

### III. What does this mean to us?

- A. Being in God's image means subduing the earth so that God's benevolence provides for His people.
  
- B. God's Sabbath was coming to dwell with His people which refreshed Him, so man's Sabbath is dwelling in God's presence with His people which is our refreshing.
  
- C. This tears down the separation between the secular and the sacred. There is, in effect, no such thing as secular.

#### LIVE THE STORY

*The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community. The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.*

- In Genesis 1, God by His word set the entire cosmos in order. Looking ahead, when did this order begin to unravel and why? What does this suggest to the Israelite that hears this as they come out of Egypt and make their way to the Promise Land?
- If God made the world so that he could dwell with man and take His place on His throne, what might this tell us about our purposes? ...about His engagement in the world?
- Why does understanding the purpose for which God made the world and what it means to be made in God's image, tear down the division between sacred and secular? Explain.
- What do the days of creation tell us about God's own purposes for subduing the creation? Why is mankind made in God's image and likeness? How does this inform the blessing that we are to subdue the earth?
- Why is it important to understand the goal of creation (Day 7) in order to understand what is being communicated in Days 1-6? Has this adjusted your thinking about yourself and the world?

### Genesis: Truth for Understanding Our World (Part 3)

Jerry Cisar — September 27, 2015

Text: Genesis 1:14 – 2:3

#### I. The Seventh Day (2:1-3)

- A. The focus of creation week.
  
- B. When the Israelites heard “God rested,” they would have associated it with His arrival to rule.
  - i. Psalm 132:13-14
  
  - ii. Revelation 21:1, 3, 22-26
  
- C. Creation is for God and man to commune together.
  - i. We were created for communion with God, and worship is a key element of our communion with God.
    - a) To commune with God in truth results in worship.
    - b) Where God is present with his people *is* a sanctuary.
  - ii. God's purpose in creating the world as the dwelling place of God with man is reflected in the building of both the tabernacle and the temple.
    - a) Exodus 25-30 Seven speeches
  
    - b) Exodus 35:30–36:1 God spoke, Spirit worked, It was so.
  
    - c) 1 Kings 6:38; 8:2 Temple dedication
  
- D. *God created the world to be His dwelling place with man and the throne of His Kingdom whose dominion will be exercised through His representatives in the world.*

## II. Readyng the World for God to Reside on the Throne

A. Day One (1:3-5): Time as We Know It

B. Day Two (1:6-8): Climate and Weather

C. Day Three (1:9-13): Dry Land for a Purpose

D. Day Four (1:14-19): The Cycles of Life and Worship

i. Days and years

ii. Seasons (festival celebrations)

iii. Lights

a) Is the Lord telling us that He made the world as His temple? Or that the temple was the start of a new creation?

b) He is not a distant God, but the Creator Who made the world as a place of His dwelling with man.

E. Day Five (1:20-23): Harnessing the Seas

i. The great sea creatures

Allen Ross: *The pagans worshiped the great sea creatures as dragons and monsters in rebellion that had to be subdued.... Canaan may fear and venerate them as gods, but Israel knew that they were just another part of God's perfect and harmonious creation.*

ii. God filled these once uncontrollable places with fish and birds.

F. Day Six (Genesis 1:24-31): All Creatures on Land

i. God filled the earth with animals. (24-25)

ii. Man in the Image of God (26-31)

a) This is all about the divine purpose for human life.

➤ God He filled His sanctuary and dwelling place with His image by making man.

➤ Kings set up images of themselves throughout their lands to show the extent of their reign.

➤ Man is given dominion because being in God's image he is a living representation of God's rule over creation. Where we are, God's reign is to be.

➤ We are made to rule over creation for the same reason God ruled over it: to extend the benevolent rule of our God to His people.

b) Both male and female are created in God's image and are given the ability to multiply beings, as it were, *create* other beings in His image.

**The world was created with a purpose:** to be the dwelling of God with man, the place of His rule.

**We were created with a purpose:** to extend His benevolent reign to one another and to rule over the rest of creation in a way that keeps it ordered for the benefit of God's kingdom.