

# THE SIXTH DAY (PART 2): CREATION OF MAN, MALE AND FEMALE GENESIS 01:26–31

## *Introduction*

When God created the universe, He created it in stages. At first, He simply hung the stars and the earth in space. They were all incomplete, unfinished and unproductive. The earth itself was covered with one massive ocean: the whole earth lay under a sea of surging, raging waves. In addition, there was a heavy mist — a dense fog and thick clouds — that encircled the earth. Just imagine! The earth was encircled with a thick mass of clouds that apparently rose several thousand feet up into the sky. This would mean that the earth was engulfed in pitch black darkness (see note 4, Gen 1:2). This was primeval earth; this was the way our planet looked before God began the six days of creation. But God did not create the earth to remain in a primeval stage. He created the earth to be the home for man. Therefore, God launched His great creative acts; God launched the six great days of creation:

=> On the first day: God created light (Gen 1:3-5).

=> On the second day: God created the firmament (the atmosphere and air space right above earth) (Gen 1:6-8).

=> On the third day: God created the waters, dry land and vegetation (Gen 1:9-13).

=> On the fourth day: God distributed light upon the earth to regulate day and night and the seasons and years (Gen 1:14-19).

=> On the fifth day: God created water and air creatures (Gen 1:20-23).

=> On the sixth day, during the first half of the day: God created land animals (Gen 1:24-25).

Now, on the second half of the sixth day, the final act of creation is to take place. This creative act is to be the crown and summit of God's creation. After this act of creation, the earth will be completely filled with creatures created by God. There will be no more creation, not upon the earth. The earth will have the creature that is to be its ruler and protector: man. Man is the climactic creation of God. Man is the creature whom God planned and purposed eternally — long, long before the earth was ever founded. This is the subject of this great passage of Scripture, the passage that covers God's climactic act of creation: *The Sixth Day (Part 2): Creation of Man, Male and Female*.

I. God's Word created man (v. 26).

II. God and God alone created man, both male and female: created them with the highest dignity and honour, in His very own image (v. 27).

III. God blessed man (v. 28).

IV. God gave man three great assignments (v. 28).

V. God provided vegetation upon the earth to feed man and animals (vv. 29-30).

VI. God saw that His creation was good — fulfilled its function (v. 31).

---

## GENESIS 01:26–31 CREATION OF MAN AND ANIMALS

Man is the crowning summit and climax of God's creation. He is not just an animal. Man is a special being, a distinctive being that was formed in the mind of God. This is the critical truth that man must know in order to understand himself.

=> Man is of the earth, but he is also of God.

=> Man is of the physical world, but he is also of the spiritual world. Man is flesh, but he is also spirit.

=> Man is related to the animals of the earth, but he is also related to God.

In man, both flesh and spirit are brought together. In man, both earth and heaven are represented. In man, both now and eternity are desired. In man, both the physical world and the spiritual world are experienced. (See notes, Rom 8:28-39, see 8:2; 1 Cor 3:1-3. See Rom 8:1, 5f; Gal 5:17.)

How is man related to the animals, and how does he differ from the animals? Man shares the following with animals according to the creation account.

1. *Creation*: man is made out of the dust of the earth, the same as animals (Gen 2:7, 19. See note, Gen 1:24.)
2. *Sustenance*: man lives of the earth, just as animals live (Gen 1:29-30).
3. *Reproduction*: man carries on the human race by the same process that animals carry on their species — by reproducing (Gen 1:22, 28).
4. *Nature*: animals were created for man (akin to, associate to man). There is a very close association between man and animals (Gen 2:18-19, see 6:19f; 8:18-19).

Man differs from animals in at least four significant ways. (It should be noted that despite all the similarities between man and animals, the stress of Genesis is upon the distinctiveness of man. Man *is* the crowning summit and climax of God's creation [Psa 8:5-8].)

1. Man is different from animals in *the mind and the heart of God*. There was a "Divine Counsel" held to discuss man's creation (see *Creation in the Image and Likeness of God*, Gen 1:26). God holds man very dear to His heart (Prov 8:31; Jn. 3:16).
2. Man is different from animals in *the words of Scripture*. "Let us make [man]" stresses a more direct and distinctive act of God than "let the earth bring forth [animals]" (see Gen 1:24, 26). The words point toward a being of dignity, intelligence and power being created — a being who is to master the earth for God.
3. Man is different from animals in the way God created him. God breathed His own breath — His own Spirit and life — into man (Gen 2:7).
4. Man is different from animals by *office*. He is given dominion "over all the earth," including dominion over all animals (see *Man's Mission on Earth*, Gen 1:28, see 2:19; Psa 8:4-8; Jas 3:7). □

## I. *Genesis 01:26 Creation of Man and God's Word*

God's Word created man. Man exists because God spoke man into existence. God used the power of His Word to create man. God simply spoke and man came into being. God spoke and the laws that caused man to form went into operation. God spoke, and the basic elements — the atoms, molecules, protons, neutrons, electrons, genes, DNA and whatever basic element is ever discovered that makes up human life — came into being. God spoke, and the power of His Word formed and created man. There are three very special points in this verse.

1. God held a very special conference, a divine counsel, to create man. Note what God said, "Let us make man...in *our* image...after *our* likeness." This is plural. God is speaking to Christ, His Son, and to the Holy Spirit. How do we know this?
  - => First, because Jesus Christ revealed the Trinity to us (Jn. 14:16-17, 26). God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit do exist. All three exist in perfect unity. They are all of one mind and purpose. Therefore, they are bound to discuss and decide things together just as any unified family does.
  - => Second, because Scripture reveals that all three Persons of the Godhead were involved in creation (Gen 1:1; 1:2; Jn. 1:3; Col 1:16; Heb 1:1-2). The Godhead would have certainly discussed the plans and work of creation while they were creating the earth. It is illogical to think they would not discuss their work.
  - => Third, because God uses the plural here in Genesis. God says, "Let *us* make man in *our* image, after *our* likeness." God is not telling angels nor any other heavenly creature that they are to work together in creating man. God, not heavenly beings, is creating man. Man is the creation of God and of God alone. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit — the complete Godhead, all that God is — created His crown and glory: man.
  - => Fourth, because God made man in His own image. God did not make man in the image of angels nor of any other heavenly being. This is not the stress of this creative act. The stress is this: God was making man in His *own* image and in *His image* alone. "Let us make man" is referring to God the Father talking with God the Son and with God the Holy Spirit. Man bears the very image of God Himself. Man was created...
    - in the image of God the Father
    - in the image of God the Son
    - in the image of God the Holy Spirit

The point is this: God held a very special conference, a divine counsel, to create man. The Holy Spirit, who inspires Scripture, is using the plural "let us" to tell us this. This is not to say that the full doctrine of the Trinity is taught here. Such is foolishness. God would never be known as a Trinitarian Being if we read only the Genesis account of creation and ignored the New Testament. But when we read and notice

the plural, the seed of the Trinity is planted in our minds. And we know what is meant because of the revelation of Jesus Christ and of the Scripture as a whole. We know that the Holy Spirit has inspired Scripture, that He has deliberately led the writer of Genesis to use the plural. Why? To show the great dignity and honour of man. Man was given the glorious privilege of being created by *all the Godhead*. God held a great counsel to plan man's creation. Man's creation was to be so special, so climactic — the very crown and glory of creation — that God called a very special conference to discuss the matter, a divine counsel that involved...

- God the Father
- God the Son
- God the Holy Spirit

(See *God, Trinity*, Gen 3:22.)

**Thought 1.** All three persons of the Godhead consulted and became personally involved in the creation of man. When the believer really meditates upon this glorious truth, his heart should throb with excitement. He sees that God planned him with a very special plan and that God cares for him and loves him with a very special care and love. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit were all involved in planning and creating him. God's plan for his creation was so important that it necessitated the fullness of God's presence and love and care.

**Psa 104:30** *When you send your Spirit [the Holy Spirit], they are created, and you renew the face of the ground.*

**John 1:3** *Through him [Christ] all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.*

**Col 1:16** *For in him [Christ] all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.*

**Heb 1:1-2** *In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, But in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.*

**Thought 2.** In the beginning, God held a very special conference, a divine counsel to create man. Today, God holds a very special hope for man: redemption. Since the fall of man into sin and death, God (the whole God-head) has been actively involved in the recreation and redemption of man. In the initial creation, God sent forth both His Son and His Spirit to create man. Now, in the recreation — necessitated by the fall of man — God sends forth both His Son and His Spirit to recreate man (the new birth). All three persons of the Godhead are actively involved in the redemption of man, in the recreation of man, just as they were in the initial creation of man. All three persons of the Godhead are seeking the redemption of man.

**John 3:16** *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”*

**John 14:16-18** “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever — the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”

**John 16:7-15** “But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counsellor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: In regard to sin because men do not believe in me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned. I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear.” But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.”

**Rom 8:14-17** Because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit, that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs — heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

2. God created man to be a very special creature: man was created in God’s very own image, after God’s very own likeness (see pt. a. above).
3. God created man for a very special purpose: to have dominion over all the earth. God planned and created man with very special honour and responsibility: to look after all that He had created (see *Man’s Mission on Earth*, Gen 1:28).

**Thought 1.** God said, “Let us make man *in our image, after our likeness*” (Gen 1:26). By these words *God is showing* that man is the crowning glory of His creation: the being that embraces all the dignity and nobility of God’s mind, the being that towered high and far above all else, the being that was purposed to master and control all of God’s creation and was given the phenomenal powers to do just that.

**Thought 2.** God held man very dear to His heart. God planned and created man with a very special grace and care: in His own image, after His own likeness. Man is the crowning summit and climax of God’s creation.

## GENESIS 01:26 CREATION IN THE IMAGE AND LIKENESS OF GOD

God created man in the image of the Godhead. Note exactly what Scripture says:

*And God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness' (v. 26).*

*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him (v. 27).*

What is meant by man being created in “the image and likeness of God”? Whatever it means, it is that which distinguishes man from all other life. Nowhere else does God say that He created a being in “his own image, after his own likeness.” Only man is “in the image, in the likeness of God.” (See note, Gen 5:1-2.)

1. It is unlikely that it means the *soul* of man. The Bible says that all living creatures are souls. They are created as *living souls*. All living creatures possess the breath, the consciousness, and the animation of life. (See *Soul*, Gen 1:20.)
2. It is unlikely that it means the ability to reason. Apparently, animals have some ability to reason and even to learn to varying degrees. Animals show some ability to think when facing problems or an enemy, or in going through the innumerable experiences of life.
3. It is unlikely that it means the ability to be moral and just. Animals — in particular some animals, both individually and within family groups — have rules and acts that lead to moral and virtuous behaviour among themselves and even toward others. There seems to be some exercise of right and wrong among some animals.

However, this needs to be pointed out: man is far superior to animals both mentally and morally. Man is far superior both as a rational being (a being that reasons) and as a moral being (a being that is to live in justice, to relate to others as he should). (Note how being *spiritually and mentally renewed* in Christ affects the rational and moral powers of man. Man can be *created* in real righteousness and *true holiness* — delivered from the legalistic bondage of man-made righteousness and holiness, from a man-made religion of rules and rituals [Eph 4:24; Col 3:10].)

What, then, does God mean when He says that man was created “in the image, in the likeness of God”? It means at least five things.

1. God is perfect, so He created man just like Himself, perfect. This, of course, refers to the *original creation* of man. When God first created man, man was created just like God, created in perfection, created without any flaw or defect whatsoever. He had a perfect body and mind, perfect health and intelligence. Man knew no sickness, disease or accidents; and he had no inability to learn. He experienced no pain or suffering. He sensed no alienation, no emptiness or loneliness. Man never shed a tear of sadness, sorrow or grief. And above all, man was free of sin and corruption, free to live forever and never to die. Man was created perfect, in the very “image and likeness” of God’s perfection.

**Mat 5:48** *“Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”*

**Eph 4:18** *They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.*

**Col 1:28** *We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.*

2. God is light, full of the glory, splendour and brilliance of light. Thus, God created man and clothed him with the glory of His light (see note 1, pt. 2, Gen 3:7; 3:21).

**1 John 1:5** *This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.*

**Psa 104:2** *The LORD wraps himself in light as with a garment.*

3. God is holy: sinless, righteous, pure and moral. Thus God created man holy, sinless, righteous, pure and moral. God made man to be distinctive — set apart from all other creatures — in life and behaviour, to live a godly life.

**1 Pet 1:16** *For it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.” (see Lev 11:45)*

**Heb 12:14** *Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.*

**2 Pet 3:11** *Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives.*

4. God is love: devoted, loyal, loving, merciful, gracious and compassionate. So God created man as a creature of love, devotion, loyalty, mercy, grace and compassion.

**1 John 4:7-8** *Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.*

**1 John 4:16** *And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.*

5. God is Spirit, eternal Spirit; God is Life, eternal Life; God is the only Person who has lived forever, who never had a beginning and shall never have an ending. Therefore...

- God created man and gave him a *spirit, an immortal breath, a life that lives forever just like God*

God went beyond what He had made when He created the animals as living souls and gave them an earthly life and a temporal breath. God made man a *spirit that is just like Himself, just like His very own life*. Apparently, no animal is a spirit; animals are only souls. As living souls, they are enabled by varying degrees to breathe, to reason and to relate. But none of them have the inherent power to breathe eternally, nor the drive and ability to reason after God nor to relate to God.

But man does have that power, that drive and ability. Man is spirit, even as God is Spirit. Man is not only body and soul as are the animals of creation. Man is not only a breathing, living soul for this earth. Man is a spirit, an immortal being.

In light of this, there are at least two distinguishing marks of God's image within man, two distinguishing marks of man as a spirit.

1. God's image within man is *the power of immortality*. Man lives beyond this earth, lives forever hereafter just like God. As mentioned above, according to the Bible, no animal is a spirit; animals are only souls. As souls they are enabled to breathe, that is, to live. But none of them have the inherent power to breathe eternally. But man does have that power. Man is a spirit, even as God is Spirit. *Man is not only a living and breathing soul like the animals which are made for this earth, man is a spirit, an immortal being made both for this earth and for eternity.*

**John 17:3** "Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."

2. God's image within man is both the *drive and the ability (choice) to worship*. Man not only has the soulish ability to reason and to relate, but he has...

- an unquenchable *spiritual drive and ability* to reason after God
- an unquenchable drive and ability to relate to God

Again, as mentioned above, no earthly animal has this spiritual drive and ability. The Bible does ascribe to souls varying abilities, but no animal soul has the drive and ability to *reason after God nor to relate to God*. Worship is a spiritual drive and ability, an ability of spirit only, of man only. Just like animals, *man knows and understands the things* of this earth; but *man is to know, believe and understand* God first and foremost (Isa 43:10). Man is to worship God. God is Spirit, and man, who is created as spirit, is to worship God in spirit and in truth.

**John 4:24** "God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in spirit and in truth."

**Isa 43:10** "You are my witnesses," declares the Lord, "and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me."

There are two very significant facts to be noted about the image of God within man, about man as a spiritual being.

1. The rebellion of man against God (man's fall) affected God's image within man. God had created man as an immortal being. As an immortal being upon earth, man had two rights:

=> the right to live on this earth

=> the right to live with God forever



When man exercised his ability and choice and turned against God, he lost both rights. Man could no longer live on the earth forever, nor could he live with God forever. In his rebellion against God, man was saying...

- that he preferred a different world other than God's world
- that he preferred a different god (his own will) other than God Himself

Man thereby condemned himself to leave this earth (to die, Gen 2:17; 3:1f; 3:19) and to be separated from God eternally (Jn. 3:18). Note that man was already created as an immortal being. Thus, he would continue on; he would exist forever, but...

- he was to be placed somewhere else other than this earth (he had chosen such)
- he was to be separated from God forever

This was man's choice (see note 3 and *Nature of Man and Meaning of Sin*, Gen 2:16-17). The image of God — the power of immortality and the drive and ability to worship and live with God — was marred eternally.

2. The image of God within man can be renewed.

a. Man can be "born again" — made spiritually alive to God, just as spiritually alive as he was in the beginning — never to perish.

**John 3:3, 5** *In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again" ....Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit."*

**1 Pet 1:23** *For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.*

**1 John 5:1** *Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well.*

b. Man can partake of God's divine nature, "put on the new man."

**Eph 4:24** *And to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.*

**Col 3:10** *And have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.*

**2 Pet 1:4** *Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature.*

c. Man can be renewed, regenerated or recreated in Christ Jesus.

**2 Cor 5:17** *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!*

**2 Cor 5:21** *God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

*1 Pet 2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.*

*Titus 3:5 He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.*

- d. Man can partake of God's divine nature and be assured of living forever in the new heavens and earth.

*1 Cor 15:49 And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven.*

*2 Pet 1:4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature.*

*2 Pet 3:10-13 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives. As you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.*

*Rev 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. □*

## **II. Genesis 01:27 God Alone Created Man with Dignity and Honour**

God and God alone created man, both male and female, created them with the highest dignity and honour, in His image Why is God's creation of man being repeated? Why is Scripture again declaring that God made man in His own image? Note exactly what the verse says:

*“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them” (v. 27).*

There are three reasons why God's creation of man is being re-emphasized.

1. There is a need to stress that God and God alone created man. Human life did not just happen to come into being. The basic substance of human life did not come *out of nothing* — not the cells of man, nor the DNA, atoms or molecules of man. Whatever the basic element of human life is — whatever man may yet discover to be the basic substance of life, whatever the raw matter and energy of life is — that basic substance did not just begin to form and mould life. Human life did not just happen...
  - by chance
  - by random
  - by some impersonal force or energy bringing the basic cells and DNA together to form human life

- by some physical laws that were already in existence and just began to form human life

Human life was created by God and by God alone. Whatever the basic substances are that make up human life, whatever raw forces and laws cause human life, they were all created and put into operation by God. God and God alone, by the power of His omnipotent Word, created human life. God and God alone commanded human life to come into existence.

**Thought 1.** God alone created man. Man must not reject and deny God; he must not neglect and ignore God. To do so leads to rejection by God, for God is the Creator of man. Man is the creature. The creature must never rebel against the Creator. Such rebellion will only lead to judgment and condemnation. Man must, therefore, acknowledge God as his Creator. Man must serve and worship God as the Creator, as the Source and Giver of life, the Sovereign LORD and Majesty of the universe.

*Isa 51:13* That you forget the LORD your Maker, who stretched out the heavens and laid the foundations of the earth?.

*Mal 2:10* Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us?

*Psa 100:3-5* Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

**Thought 2.** The creature should always serve its Creator. A Creator who is so considerate that He gives the creature a free will deserves to be worshipped and served forever. A Creator who loves so much that He gives the creature the capacity to love freely deserves to be loved and adored. This God has done. God has given us both a free will and the capacity to love freely; therefore, God is to be worshipped and served forever. God is to be loved and adored by us all.

2. There is a need to stress the great dignity and honour of man. Man was created in the very image and likeness of God. Man is the crown and summit of God's creation. Man is the creature to whom God has given His Spirit — His very own immortal breath, His life that lives forever. Therefore, man lives forever just like God. Man never ceases to exist.

**Thought 1.** This is one thing man needs to know: he has been created in the image, in the very likeness, of God. He is an immortal creature: he shall exist forever and ever. Man must, therefore, make sure — absolutely sure — that he is going to live with God. The one thing he must not do is to live separated and apart from God. Man must not miss out on the glorious privilege of living forever with God.

*John 3:16* "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

**John 3:36** “Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on him.”

**John 8:51** “I tell you the truth, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.”

**John 11:26** “And whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

**2 Cor 5:1** Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.

**1 John 5:11-12** And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

**Eccl 12:7** And the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.

**Thought 2.** God has given man His very own Spirit, the very breath of His own being.

**Job 33:4** The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life.

**Thought 3.** God has given great dignity to man. God has crowned man with glory and honour.

**Psa 8:5** You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honour.

**Thought 4.** God’s image that presently rests upon man is only a shadow. It is like a picture upon a stamp. The picture is not the person. It is only a picture, only an image of the person. But note: it is an image; it is a likeness.

Why has God given man an image, a likeness, of Himself? So that man will walk by faith and *freely choose* to love and worship God. God has given man enough of Himself to cause man to hunger and seek after God. Man has just enough of God’s image to drive him to seek after immortality and live forever.

**Deu 4:29** But if from there you seek the LORD your God, you will find him if you look for him with all our heart and with all our soul.

**Psa 105:4** Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always.

**Isa 55:6** Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near.

**Amos 5:4** This is what the LORD says to the house of Israel: “Seek me and live.”

**Zep 2:3** Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land, you who do what he commands. Seek righteousness, seek humility: perhaps you will be sheltered on the day of the LORD’s anger.

**Acts 17:27** God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us.

**Thought 5.** Jesus Christ alone is the *exact image* of God (Heb 1:3, see Phil 2:6-8).

3. There is a need to stress that God made *both male and female*, both man and woman, in His own image. Woman was created by God as much as man was; she was made in the image of God as much as man was. Woman was given as much dignity and honour as man was. Woman is as much the crown and summit of God's creation as man is.

**Thought 1.** Men and societies that downgrade and enslave women are wrong, terribly wrong. Women are created in the image of God; therefore, women are to be esteemed and honoured as much as the men. They are to be allowed to fulfil their function upon earth with dignity and honour just as much as men are. God created woman to walk as a companion to man, not as a slave.

**Gen 1:27-28** *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."*

**Gen 2:18** *The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."*

**Prov 31:10** *A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies.*

**Rom 16:3** *Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my co-workers in Christ Jesus.*

**Rom 16:6** *Greet Mary, who worked very hard for you.*

**Rom 16:12** *Greet Tryphena and Tryphosa, those women who work hard in the Lord.*

**1 Tim 5:10** *[A woman is to be received]...And is well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the saints, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds.*

**Thought 2.** God created both male and female. Each one came from God. He created one as much as He created the other. Each one was created *for* God as well as *by* God.

Each one is as important to God as the other, to His plan and purpose for the world. Very simply stated, both male and female were created *by* and *for* God; therefore each one is created *to* God. Each one, both male and female, is to live *to* God's glory, serving and worshipping God as the Creator, the Lord and Sovereign of all life.

**Psa 100:2-3** *Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.*

*Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.*

### III. **Genesis 01:28 God Blessed Man and Woman**

God blessed man and woman. This is a picture of a meeting that God held with man and woman soon after both had been created. Imagine how Adam (the first man) felt right after he had been created, when all of a sudden he was standing upon earth, experiencing the very first moments of life. He was aware of himself and of all his surroundings, the beauty and fruitfulness of the earth, but everything was strange, a complete puzzle.

Who was he? Where was he? What was he to do? All these questions needed to be answered and answered soon after he was created. The same was bound to be true with Eve (the first woman) as well.

This is the picture of what was happening in verses 28-30. God was meeting face to face with man and woman, blessing them and explaining who they were and why they were created and placed upon earth. Note that God blessed man and woman. What was the blessing? God blessed man and woman with...

- the privilege of God's presence, of fellowship with God
- the privilege of life, both life abundant and life eternal
- the privilege of being created in the image of God, of being the crown and summit of His creation
- the privilege of living upon earth with all its provisions for food and beauty
- the privilege of being male and female, of having the companionship of one another
- the privilege of reproduction, of filling the earth with their own species
- the privilege of having animals as fellow companions on earth
- the privilege of ruling and reigning over all the creatures of earth
- the privilege of work, of finding satisfaction and fulfilment in subduing the earth — through research, discovery, development, and growth

**Thought 1.** Note: the blessings and privileges are given to every man and woman. But every person has to claim the privileges, diligently work at using them more and more for the benefit of oneself and of society — all in obedience to God.

**Thought 2.** Note that God's blessing was personal: "And God blessed them and said to them" (v. 28). God spoke to man and woman personally, face to face. To be blessed by God means that God...

- keeps us
- makes His face to shine upon us
- is gracious to us
- lifts up His countenance upon us
- and gives us peace

**Num 6:24-26** *"The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace."*

#### **IV. Genesis 01:28 God's Purpose for Man and Woman**

God gave man and woman three great assignments or purposes.

1. First, man and woman were to reproduce and fill the earth. This was to be a most wonderful assignment. Man and woman were to establish the closest bond imaginable — a relationship of love, care, trust and loyalty with each other.

They were to walk, work and worship hand in hand as they journeyed through life together. The relationship they built was to serve as the basis for all other relationships upon earth and within the societies and nations of earth. All groups upon earth — whether societies or nations — were to walk together in love, care, trust and loyalty.

Note: God had created many animals, but He created only one man and one woman. Why? There were at least four reasons.

- => To establish the family: to institute the rule and principle of one man and one woman for each other. There was to be no separation or divorce — no split families, no children without a father or mother — when God first created man and woman.
- => To build a much stronger love, trust and loyalty within man and woman. Love, trust and loyalty are weakened and destroyed when intimate relationships are carried on with other persons. When love, trust, and loyalty are weakened within the strongest bond known to man, that of the family, they are weakened in all the other relationships of life: at work, at play, with one's country.
- => To teach man that all people are of one blood, from one source. Therefore, all people — all races and nations — are to live in peace and unity, working together to subdue the earth. There was to be no prejudice, discrimination, violence, greed, selfishness or war upon earth — not originally, not when God first created man.
- => To teach that man is as important as woman and woman is as important as man, that all succeeding generations of men and women are to be as highly esteemed as the first man and woman were. There is to be no abuse and no enslavement of women or men in God's creation. Both are involved in the mission of God for the earth.

**Mat 19:4-6** “Haven't you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

**Thought 1.** Note how far away man has gotten, how far he has fallen, from God's original assignments. Note all the...

- prejudice
- greed
- hatred
- leadership abuse
- selfishness
- overpopulation
- violence
- war
- discrimination
- enslavement
- child and spousal abuse
- government abuse

2. Second, man and woman were to subdue the earth. (See *Man's Mission on Earth*, Gen 1:28.)
3. Third, man and woman were to have dominion over all the animals. Dominion means to rule over, to master, to control, to manage, to look after and care for. Originally, when God first created the animals and man, there was apparently no savagery among

animals. Neither man nor animal ate other animals (Gen 1:30, see 9:3). Man and animal lived side by side in peace and apparently with some affection for each other — at least among the higher order of animals. But man was the ruler, the dominating force, the leader among all the creatures of the earth.

But note what has happened since the fall of man and the world into corruption. Animals live in a world of savagery, having to struggle for food and fight for survival against other animals. However God promises a new age and a new day, a new earth and a new world, when perfection and peace shall reign upon the earth. The lamb will lie down with the lion. A renovated earth, a new heavens and earth, is coming.

*Isa 11:6-9* *The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear; their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the cobra's den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.*

*Isa 65:25* *"The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, and dust will be the serpent's food. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain," says the LORD.*

*Hos 2:18* *In that day I will make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, the birds in the sky and the creatures that move along the ground. Bow and sword and battle I will abolish from the land, so that all may lie down in safety.*

*Isa 2:4* *He [God] will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war any more.*

*Isa 9:7* *Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.*

*Micah 4:4* *Everyone will sit under their own vine and under their own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the Lord Almighty has spoken.*

### GENESIS 01:28 MAN'S MISSION ON EARTH

God commanded man to *subdue* the earth. Verse twenty-eight says, "Have dominion...over all the earth." This is a large assignment, very large. Note four significant facts.

1. To *subdue and to have dominion over* the earth means...



- to rule and master the earth
- to look after and care for the earth
- to investigate, research and discover the earth's resources
- to develop and use the resources of the earth
- to manage the earth with all its provisions and resources

2. God gave the earth to both man and woman, put the earth under their care. The earth was...

- both a gift and a duty
- both an inheritance and a responsibility
- both an estate and an obligation
- both a trust and a task

The earth is under the care of man and woman. God gave the earth to them as a gift, as an inheritance, as a trust. The earth is now their estate, their home and property. But the earth is also their responsibility. It is the task of man and woman — their duty and obligation — to look after the earth. God has placed them over the earth, over His creation. Therefore, it is their duty to manage the earth for God.

**Thought 1.** The environment matters to God; therefore, God has placed man in charge — to look after — the environment. The environment must matter to man. Man must not pollute the air and water; he must not contaminate and destroy the earth nor the heavens above.

3. God was meeting two of man's most basic needs in this assignment. Man has the basic needs...

- to be loved and challenged
- to love and commit his life to a meaningful purpose

God's provision of the earth meets man's need. When a person really realizes that God has given him the earth as an inheritance, that person knows that God loves him. He knows that God looks after him with the deepest care and love. In response, man should love God. God's great gift of the earth should stir man to respond to God, to love God even as God has loved him.

Also, God's assignment to subdue the earth meets man's need for a meaningful purpose. When a person really realizes that God has given the earth to look after and manage, that person is challenged with the greatest of purposes. He is challenged to commit his life to work diligently and to make all the contributions he can to develop the earth and its societies. He is challenged to love the earth and those who work with him in caring for the earth. He is challenged to give

himself to the great purpose for which God put him upon earth: that of subduing and managing the earth for God.

Note: when a person works diligently at his job, works diligently to do all he can to make the earth a better place, that person senses *great purpose, fulfilment and satisfaction*. These three great things — a *sense of purpose, fulfilment and satisfaction* — come from...

- knowing God in a personal way
  - knowing why God has put us on earth
  - committing our lives to God and His great purpose for man: to subdue and develop the earth to its fullest
4. Man's ability to subdue the earth has been marred and weakened — considerably so. Note three significant facts.
- a. God's original purpose, when He first created man, was this: man was to have a perfect life, living in perfect surroundings. He was to live in utopia. Man was to be in perfect fellowship with God, experiencing purpose and fulfilment in subduing the earth. Man was to be perfectly happy — perfectly satisfied — as he went about his work in developing and managing the earth. Man was to use all the scientific research and technology imaginable; he was to investigate, discover and develop all the resources of the earth. He was to learn about his world and gain all the knowledge he could to make true progress. Apparently, he possessed a mind that was perfect in its capacity to learn, and he was subject only to God (Gen 2:15-17).
- b. It was sin that marred and weakened man's sovereignty and ability to subdue the earth. Since man's fall into sin, the earth, even man himself, is in a rage of violence and suffering...
- Nature runs wild with natural disaster after natural disaster: hurricanes, typhoons, cyclones, tornadoes, floods, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, dangerous lightning, violent storms, locust plagues, famines and on and on. Nature constantly runs wild.
  - Man runs wild with violent act after violent act: child abuse, wife abuse, husband abuse, rape, assaults, maiming, murder, war, robbery, cheating, stealing, lying, assassination, terrorist acts, arson and on and on.
  - The earth is full of disease, pestilence and accidents — all causing suffering and destroying life and huge sections of the earth and its resources.

The point is this: the earth — its nature — is far from being under the control of man. It used to be under control when God first created man. But not now, not since man's rebellion against God, not since man's terrible fall into sin. Sin has marred and weakened man's rule and sovereignty over the earth.

- c. But God has promised to restore man's rule and sovereignty over the earth, in fact, over the whole universe. How? Through Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ has secured the right to rule and reign over the earth. He is going to return to the earth, establish His government, and restore man to his original position of dominion and sovereignty — right along with Himself.

***Luke 12:42-44** The Lord answered, "Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time? It will be good for that servant whom the master finds doing so when he returns. I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions."*

***Rom 8:16-17** The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit, that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs — heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.*

***Rom 08:20-23** For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.*

***1 Cor 6:2-3** Do you not know that the saints will judge [oversee, manage, rule] the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life!*

***2 Tim 2:12** If we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us.*

***Heb 2:6-9** But there is a place where someone has testified: "What is mankind that you are mindful of them, a son of man that you care for him? You made them a little lower than the angels; you crowned them with glory and honour and put everything under their feet. In putting everything under them, God left nothing that is not subject to them. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to them. But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honour because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.*

***2 Pet 3:10-13** But the day of the Lord will come as a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar, the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives.*

*As you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.*

**Rev 5:10** *You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.*

**Rev 21:1, 4** *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.... He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”*

**Rev 22:3-5** *No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city [New Jerusalem], and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.*

**Thought 1.** Man desperately needs to do two things.

1) Man needs to repent, to turn back to God.

**Acts 2:38** *Peter replied, “Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit”*

**Acts 3:19** *Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.*

**Acts 8:22** *Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord. Perhaps he will forgive you for having such a thought in your heart.*

**2 Chr 7:14** *If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*

**Isa 55:7** *Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.*

**Ezek 18:21** *“But if a wicked man turns away from all the sins he has committed and keeps all my decrees and does what is just and right, he will surely live; he will not die.*

**Ezek 18:31** *Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, O house of Israel?*

2) Man needs to seek God for wisdom in seeking to subdue and control the earth. Our ability to manage the earth and its corrupt nature has been weakened and marred, but we need to work like trojans to subdue all that we can. All the

violence and corruption — both within nature and within man — need to be controlled to the best of our ability. God can give us wisdom as we work to control it, if we will only ask Him.

**Mat 7:7-8** “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened”.

**James 1:5-8** *If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. He is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.*

**James 1:16-17** *Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. □*

## V. **Genesis 01:29–30** *God Provides Food for Man and Animals*

God provided the vegetation of the earth to feed man and animal. Remember: God is meeting with man, sharing who man is and why he has been created and placed upon earth (see note 3, Gen 1:28). Note several facts.

1. Man and animal were to be vegetarians in the original creation of the perfect earth. There was no such thing as eating flesh. Eating flesh came only after the fall (Gen 9:3).
2. Man and animal were given an abundance of food: vegetables, berries and fruit. They were given every plant that bore seed and every tree that bore fruit.
3. All the land of the earth was fruitful. There was vegetation and plant life everywhere, and there was more than enough. Note the words, “upon the face of *all the earth*” (v. 29). Apparently, there were no barren nor desolate lands upon earth.
4. Since the fall of man into sin, the earth and its fruitfulness have been affected. Man has abused and continues to abuse the earth and its plant life or vegetation, even to the point of threatening the survival of future generations. Man is rapidly destroying the earth's plant life by housing and commercial developments and by pollution. Man is polluting and bulldozing the lands of the earth so rapidly that the earth's resources are tragically being depleted. They are being depleted by...
  - polluting the air and causing acid rain
  - destroying the rain forests and other plant life
  - dumping chemical and toxic wastes in threatening places
  - failing to recycle usable materials

**Thought 1.** The grace and care of God is clearly seen in this passage God has provided for man, provided enough vegetation and fruitfulness to feed all people. Man has but one responsibility:

**Mat 6:33** “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things [food, shelter, clothing] will be given to you as well.”

**Psa 36:6** Your righteousness is like the highest mountains, your justice like the great deep. You, LORD, preserve both people and animals.

**Thought 2.** The earth and its nature that brings forth fruitfulness and food is given by God. Man is given the responsibility to “subdue the earth” — to use the earth to bring forth as much harvest as needed. God is to be praised and trusted for what food is necessary to feed the earth. But while praising and trusting God, man is to work for his bread.

**2 Thes 3:10-13** For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: “The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat.” We hear that some among you are idle and disruptive. They are not busy; they are busybodies. Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the food they eat. And as for you, brothers and sisters, never tire of doing what is good.

**1 Th 4:11-12** Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

**Thought 3.** God has given food for man to sustain his life. Man should not seek food to consume it upon his lust. He should seek only the amount of food that is necessary to sustain his life.

**Psa 78:18** They wilfully put God to the test by demanding the food they craved.

**Dan 1:8** But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way. (see 1:8-15)

**Thought 4.** Man should receive food by giving thanks to God for it.

**Acts 27:35** After he said this, he took some bread and gave thanks to God in front of them all. Then he broke it and began to eat.

## **VI. Genesis 01:31 God’s Creation was Good, Fulfilling its Purpose**

God saw that His creation was *good* — everything created during the six days of creation, including man, fulfilled its function. This verse refers to all of God’s creation. It refers to man, yes, but God is also looking back over everything He has created. Note two facts.

1. Man was able to fulfil his purpose and function upon earth. Man was created *in the image of God*: he had the very breath — the immortal life — of God. Therefore, man was...
  - able to worship, fellowship and commune with God (vv. 26-27)

- able to populate the earth (v. 28)
  - able to serve God by subduing, developing and managing the earth (v. 28)
  - able to be fed and sustained by the resources of the earth (vv. 29-30)
2. God looked at everything He had made, and “behold, it was very good” (v. 31). The word “behold” calls attention to how good — how perfect — God’s creation was. God was extremely pleased with His creation. Everything was very good, perfect in every detail. Everything was exactly as God had planned it: everything was perfect in sustaining man upon the earth, perfect in providing a home for man as he went about fulfilling his God-given purpose upon the earth.

**Thought 1.** God looked back upon His work and evaluated it — a tremendous lesson for man as He works and serves. Man should be able to say, “I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy [God’s] testimonies” (Psa 119:59).

**Thought 2.** God looked back and saw everything — that it fulfilled its function. God Himself sets a dynamic example for man: everything was good and fulfilled its function. Everything in a man’s life should be purposeful, looked after to the ultimate degree (Col 3:17, 23).

**Exo 23:25** *Worship the Lord your God, and his blessing will be on your food and water. I will take away sickness from among you.*

**Deu 10:12** *And now, O Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.*

**Psa 2:11** *Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice with trembling.*

**Rom 14:8** *If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.*

**2 Cor 5:15** *And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.*

**Col 3:17** *And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

**Col 3:23** *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.*

**Heb 12:28** *Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe.*

**Thought 3.** What God made, He saw. He sees all that He has ever made. This is a great assurance to the righteous when they have need. This is also a clear warning to the wicked when they are sinning. Nothing escapes His sight or His presence (Psa 139:1-16).

**Eze 11:5** *But I know what is going through your mind.*

**Jer 16:17** *My eyes are on all their ways; they are not hidden from me, nor is their sin concealed from my eyes.*

**Hos 7:2** *But they do not realize that I remember all their evil deeds. Their sins engulf them; they are always before me.*

**Eccl 12:14** *For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.*

**Luke 12:2** *There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known.*

**1 Cor 4:5** *Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.*

**Thought 4.** At the end of life, a man should be able to look back over his life and say just what God said: "It was very good!"

**Thought 5.** God saw: "It was very good" — fulfilled its function (v. 31). What God began, He completed. This is also true in salvation. God will complete our salvation.

**Phil 1:6** *Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*

**1 Thes 5:24** *The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.*

**2 Tim 1:12** *That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.*

**1 Pet 1:5** *Who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.*

**Jude 24-25** *To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy — to the only God our Saviour be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forever more! Amen. ■*