

THE GOSPEL STORY

Lesson 1 "Let us make man in our image"

Text Under Consideration: Genesis 1-2

Scriptural & Historical Context:

No dates are given for the events recorded in our text. By taking the genealogical information recorded in Genesis, we can know that Creation occurred at least 4000 years before the birth of Christ, but since no date is given in Scripture we would be foolish to assign one. What is affirmed throughout Scripture is that this world had a beginning; it was created by God in the span of six days (Genesis 1; Exodus 20.11; Psalm 19.1; etc.).

Key Verses & Events:

- 📖 God creates the world and all life in six days by His word.
- 📖 God creates male and female in His image (Genesis 1.26-27). Man is created from the dust of the earth (Genesis 2.7) and woman from man's rib (Genesis 2.21-22).
- 📖 Man is placed in the garden and instructed to not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2.17).
- 📖 Marriage is instituted by God (Genesis 2.24).

The Story

1. God is the all-powerful _____ who brought everything into existence by His word, and creation itself testifies to His eternal _____ and divine _____ (Romans 1.20).
2. Man is uniquely created in God's _____ (Genesis 1.26-27), setting humanity apart from all other created things.

Creation
Genesis 1-2 · Undated

The Flood
Genesis 6-9 · c. 2350 BC (trad.)

Abraham
Genesis 12-25 · c. 2000-1800 BC

The Exodus
Exodus · c. 1446 or 1270 BC

Conquest of Canaan
Joshua · c. 1406-1380 BC

David's Reign
2 Samuel · c. 1010-970 BC

Babylonian Captivity
2 Kings 25 · c. 605-539 BC

Return from Captivity
Ezra, Nehemiah · c. 538-432 BC

Life of Jesus
Gospels · c. 6/4 BC – AD 30/33

Establishment of the Church
Acts 2 · c. AD 30/33 (Pentecost)

3. The “image of God” involves God’s _____/breath being placed within man, connecting human life to the divine — and salvation would later be achieved through the giving of that same _____.
4. Man reflects God’s likeness through _____ and _____-_____, mirroring God’s own power and role as Creator (Genesis 1.28).
5. _____ is the primary aspect of God’s likeness man is called to emulate — both Testaments command, “Be holy, for I am holy” (Leviticus 11.44; 1 Peter 1.16).
6. Marriage reflects the _____ of God — just as the plural God is perfectly united, husband and wife become _____ (Genesis 2.24), pointing toward divine unity and man’s unity with God.
7. God’s Word is life-giving _____, not merely _____ — and Jesus is that Word made flesh (John 1.14).
8. Obedience to God’s Word sustains _____, while disobedience brings _____ (Genesis 2.17), establishing a principle carried throughout Scripture.
9. The gospel story is rooted in Creation — who God is, what man is, and the relationship between them sets the foundation for everything that follows.

For Further Consideration

1. Read Matthew 22.20-21. Likeness implies ownership. If taxes were to be paid to Caesar because money bore his likeness, what does it mean to “render... to God the things that are God’s”?
2. Read Matthew 5.48. Jesus defines our true potential as being perfect like God. Given that we are created in His image, this makes sense. Do you believe you can be like Him? Do you believe in your true potential? If not, why not?
3. God forbade Israel worshipping the likeness of anything in heaven or on earth (Exodus 20.4). How does our creation on God’s image help explain His prohibition against idolatry?