

UNDERSTANDING THE “ONE STORY” OF SCRIPTURE

Week 4 – Man’s Dominion Forfeited...?

September 30, 2025

In Genesis 1, God created the world out of nothing. He spoke all things into existence. After each day in the Genesis’ creation account, when God created, the Bible says, “God saw, and it was good.” Gen. 1:31 – God said it was “very good.”

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.” God had a plan and purpose in mind:

- Isa. 14:24 - *The Lord of hosts has sworn, saying, ‘Surely, as I have thought, so it shall come to pass, and as I have purposed, so it shall stand.’*
- Prov. 19:21 - *Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it 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.*
- II Tim. 1:9 - *...Who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose 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... mankind!
- God Deals with the Gentiles Through Israel: Genesis 12 – Malachi 4 – covers approximately 4,000 years...and it continues...because Israel continues! (Isa. 66:22; Rev. 11:1ff)

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

God created man to have a relationship with Him. Mankind was 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 (Rom. 12:2...), emotions (God grieves over sin and the corruption of the world [Gen. 6:6; Deut. 1:37; Judges 2:18; Isa. 63:9], and volition/will (Rom. 12:2; Eph. 1:11).

God created man with intellect, emotions, and volition/will. We do not read in the text that God programmed man to return His love! Man was created with a will – freedom to choose...freedom to obey or disobey. Man had the freedom to love God or not.

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 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 (subject under authority) 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.

Let’s remember this in the “one story,” God has ONE plan for mankind...Plan A!!!!

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Gen. 2:15-27 – *Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, ‘Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷ 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.’* Did Adam know about death? Not yet... Death means separation – physically, spiritually, eternally. In God’s initial plan for mankind (Plan A), there was no death!

WHY did God command Adam not to eat the fruit of this one tree?

The command set a boundary and functioned as a test of Adam’s trust, obedience, and moral responsibility toward God’s word. It established a foundational principle: life in fellowship with God – in a perfect world - depended upon submission to His revealed will. Death results from sin – from rebelling against God – from disobedience.

The command was not part of an agreement. God gifted Adam with communion with Himself, dominion, food, a lush garden.... In Genesis 2:16 – we read that *the Lord God commanded the man....* This was a direct divine prohibition given by God to Adam, with a clear consequence: “for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die” (Genesis 2:17).

God spoke this command to Adam, and continued to commune with him...and created for him a helper. **What is this telling us about God?**

Gen. 2:18-25 (Read)

In the Garden God communed with Adam and Eve – He spoke with them. What did He share? What did God talk about with Adam and Eve? Did God share any part of His plan? Adam and Eve knew God gave them the role of ruling for Him over the physical creation – for representing Him over creation – for nurturing and serving the creation. God declared that this physical paradise that He created was very good (Gen. 1:31) – excellent, not substandard, reflecting God's standards!

In Genesis 1 & 2 we read of a perfect creation with man created in innocence...as God's representative on earth, ruling over and nurturing God's creation. God's creation was "very good." Man, I'm suggesting, was not perfect. Why? Only God is perfect. Adam and Eve were not created "perfect" in the sense of being incapable of sin or death; instead, they possessed a nature capable of choosing wrong, which they did through the fall.

In chapter 4 of Genesis, we find jealousy and murder; in the following chapters in the book of Genesis mankind goes from bad to worse. WHAT HAPPENED? Genesis 3 answers this question.

Gen. 3:1-5 - Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"² And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden;³ but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'"⁴ Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.⁵ For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Note your OBSERVATIONS:

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When the serpent approached Eve, God's word is attacked. Is God's word being attacked today? WHO is the power behind this serpent?

After God created and saw that His creation was good – very good - Lucifer, the anointed cherub that we read about in Isa. 14:13-14, exclaimed in his heart, ...I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north;¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'

...Lucifer became the adversary, the accuser, the enemy known as Satan. The enemy fell from heaven and took the form of a serpent with the specific goal of perverting and reversing God's hierarchy on earth – having given man dominion!! Adam and Eve were influenced by Satan to rebel against God.

Gen. 3:6-7 -⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her

husband with her; and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

Eve took of the fruit and gave it to Adam to eat. Adam...the head of their family unit. AND - SIN ENTERED THE WORLD!! Sin TOUCHED EVERYTHING. What was LOST? EVERYTHING? Mankind's fellowship/relationship with God was lost. And, through their sin, Adam and Eve forfeited the dominion that God had given them. Adam and Eve chose to disobey God and, in essence, aligned themselves with Satan's rebellion. Adam and Eve chose to follow Satan's suggestion over God's command. Satan usurped dominion!

Jesus spoke of man's loss of dominion and Satan stepping into that role. Jesus told the disciples in speaking of His death on the cross...

John 12:31 – *³¹ Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.*

Eph. 2:2 – Satan is noted as *the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,*

II Cor. 4:4 – the god of this age has blinded the minds of those who are perishing lest the light of the glory of Jesus should shine on them!!!

In the midst of this fallen world, there is always HOPE!!!! God has already won the victory! Satan is a defeated foe!

Does man have dominion now? NO! It was usurped by the adversary. Does mankind represent God on earth now? NO! BUT God's original plan REMAINS His plan. God's will can never be thwarted. Dominion will be restored to man – to REDEEMED man. God's Plan A will never be thwarted!

How does Gen. 1-3 fit into the one story?

Daniel 7:13-14, 27 - *I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. ¹⁴ Then to Him (to Jesus) was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, (Jesus' dominion is everlasting because He is everlasting, because He is God) which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed. ²⁷ Then the kingdom and*

dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High.

When will this occur? When Jesus physically returns to establish His Kingdom, the Millennial Kingdom, on earth. And, we, the saints of the Most High, the redeemed, *shall also reign with Him* (II Tim. 2:12)!

QUESTIONS

What was new to you in this lesson?

What impacted you most? Are you beginning to grasp the “one story” of Scripture?

Is this study causing you to study the Bible in a different way?

What might you want to share from this lesson with a believer or non-believer?

SUGGESTED HOMEWORK

Reread Week 4 with the Bible references.

If you’re journalling – continue!

Share what you’re learning with others.

Read Week 5 when you receive it.

