

Genesis 1:26-31(NLT) - 26 Then God said, “Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.” 27 So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. 28 Then God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground.”

29 Then God said, “Look! I have given you every seed-bearing plant throughout the earth and all the fruit trees for your food. 30 And I have given every green plant as food for all the wild animals, the birds in the sky, and the small animals that scurry along the ground—everything that has life.” And that is what happened. 31 Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!

Image of God – Selem Elohim

Selem – idol or statue

Selem Elohim - A visible representation of an invisible God.

Genesis 2:4-17 (NLT) - 4 This is the account of the creation of the heavens and the earth.

The Man and Woman in Eden

When the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, 5 neither wild plants nor grains were growing on the earth. For the Lord God had not yet sent rain to water the earth, and there were no people to cultivate the soil. 6 Instead, springs came up from the ground and watered all the land. 7 Then the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man’s nostrils, and the man became a living person.

8 Then the Lord God planted a garden in Eden in the east, and there he placed the man he had made. 9 The Lord God made all sorts of trees grow up from the ground—trees that were beautiful and that produced delicious fruit. In the middle of the garden he placed the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

10 A river flowed from the land of Eden, watering the garden and then dividing into four branches. 11 The first branch, called the Pishon, flowed around the entire land of Havilah, where gold is found. 12 The gold of that land is exceptionally pure; aromatic resin and onyx stone are also found there. 13 The second branch, called the Gihon, flowed around the entire land of Cush. 14 The third branch, called the Tigris, flowed east of the land of Asshur. The fourth branch is called the Euphrates.

15 The Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it. 16 But the Lord God warned him, “You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden— 17 except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die.”

“...tend and watch over...”

The act of sacred service in upholding Creation as God intended it.

Acts 17:24-28 (NLT) - 24 “He is the God who made the world and everything in it. Since he is Lord of heaven and earth, he doesn’t live in man-made temples, 25 and human hands can’t serve his needs—for he has no needs. He himself gives life and breath to everything, and he satisfies every need. 26 From one man he created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand when they should rise and fall, and he determined their boundaries.

27 “His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him—though he is not far from any one of us. 28 For in him we live and move and exist. As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’

Humanity is placed in Creation to know God, and to make Him known.

Study Guide

This last week we started our Go! series by taking a look at the creation story and how it starts with us being placed there to know God and to make Him known. We also spoke about how we are invited to uphold Creation as God intended it. As you think about that idea, what would it look like to do that? How do you think we can actively participate in “upholding Creation”?

If we approach life as not just something for us to enjoy and benefit from, but also a thing we are commissioned to participate well in, it starts to shape how we view our engagement with the world around us really quickly. Take a moment to read Matthew 25:14-30. As you read this, how do you think it informs the way we approach life?

Often this scripture has been applied to the gifts and abilities we have been given and that is not incorrect, but it can be too limited as well. This parable here is to be applied to all we have been given. All the love. All the grace. All the time. All the energy, relationships, resources, and on and on.

Take a moment and try and view your life through the lens of being given all of these things for your benefit and so they can be stewarded well for God’s purposes. What difference do you think that could make? What ways would you change how you view your engagement with the world around you?

Take some time to pray that God would inspire and direct us in how to uphold His creation and use all he has given us for His purposes.