



“BUILDING BLOCKS: ADAM LOST A RIB”

The formation of the cosmos. The beginning of time. The formation of sky, sea, land, vegetation, animals. The image of God through man. Creation. Where our beliefs begin.



Today's Scripture:

Genesis 1:1; Romans 1:18-21

The Word

Genesis 1:1

¹ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Verse 1: In the Word of God the first thing we learn about God is that He created the heavens and the earth. We do not learn about His love first. Instead, we learn about His power. Why would He choose to reveal Himself this way? It testifies about Himself even to those who do not have the Word.

Romans 1:18-21

¹⁸The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

²¹For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Verse 18-21: The “proof” of God is creation. While scientist do all they can to say that there is no God, the evidence of the Lord is seen all about us. Everything about us shows the “eternal power and divine nature” of our God. These two attributes are what He first wants us to understand about Him.

I am about to make a poor illustration. But I want you to think about the superheroes that children look up to. I know a child who has spiderman plastered all over his room. What attracts this little boy to spiderman? If you ask him he would say, “It is so cool how he can climb walls and beat the bad guys!” He has a power (climb walls) and a nature (good, compared to the bad guys). That attracts the boy to him. God is the superhero of the universe. He wants to attract our imagination. His power created the universe! No power can top that. His nature is divine. It is “other”. It is not of this world. It is “other” worldly. It is above us.

Yet this power and nature which is beyond us decided to create us! Imagine the girl at the end of every action movie. She has been rescued from danger by the superhero. She appreciates him and is in awe of what he did for her. How much more awe should the God who formed us receive? His “superpower” allows for our very existence.

The first sentence of the Word of God is meant to capture our hearts, our minds, our imaginations. It is to be “wowed” by the Lord. Sometimes we read these words without the wonder they should evoke. But think like a child. They get so excited at zoos. They love the animals. The toddler will point out a tree with glee. Mountains are amazing the way they keep going into the sky. Clouds moved by the wind are fun to watch. Some of babies first words are animal names. They understand the amazement of creation.

We are the children of God. Whether we are eight or eighty, God wrote the Word with children in mind. He wants us to be captured by the wonder of it all. Read it again.

Genesis 1:1

¹In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Verse 1: This time, do not let it just be words on a page. Instead, have your sense of wonder aroused. Your God, Your Hero, made the heavens and the earth.

Up Close and Personal

Praise God for His eternal power and divine nature.

Spend time pondering Genesis 1:1. If possible go outside and view nature. Afterwards, write down your thoughts about the revelation of God through His creation.

How can the sense of awe and wonder about the power of God be revived in our hearts?

DAY
2

Today's Scripture:

Genesis 1:1-2:1, 2:4-15; Ephesians 2:28, 6:5-8; 2 Thessalonians 3:10-12

The Word

God's creative work lasted six days. Read the account of all He did.

Genesis 1:1-2:1

¹In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

²Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

³And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴God saw that the light was good, and He separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

⁶And God said, "Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate water from water." ⁷So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above it. And it was so. ⁸God called the expanse "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.

⁹And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good.

¹¹Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. ¹²The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. ¹³And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.

¹⁴And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth, ¹⁸to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day.

²⁰And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky." ²¹So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²²God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth." ²³And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.

²⁴And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so. ²⁵God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

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

²⁸God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

²⁹Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. ³⁰And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food." And it was so.

³¹God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

¹Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.

Verse 1-1: God had worked six days in creating the earth. His crowning achievement was when He created man. For there was a special purpose in this creation, he was made in the image of God. Part of reflecting that image is working as God is working. God created the earth. God created man. He joined the two of them together through work.

Genesis 2:4-15

⁴ This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

When the LORD God made the earth and the heavens- ⁵ and no shrub of the field had yet appeared on the earth and no plant of the field had yet sprung up, for the LORD God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no man to work the ground, ⁶ but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground- ⁷ the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

⁸Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. ⁹ And the LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁰A river watering the garden flowed from Eden; from there it was separated into four headwaters. ¹¹The name of the first is the Pishon; it winds through the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold. ¹²(The gold of that land is good; aromatic resin and onyx are also there.) ¹³The name of the second river is the Gihon; it winds through the entire land of Cush. ¹⁴ The name of the third river is the Tigris; it runs along the east side of Asshur. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

¹⁵The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

Verse 4-15: God had worked six days in creating the earth. Man was not created to lounge around and just enjoy the benefits of this creation. Instead, Adam was to labor. This is the Garden of Eden, before the curse of the ground. There were no thorns or thistles. However, work was involved. It was divinely appointed. God Himself put Adam over caring for the garden.

We live in a day and age where work is not appreciated. Most people work only to receive a paycheck. Many long to be rich so that they do not have to work. Retirement is looked forward to so that work is no longer needed. Some people refuse to work and instead receive benefits from others in society who do work. Our culture has formed the idea that work is “bad” and days off are “good”. The slogan is T.G.I.F. not T.G.I.M. (Thank God it’s Monday).

Work was created by God. When we work, we are reflecting His work ethic. He calls work “good”. It is those who do not work who are rebuked by the Lord.

Ephesians 4:28

²⁸He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.

Verse 28: “Stealing” in this verse refers to taking something you do not earn. This is beyond shoplifting but also getting money without laboring for it. We are called to work. Our work is not just so that we can get a paycheck. Instead, our wages are to care for our needs as well as the needs of others.

This shows us the heart of work. Our work is not to “get ahead in this world”. It should not be motivated to have a more expensive vacation. To have the latest technology, biggest house, or newest car is not the purpose either. Instead our work reflects God. He worked to provide for us. Our work should have the desire to provide for others.

Not working is detrimental not only to ourselves but also to others.

2 Thessalonians 3:10-12

¹⁰For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "If a man will not work, he shall not eat."

¹¹We hear that some among you are idle. They are not busy; they are busybodies. ¹²Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the bread they eat.

Verse 10-12: Lack of working proves an undisciplined life. It shows that a person has no self-control. Also, it leads to creating havoc for others.

Some of you have tuned this Bible study out. You have a job so you think you are working. However, remember this. Our work is beyond going to a job but doing a good job.

Ephesians 6:5-8

⁵Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. ⁶Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. ⁷Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, ⁸because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free.

Verse 5-8: You are to perform well at work. Whether the boss is watching you or not, your work should be of the highest quality. For you have a greater purpose in your work than an unbeliever. They work for the money. You work for God Himself, the creator of work.

Up Close and Personal

Ask the Lord to help you to represent His work ethic in whatever you do.

How can we begin viewing work as good?

Often we feel like work keeps us away from spending time with God. Yet, the Lord created us for work. So, how can work draw us closer to the Lord?

In what ways can your income benefit the need of others?

How do you need to change your work habits so that you are performing the best job possible for your employer as well as for your Lord?

DAY 3

The Word

Today's Scripture:

Genesis 2:16-24, 3:1-7; Luke 2:4-7; Romans 5:12, 17-21; Revelation 19:7-8; 1 Corinthians 15:20-22; John 8:44

We are going to embark on a journey of symbolism. Through Scripture we are going to connect the first Adam with the second Adam. This will enable us to understand the plan of God for salvation before the world began.

Genesis 2:18-24

¹⁸ *The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."*

¹⁹ *Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field.*

But for Adam no suitable helper was found. ²¹ So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. ²² Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

²³ *The man said,
"This is now bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called 'woman,'
for she was taken out of man."*

²⁴ *For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.*

Verse 18-24: Adam was surrounded by animals. His parent, God Himself, was there as well. Adam was just beginning life, having been formed by the hand of God. Thousands of years later, the second Adam would experience some of the same things.

Luke 2:4-7

⁴So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Verse 4-7: Jesus, formed by God Himself in the womb of Mary, was just beginning life. He was born in a barn surrounded by animals. His parents were there. The second Adam had entered the world.

Not only were there beginnings similar, they also shared a world-wide responsibility. Both Adam and Jesus were given tasks that would affect everyone. The first Adam failed his task, the second Adam redeemed the first.

Genesis 2:16-17, 3:1-7

¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."...

¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³ but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.' "

⁴ "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

Verse 16-17, 1-7: The one thing that Adam was told not to do, he did. Thus, sin entered the world. Everyone born of Adam would be born with a sin nature.

Romans 5:12

¹²Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned—

Verse 12: Adam's sin caused a plague to enter the world. Only perfection could stop what he began. The second Adam gives us the opportunity for eternal life.

Romans 5:17-21

¹⁷For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men. ¹⁹For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

²⁰The law was added so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, ²¹so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Verse 17-21: Whereas the first Adam sinned, the second Adam was perfect. Through Jesus we can have eternal life. The picture of this redemption is found back in Genesis.

Genesis 2:21-22

²¹ So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. ²² Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

Verse 21-22: From the deep sleep of Adam, woman was formed. Throughout the Word of God, the people of God are referred to in a feminine sense. The ultimate example of this is found in Revelation.

Revelation 19:7-8

*⁷Let us rejoice and be glad
and give him glory!
For the wedding of the Lamb has come,
and his bride has made herself ready.*

*⁸Fine linen, bright and clean,
was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)*

Verse 7-8: The bride is the church. Where did the church come from? Just as Eve was formed out of the deep sleep of Adam, the church came from the "deep sleep"

(literally death) of Jesus. The deep sleep of Adam produced life for Eve. The death of Jesus produced eternal life for the church.

1 Corinthians 15:20-22

²⁰But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. ²²For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

Verse 20-22: The first Adam brought physical life and also physical death. The second Adam brought spiritual life that lasts for eternity! All of us have been born of the first Adam. But we must choose to be born of the second Adam. It is a choice, just as the choice of whom to marry.

Genesis 2:24

²⁴For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

Verse 24: In the physical world, we choose to leave our parents and marry the person of our choice. The same is true spiritually. Before you choose the Lord, your parent is satan.

John 8:44

⁴⁴You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Verse 44: You must choose to leave the evil one and marry your righteous Husband, Jesus Christ. The decision is yours.

Adam and Eve illustrate the beauty between Christ and His church. Is the symbolism a reality in your life?

Up Close and Personal

Praise the second Adam whose death birthed in you eternal life.

What did you learn about the first and second Adam?

Why is it important to understand the connection between Adam and Jesus?

How do we leave our father (satan) and be joined together with Jesus?

DAY 4

The Word

Today's Scripture:

Genesis 2:1-3; Exodus 20:8-11, 35:2, 34:21

What comes to mind when you hear the word “rest”? Do you think of a day off, or maybe a long nap, or just having a time of peace and quiet? The Word of God teaches the true meaning of rest. God Himself is the example for us.

Genesis 2:1-3

¹ Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.

² By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. ³ And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

Verse 1-3: God had worked six days creating the earth. The first thing that we learn about rest is that it is only justified if you work. True rest is appreciated if you labor on the other days. If you are lazy throughout the week, then you will not understand true rest. Rest is a time of taking time off from the work that you do.

Another truth that we can learn about rest is that it is sanctified. In other words, the day has been “set apart”. This day has been made holy by the Lord. In fact, it is a command for us to follow.

Exodus 20:8-11

⁸ "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

Verse 8-11: God is serious about this day of rest. I am going to be blunt: if you refuse to take a day of rest, you are sinning against the Lord. He created a day of rest for us. He did not need the rest, the Lord God Almighty never needs it. Instead, He set an

example for us. We need to rest. We need time to recover from our week. We need time to get our priorities back in order.

While not taking time to rest is a sin, so is abusing the day of rest. We are not to justify our rest as “vacation” or “shopping” or “time to run our errands”. True rest does not encompass any of these things. True rest is spiritual in nature. When God rested, He reflected on the creative work that He had accomplished. Our time of rest is to take time to reflect on the work that God has allowed us to complete that week. It is to appreciate the fact that He has enabled us to do whatever it is that we did. We are to give Him praise and honor for the work that He did through us. Rest has a divine purpose. It is to draw our hearts and minds back to the Creator. During the week our lives get distracted by deadlines, appointments, rehearsals, practices, projects, meetings, and so much more. Rest brings us back to God, to remind us that every event during our week should have an eternal purpose. It is to thank Him for all He has done for us that week.

In our days of busy lives, we forget the importance of this command. We do not take it seriously. But God does.

Exodus 35:2

²For six days, work is to be done, but the seventh day shall be your holy day, a Sabbath of rest to the LORD. Whoever does any work on it must be put to death.

Verse 2: Lack of rest is a serious offense to God. Please understand that God created rest for you. It is something that is good for both your physical and spiritual health. But it is not something to be overlooked, even during hectic times of our lives.

Exodus 34:21

²¹ "Six days you shall labor, but on the seventh day you shall rest; even during the plowing season and harvest you must rest.

Verse 21: We are without excuse. We were made to rest. The gift of rest has been given to us. We need to accept it each week.

Up Close and Personal

Ask the Lord to help you to honor a day of rest.

What is the biblical understanding of “rest”. How did it differ from your thoughts on it?

What is the value of this time of rest?

How can you begin having a time of rest each week?



Today's Scripture:

Genesis 1:28; Ephesians 3:14; John 3:1-8; Matthew 28:18-20; Revelation 7:9-10

The Word

Adam and Eve together were given a huge task: to populate the earth!

Genesis 1:28

²⁸God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

Verse 28: The Lord created the family. The idea of parents with children originated with Him. He enjoys family life for He Himself fulfills the role of a Father.

Ephesians 3:14

¹⁴For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name.

Verse 14: How do we derive the name of God? We must accept Him as our Father. Then, we are born of Him.

John 3:1-8

¹Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. ²He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him."

³In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

⁴"How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!"

⁵Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. ⁶Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' ⁸The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

Verse 1-8: When we are born of God then we are given a similar task as Adam and Eve. They were to expand the physical population of the earth. We are called to expand the spiritual population of the earth.

Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Verse 18-20: On the authority of Jesus Christ, we have been commissioned to tell others how they may be born into the kingdom of God. Then, the family of God will grow throughout the earth!

Revelation 7:9-10

⁹After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.

¹⁰And they cried out in a loud voice:

*"Salvation belongs to our God,
who sits on the throne,
and to the Lamb."*

Up Close and Personal

Ask the Lord to help you to fulfill the "great commission" of telling others how they may be born again.

Who are some people with whom you have shared how they might become children of God?

Who are you praying for that needs to become born of God?

What role can you play in helping others discover their need to be “born again”?