

UNDERSTANDING THE “ONE STORY” OF SCRIPTURE

Week 5 – JROC – So That God Can Be Fully Known!

June 7, 2026

In Genesis 1, God, in creating time and space, appears to have simultaneously created the world out of nothing. He spoke all things into existence. (John 1:1; Col. 1:15-17)

When God created, the Bible says in Gen. 1:10 , ...*and God saw that it was good*. In Gen. 1:31 we read, *Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good*.

When God said what He made was good/very good, He was affirming His original design and intent. In its original state, creation measured up to God’s standards. It reflected His character, power and nature! The greatness of God’s expansive universe speaks to WHO HE IS!!!

Creation’s vast scale and intricate details demonstrate that God is the all-powerful, eternal Creator Who exists apart from the universe He created!

In Gen. 1, in each instance that God said “it was good,” the text also states that God “saw” that it was good. God “saw” – He observed that all He created was good which implies that He had a design and purpose in mind. We need to know that our **God has a purpose and plan** (singular):

- Isa. 14:24 - *The Lord of hosts has sworn, saying, ‘Surely, as I have thought, so it (singular) shall come to pass, and as I have purposed, so it (singular) shall stand.’*
 - Malachi 3:6 - *For I am the Lord, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob (!).*
- Prov. 19:21 - *Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it (singular) is the purpose of the Lord that will stand.*
- Rom. 8:28 - *And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose (singular)*
- II Tim. 1:8-9 - *...according to the power of God, Who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose (singular) and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began.*

The OT is divided into two distinct parts.

- God Deals with Mankind: Genesis 1 – 11 – covers approximately 2,000 years and encompasses God’s dealings with mankind. There were no Jews or Gentiles; there was just mankind.
- God Deals with the Gentiles Through Israel: Genesis 12 – Malachi 4 – covers approximately 4,000 years...and it continues as Israel continues to impact the world.

Isa. 66:22 – *‘For as the new heavens and the new earth which I will make shall remain before Me’, says the Lord, ‘so shall your descendants and your name remain.’* Into the Millennial Kingdom and into the Eternal State – the new heavens and the new earth (Heb. 12:22-24). God calls Abram to be a great nation; God’s promises to Abram impact the world!

○ Within the 2nd division we read: Gen 12:3 – *I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.*
(OBSERVATIONS)

▪ “Bless” – to bow; to honor. To bow before Whom? To honor Whom?
GOD! Bless and honor God for His plan! “Curse” means to treat Israel lightly, to despise, to remove Israel from God’s plan! Through Abraham and his physical descendant (the Seed of the woman, [Gen. 3:15]; Shiloh – *He Whose right it is* [Gen. 49:10]). Through Jesus salvation will be

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given. Jesus told the woman at the well in John 4:22 – *salvation is of the Jewish (lineage through David and Abraham* [Matt. 1:1])

○ Gen. 18:16-18 – God appeared at Abraham’s tent with two men. They ate lunch. God had already unilaterally made a covenant (swearing by Himself) w/ Abraham. *Then the men rose from there and looked toward Sodom, and Abraham went with them to send them on the way.* ¹⁷ *And the Lord said, ‘Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing,* ¹⁸ *since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?’*

Let’s begin looking at God dealing with mankind....

God created man to have a relationship with Him. Mankind is the pinnacle of God’s creation. We are image-bearers...made in the image of God. How so? God is Spirit...but God has...

INTELLECT - Isa. 1:18 – *come let us reason together*; Rom. 16:27; I Tim. 1:17 – God alone is wise. Acts 15:18 - God is omniscient – He is ALL KNOWING– *...known to God from eternity are all His works.* Rom. 12:2....God transforms us/believers by the renewing of our minds!

EMOTIONS - Throughout Scripture we read that God grieves over sin and the corruption of the world. Gen. 6:6- *And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.* Deut. 1:37 (righteous anger); Judges 2:18 (moved to pity); Isa. 63:9 – was afflicted; in His love and in His pity He redeemed them.... Cross reference.

VOLITION/WILL – See verses on page 1 of handout and cross reference.

As the pinnacle of God’s creation...and because He would give man dominion over His creation, God created man with intellect, emotions, and volition/will. Man was created with a will – freedom to choose...freedom to obey or disobey. Man had the freedom to love God or not.

God created man knowing we would sin (Isa. 53:10; Rev. 13:8; Rev. 3:5; Rev. 17:8). God made man for His glory so that God's character, His attributes...ALL Who God is – His grace, mercy, justice, power, love, wrath against sin, faithfulness....could be FULLY known.

What does that imply? How can God's grace be fully known if man didn't sin? How can God's mercy shine forth if man didn't sin? If man didn't sin, would there be the need for God's justice, His wrath against sin to be exercised? And, God's love...how would that be SO MAGNIFIED if there was no sin?

For a loving God to create beings capable of giving and receiving genuine love (not robotic), they had to be free to choose. True love cannot be forced or programmed.

For God to fully manifest Who He is...for God to fully demonstrate the ultimate depths of His love, redemption (deliverance) that we know full well through Jesus and His death on the cross, sin must exist. The gifts of God's grace, mercy, forgiveness, love, faithfulness....ALL His attributes must shine forth to fully demonstrate the ultimate depths of Who God is. But, God. to reconcile man's sin!...could not exist if man didn't sin!

The temporary presence of sin and suffering is understood in the one story of Scripture that culminates in a restored, eternal relationship with man in the new heavens and the new earth – the New Jerusalem – which is PLAN A – Creation's ultimate purpose!

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God gave Adam and Eve dominion over His creation – they were to serve and nurture it...they were to rule over God's creation on God's behalf – representing God. This is God's plan for man!

Gen. 1:26, 28 - *God said, 'Let Us (!!?).... The Hebrew word for God is Elohim – “im” is a plural ending!) 'Let US make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion (rule) over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.' ... ²⁸ Then God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the*

sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’ Adam alone had been created at this time. Why did Moses record, “them”? Moses wrote 1500 years following the creation. God was outlining His plan for all mankind!

This is God’s plan for mankind! Dominion - to serve, nurture, rule over every living thing. Let’s remember that in the “one story” - God has ONE plan for mankind...Plan A!!!!

Does man have dominion currently?