

Sermon Discussion

10 January 2021

Read Matthew Genesis 1:1-27 together.

Dig Deeper

"In the beginning God created" Although the Hebrew word for **"God,"** 'Elohim, is plural in form (possibly to express majesty), the verb **"create"** is singular, indicating that God is thought of as one being. Genesis is consistently monotheistic in its outlook, in marked contrast to other ancient Near Eastern accounts of creation. There is only one God.

The Hebrew verb **bara'**, "create," is always used in the OT with God as the subject; whilst it is not always used to describe creation out of nothing, it does stress God's sovereignty and power.

"Let us make man in our image" The text does not specify the identity of the "us" mentioned here. Some have suggested that God may be addressing the members of his court, whom the OT elsewhere calls "sons of God" (Job 1:6) and the NT calls "angels."

However, man is not made in the image of angels, nor is there any indication that angels participated in the creation of human beings. Many Christians and some Jews have taken "us" to be God speaking to himself, since God alone does the making in Gen. 1:27. This would be the first hint of the Trinity in the Bible.

1. How does the belief that the Lord God literally created everything as described in Genesis impact your view of science?
2. What makes people so valuable? How do you see God's goodness to man in this passage?
3. How does the account of our creation protect us from thinking too highly of ourselves? How does it protect us against thinking too lowly about ourselves or others?
4. How might a recognition that all people are made in God's image affect your interactions with others this week? How has a failure to recognize this led to problems (however small) in your relationships recently?

Application & Prayer

- Has this sermon pointed any area in your life that you need God to transform? Ask someone to pray with you about it.
- Pray that God would seal the insights that you have obtained about God's purposes in creation. May the riches of this chapter move your heart to marvel at the greatness of God in greater measure. Highlight a few areas for further reflection to come back to at a later time.