

## **Part 3 Adam: The Human Spirit Designed for Intimacy with God**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

- A. One of God's ultimate purposes for creation is to provide a bride for His Son as His eternal companion to reign with Him forever (Eph. 5:31-32; Rev. 5:10; 19:7). The guiding principle of the Father's activity throughout history has been to raise up a prepared Bride for His worthy Son.

<sup>7</sup>*For the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. (Rev. 19:7)*

- B. Genesis gives us two different accounts of creation, one in Genesis 1 and the other in Genesis 2. God's record of creation emphasizes Adam and Eve and their relationship to God and each other, rather than scientific data. God wants us awestruck by the reality of who we are to Him.

1. The Genesis 1 account gives a prophetic picture of the Bride by revealing that God designed the human spirit for intimate relationship with God. This shows us God's commitment to have a people who partner and rule with His Son in deep relationship.

2. The Genesis 2 account gives us another prophetic picture of the Bride by showing Adam and Eve joined in marriage, as a picture of Jesus and the Church (Eph. 5:31-32).

<sup>32</sup>*This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. (Eph. 5:32)*

- C. The Lord desired that Adam enjoy the garden (Gen. 2:9). God's plan began and will end with His people ruling together with Him in a garden-paradise (Gen. 1-2; Rev. 21-22).

<sup>9</sup>*God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. (Gen. 2:9)*

### **II. THE CENTERPIECE OF GOD'S PURPOSE: BRING HEAVEN AND EARTH TOGETHER**

<sup>9</sup>*Having made known to us the mystery [hidden plan] of His will...<sup>10</sup> that He might gather together in one ALL things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth. (Eph. 1:9-10)*

- A. The centerpiece of God's eternal purpose is for Jesus to come back to establish His kingdom over all the earth as He joins the heavenly and earthly realms together.

- B. Heaven speaks of the supernatural realm where God's presence is openly manifest. It is the place believers go to (last 2,000 years) as a "temporary holding place" for disembodied spirits. Earth speaks of the material realm as the place where natural process, human emotion, and physical sensation reach full expression, thus requiring a resurrected body in the age to come.

- C. God's purpose has always been for His people to live together with Him in this way forever. God determined to make the earth His home forever. This is the most difficult yet ultimate reality that God determined to accomplish through redemption. The dilemma is that God cannot violate His holiness or man's free will in making a way for humans to live with Him on earth.

<sup>3</sup>*Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them... (Rev. 21:3)*

- D. God determined that we should experience the fullness of His personality and purpose. For His full purposes to occur, the natural earthly realm must come together with the heavenly realm.  
*<sup>19</sup>To know the love of Christ...that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (Eph. 3:19)*
- E. Jesus was the first human to experience the fullness of God's purpose for humanity.  
*<sup>19</sup>It pleased the Father that in Him [Jesus] all the fullness should dwell, <sup>20</sup> and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself...whether things on earth or things in heaven... (Col. 1:19-20)*
- F. In Genesis 1-2, God planned for the full expression of His purposes with His people. He created Adam from dust with a natural dimension and then breathed supernatural spiritual life into him.  
*<sup>7</sup>The LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, [natural realm] and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life [spiritual realm]; and man became a living being. (Gen. 2:7)*

### III. THE ANGELS WATCHED THE DRAMA OF CREATION

- A. The great heavenly drama was unfolding. The angels were not detached observers of creation, but deeply engaged, even singing and shouting with enthusiasm as God created in Genesis 1-2.  
*<sup>7</sup>The morning stars [angels] sang together, and all the sons of God [angels] shouted for joy. (Job 38:7)*
- B. God was hiding a grand plan that the angels were seeking to understand.  
*<sup>9</sup>...the mystery [God's plan] which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God...  
<sup>10</sup>that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers [angelic and demonic realms] in the heavenly places... (Eph. 3:9-10)*  
*<sup>12</sup>Preached the gospel to you...things which angels desire to look into. (1 Pet. 1:12)*

### IV. THE GENESIS 1 PATTERN OF CREATION: "ACCORDING TO ITS KIND"

- A. The Genesis 1 principle is to bring together those who were "according to their own kind" to generate life. Ten times God created an "original" then created a seed or a counterpart according to its own kind (Gen. 1:11, 12b, 12d, 21c, 21d, 24b, 24d, 25b, 25d). This principle was at work with the grass, fruit trees, sea creatures, every living thing in the waters, birds, cattle, and beasts.  
*<sup>21</sup>God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind...<sup>24</sup>God said, "Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind"; and it was so. (Gen. 1:21-24)*
- B. God clearly established this principle in the first five days of creation.

### V. ADAM WAS CREATED ACCORDING TO GOD'S LIKENESS

- A. God created a being in His own image and gave him dominion over all the earth (Gen. 1:26-28). Only God has dominion over all the earth. This must have surprised the angels.

<sup>26</sup>God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion...over all the earth...”<sup>27</sup>So God created man in His own image... (Gen. 1:26-27)

- B. The human spirit was designed in God’s image and likeness. The very design of the human spirit is God’s statement of desire for intimate partnership with human beings. This was the first prophetic hint of the great wedding at the end of natural history (Mt. 22:2; Rev. 19:7).
- C. God created in an ascending order of glory, producing a dramatic crescendo as the angels observed His creative genius. The pattern of Genesis 1 had been clearly established ten times with a seed or counterpart according to its kind, in union with the original to generate life.
- D. God created a new order of being called humans as the counterpart of the uncreated Original (Jesus). The counterpart, Adam, was created for union with Jesus, the Original.
- E. What was God doing? This giant step in God's creation must have been surprising and dramatic to the angels. God went from plants, to fish, to birds, and to animals. He bypassed the angels by creating a new being (Adam) according to God’s likeness. This undoubtedly brought perplexity to the angels who may have asked: “Why so exalted and so noble?” Why in God’s likeness?
- F. What are the implications of such a union? God’s purpose was to have a class of beings who would live in union with God to release His life and power to creation. The angels must have been overwhelmed when it dawned on them that created beings would be married to God.

## VI. CREATED IN GOD’S LIKENESS

<sup>23</sup>May your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless.... (1 Thes. 5:23)

- A. **Our spirit:** We have the unique capacity to receive God’s Spirit or life (Greek: *zoe*).  
<sup>17</sup>But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. (1 Cor. 6:17)  
<sup>27</sup>The riches of the glory of this mystery...is Christ in you, the hope of glory. (Col. 1:27)
- B. **Our soul:** We have personality traits and abilities like God so that we can relate to Him.
  - 1) **Mind:** We have the capacity for reason, revelation, and creative thinking.
  - 2) **Emotions:** We have the capacity for intense affection, joy, gladness, zeal, and holy anger.
  - 3) **Will:** We have a free will with the capacity for dignified actions by making decisions that have eternal consequences of being remembered, valued, and rewarded by God forever.
- C. **Our body:** We will have a resurrected body made with the same glory as Jesus' body (Phil 3:21).  
<sup>21</sup>Will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body... (Phil. 3:21)
- D. **Dominion:** God created humans to rule with Him. Angels are servants (Heb. 1:14).  
<sup>28</sup>God said, “...have dominion...over every living thing...on the earth.” (Gen. 1:28)

<sup>4</sup>What is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him? <sup>5</sup>You have crowned him with glory and honor. <sup>6</sup>You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet... (Ps. 8:4-6)

<sup>7</sup>You have crowned him with glory and honor, and set him over the works of Your hands.  
<sup>8</sup>You have put all things in subjection under his feet... (Heb. 2:7-8)

E. The Bride will be crowned with glory and honor in being like Jesus forever.

<sup>2</sup>When He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. (1 Jn. 3:2)

<sup>29</sup>He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son... (Rom. 8:29)

<sup>9</sup>Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him. (1 Cor 2:9)

F. Adam exercised dominion over the garden. He had the responsibility to name the animals, which involved discerning the nature and purpose of each one and overseeing their work in the garden.

<sup>15</sup>God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it...<sup>19</sup>God formed every beast...and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. (Gen. 2:15, 19)

G. The Bride holds a unique position of partnership with Jesus in God's eternal government.

<sup>21</sup>To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne... (Rev. 3:21)

<sup>10</sup>Have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth. (Rev. 5:10)

H. As God's image-bearers, we reflect God's personality and represent God to creation as kings and priests. We are designed, equipped, and qualified to be His ambassadors, who act and speak on His behalf (2 Cor. 5:20). We will represent God for all eternity to angels, demons, and creation.

<sup>20</sup>We are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us... (2 Cor. 5:20)

I. God gave Adam the opportunity to express his voluntary love by giving him opportunity to sin.

<sup>16</sup>Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; <sup>17</sup>but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die. (Gen. 2:16-17)

J. God's purpose was to have a people living in supernatural unity with God and with one another.

<sup>21</sup>They may be one in Us...<sup>22</sup>The glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: <sup>23</sup>I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know You...have loved them as You have loved Me. (Jn. 17:21-23)