



On The Person

By

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Teaching Notes are Bible studies we taught before GraceLife Ministries began publishing articles online in 1995. Some were presented as sermons, others as group studies.

Our hope is that these older studies will be a blessing to you in your life and ministry. Please use them in any way God leads you.

These teaching notes are from a study in Genesis.

[These notes are from a study taught more than 40 years ago. The notes are in outline form.]

The Outline

#1 – The Person and Creation

Genesis 1:1 – 2:23

#2 – The Person and Meaning

Genesis 1:26 – 2:3, 7, 15-25

#3 – The Person and Pain

Genesis 3:1-24

#4 – The Person and Hope

Genesis 4:1-26

#1 – The Person and Creation

Genesis 1:1 – 2:23

Read Genesis 1:1 – “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

Important Hebrew words –

- bərešît
- bārā
- ’ēlohîm
- haššāmayim
- hā’āreṣ

What do we learn about the Creator in this first verse of Scripture?

(List on overhead)

Read John 1:1-5 and John 4:10-14

The Creation of Man

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

Important Hebrew words –

- wayyibrā
- ’ēlōhîm
- hā’ādām
- bəšalmōw,
- bəšelem
- zākār
- ūnəqêbāh

The Creation of the Male

2:7 – “And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”

Important Hebrew words –

- wayyîšer
- Yahweh
- ’ēlōhîm
- hā’ādām,

- 'āpār
- hā'ādāmāh,
- wayyipphaḥ
- bə'appāw
- nišmaṭ
- ḥayyîm;
- wayhî
- hā'ādām
- ləneḫeš
- ḥayyāh.

Read Psalm 103:13-14

Teach – God then placed the male into a beautiful garden named Eden – “delight”

Overhead map – General area believed by archaeologists to be the location of Eden.

Quote from eminent archaeologist Dr. William F. Albright writing in 1940

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“Archaeological research has thus established beyond doubt that there is no focus of civilization in the earth that can begin to compete in antiquity and activity with the basin of the Eastern Mediterranean and the region immediately to the east of it — Breasted’s Fertile Crescent.”

The Creation of the Female

vs. 18 – “And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.”

Important Hebrew words –

- Yahweh
- 'ēlōhîm,
- lō
- ṭōwḇ
- hā'ādām
- ləḇaddōw
- 'e'ěseh
- 'ēzer
- kəneḡdōw

Teach vs. 19-20

Before God provided the male with a complement, He brought all the animals to the male to see what he would name them.

Teach vs. 21-22

God put the male into a deep subconsciousness and took out a part of his side and fashioned the female.

vs. 23 – “And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.”

'iṣh is used in Scripture of man in his strength and vigor. The Latin translation of 'iṣh is *vir* from which we get our English word “virile.”

'iṣhšāh is the feminine form of 'iṣh.

Read 1 Peter 3:7

#2 – The Person and Meaning

Genesis 1:26 – 2:3, 7, 15-25

Overhead – The Person and Meaning

Genesis 1:26 – “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.”

Overhead – The word *תְּצַלְמֵנוּ* (*tselem* – image) is used three ways in Scripture:

1. as an object of idolatrous worship
2. of man as made in the image of God
3. of Christ as the image of God

The word *דְּמוּת* (*demuth*) means “likeness.”

Teach – Genesis 1:27; 5:1, 3; 9:6

Teach – What then is the Divine image?

- I believe it refers to the whole dignity of man, in virtue of his fundamental affinity to God.
- God made man to be like Himself. He made man to be with Him and enjoy Him.
- God made man with a free, self-conscious, rational and moral personality.
- We see in this account that man is separated from the fish, the birds and the beasts. His supremacy is the culmination of the creative process.

Teach – Did man lose that image when he sinned against God? In whose image are children born today?

Through original purpose and creation man is made in the image of God, but through the entrance of sin that image or likeness is marred. We don't naturally look like God or act like Him. We don't strive to be with Him.

The unsaved person is unsatisfied with life. He/she searches for meaning, but can't find it. He/she has no meaning outside of his/her purposed relationship with God.

The saved person can also live his/her life without satisfaction. He/she can also search for meaning and not find it.

The great call of God is to be like HIM .. to be like Jesus Christ (Romans 8:29-30).

Overhead – “For those God foreknew He also predestinated to be conformed to the likeness of His Son” — οτι ους προεγνω και προωρισεν συμμορφους της εικονος του υιου αυτου

Teach – Likeness or image means that we are a mirror-like image (*eikón*) of Jesus Christ. We should appear to others to be Christlike.

The first human being was given the opportunity to develop his walk with God unhindered by the sin that would later mar his very nature and purpose. Whereas the woman was deceived and sinned, the man made a choice based upon his personal beliefs, emotions and feelings at the moment. Because he chose the woman over God, we have all been affected and marred.

However, through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ we are once again placed as sons with God and given the power to walk as sons.

Overhead – There are six basic things in Genesis 1 and 2 that people use to find meaning in life:

1. Ruling
2. Pleasure
3. Knowledge
4. Riches
5. Vocation
6. Marriage
7. ??? What are you using to give meaning to your life?

#3 – The Person and Pain

Genesis 3:1-24

Overhead – Genesis 2:2-3

“And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.”

Teach – שָׁבַת (*shabath*) means “cease from labor”. Creation was complete. קָדַשׁ (*qadash*) means “consecrate, set apart”

Overhead – Genesis 2:25

“And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.”

Teach – בוּשׁ (*bosh*) means “shame, sense of sin and guilt”

We don't know how long a time span there was between Genesis 2:25 and 3:1, but it was probably short. God commanded Adam and Eve to reproduce, but their first child was not conceived until after their encounter with Satan.

Overhead – Genesis 3:1

“Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?”

Teach – עָרוּם (*arum*) means “crafty, cunning”

Overhead and Teach – Genesis 3:1-3

1. Temptation ... seed of doubt .. error in theology
2. Deception (1 Timothy 2:11-15)
3. Sin (James 1:13-14)
4. Shame
5. Hiding from God
6. Blaming others

Overhead – God looks for man that He might restore the relationship

Teach – Genesis 3:14-15

Satan (the serpent) suffers humiliation and defeat.

This is called the “*protoevangelium*” .. the earliest preaching of the Gospel.

This is the only place in the Bible where the seed is said to be “of the woman.” All other uses are for the “seed of men.” (Virgin Birth prophesied)

Overhead and Teach – The great teachers .. toil, pain, death, subjection

The word pain means “sorrow”

Childbearing intimates the duties of being a mother (conception, pregnancy, birth, child rearing)

Overhead and Teach – The great restoration – Genesis 3:20-24

Eve – a change of name to express the reality of restoration (life)

Coat of skins – blood sacrifice

Clothing of man – mark of acceptance

Expulsion from the Garden – loving protection

Guarding the way – that man might come to God the right way and live

Read – Revelation 22:1-5

“And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and

of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.”

#4 – The Person and Hope

Genesis 4:1-26

[Teach]

A cornerstone of our Christian faith and beliefs is the total depravity of man.

This means human beings in their basic quality and person are corrupt, evil and perverted.

It didn't take long after the "fall" for this depravity to show up in the human race.

(Read Genesis 4:1-25)

The offspring of Lamech (from the line of Cain) were completely and totally depraved. (Genesis 6:5-8)

There was another Lamech from the line of Seth. (Read Genesis 5:28-31)

(Read Genesis 6:8)

Why did God destroy the line of Cain, but show mercy to the line of Seth? (Genesis 4:26)

Through Enoch, the son of Cain, we see man setting up his own society in his own strength.

Through Enoch, the son of Seth, we see man calling on the Lord out of weakness and need.

Enosh means “man in his weakness and frailty.”

The hope of all people is to acknowledge they need God in every aspect of their lives and to call on Him.

[Summarize]

We learn several foundational truths through our study of the early chapters of Genesis:

1. Man has dignity and worth in the eyes of God for we have been made in His image.
2. Man has meaning to his life...to walk in fellowship with God.
3. Man has been given limitations of toil, pain, death and subjection to continually bring him back to dependence on God.
4. Man's hope is to confess to God that he is weak and frail and in constant need of Him and to call on God for strength and wisdom in this life.

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