of respect. You are important to God and He sent His Son Jesus into the world so that through Him you might be saved, restored, and brought into communion together.

Prayer

Lord, be glorified in our lives. Thank You for salvation restoration and communion. Change us, Lord, from “glory to glory” until we are conformed to Your image. (2 Corinthians 3:18)