

God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. (Genesis 1:27-28a)

Lord of all creation, you are the source of all good gifts and you graciously sustain the created order. Thank you for tasking us with caring for the world you love. May we be good stewards of the earth and of all that you have so generously given us. We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Introduction

In the first chapter of the Bible, we hear how God created the heavens and the earth by the power of his Word. As the crown of his creation, God made humankind in his own image. He gave them a garden in which to live and work as his stewards.

Read: Genesis 1:26-29, 2:4-15

On reading these verses, what are some of your initial impressions and questions? What stands out to you?

The Biblical Context

The first five books of the Bible are known as the Pentateuch (pronounced: PENT-ah-tewk) — meaning “the five scrolls.” These books are Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

The Bible begins with the story of Creation. These chapters describe the very beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth and made every living creature to be his own. The creation stories also speak of how sin entered the world in humanity’s Fall from grace in the Garden of Eden.

These archetypal stories illustrate God’s relationship to the things he has made. We hear not only about God’s work in the natural world, but also about God’s relationship with us as human beings.

Discussion Questions

1. On what day of creation were human beings created? What else was created that same day? What might this tell us about ourselves?
2. What was unique and different about human beings and their place in creation? In whose image were we created? What do you think that means?
3. What command did God first give to humanity (1:28)? What promise did he give them (1:29)?
4. Genesis 2:4-7 focuses on how the first human was created. What two steps did God take to accomplish this? The Hebrew word for human (*‘adam*) is related to the word for earth/soil (*‘adamah*). What does this say about our human nature?
5. How did the first human come alive and become a living being? The Hebrew terms for wind, air, breath, and spirit are all the same word (*ru’ach*). In what way(s) does God’s Holy Spirit give us life?
6. How does the Bible describe the Garden of Eden? What do you imagine life was like there? What job was the man given in the garden?
7. Which of the two rivers mentioned in 2:10-15 still exist on Earth today? Why do you think this general region is known as the Cradle of Civilization?
8. According to 1 Corinthians 15:38-49, what was the nature of humanity (“the old Adam”)? What is our fate? How does the “last Adam” (Christ) give us eternal life? What will be different about us then?