

## THE KING'S STORY (2)<sup>1</sup>

### The King Creates

#### A. Introduction

1. The Bible is a story.

It is a story that makes God's glory known.

It is a story about Jesus Christ.

It is a story of salvation achieved through judgment.

It is a story of the King who establishes kingdoms and rules over them by means of covenants.

2. The story of the Bible begins with the King creating a kingdom.

The kingdom of creation.<sup>2</sup>

God creates from nothing the heavens and the earth, and everything in it – and everything He made was good.

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” (Genesis 1:1)

“God saw all that he had made, and it was very good indeed.” (Genesis 1:31)

3. Through His work of creation, God the King introduces Himself to us.

He is present – He simply is.

“In the beginning God.” (Genesis 1:1)

He is pre-existent – before anything was, God was already there. He is a being without beginning and end. He is from everlasting to everlasting.

“Before the mountains were born, before you gave birth to the earth and the world, from eternity to eternity, you are God.” (Psalm 90:2)

He is plural – He exists and has always existed as Trinity. He is one God and three persons (Father, Son/Word, Spirit).

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.” (Genesis 1:1-3)

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. All things were created through him, and apart from him not one thing was created that has been created.” (John 1:1-3)

“The heavens were made by the word of the LORD, and all the stars, by the breath of his mouth.” (Psalm 33:6)

He is powerful – by speaking everything is brought into existence.

“God... the one who gives life to the dead and calls things into existence that do not exist.” (Romans 4:17)

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<sup>1</sup> The titles for this series are taken from Biblical Theology by Nick Roark & Robert Cline

<sup>2</sup> Throughout this series I will refer to 3 kingdoms, the kingdom of creation, Israel, Christ, which is an idea taken from The Mystery of Christ by Samuel Renihan.

He is personal – He speaks. He sees. He separates. He names. He makes. He gathers. He blesses. He enjoys taking pleasure in what He has made by calling it good.

He is purposeful. In creating the world, God forms them He fills. He separates things that don't go together. He draws up boundaries for what He has made. He takes six days to do this. He is purposeful and there is a purpose to His creation.

He is praiseworthy – as Creator, He is King over creation. He has the right and the authority to rule over that which He has made. The right response of creation then is to worship and praise God by living under His rule according to the boundaries He has set.

“They cast their crowns before the throne and say, Our Lord and God, you are worthy to receive glory and honour and power, because you have created all things, and by your will they exist and were created.” (Revelation 4:10-11)

“...since what can be known about God is evident among them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, that is, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen since the creation of the world, being understood through what he has made. As a result, people are without excuse. For though they knew God, they did not glorify him as God or show gratitude.” (Romans 1:19-21)

God the King chose to rule over His kingdom of creation through mankind – the pinnacle of His creative work.

## **B. Mankind created by God**

### 1. The last created act of God was to make men and women.

People are like animals in some ways.

They have been made from the dust of the earth and have been given the breath of life.

“Then God said, “Let the earth produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that crawl, and the wildlife of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so.” (Genesis 1:24)

“...for all the wildlife of the earth, for every bird of the sky, and for every creature that crawls on the earth—everything having the breath of life in it...” (Genesis 1:30)

“Then the LORD God formed the man out of the dust from the ground and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, and the man became a living being.” (Genesis 2:7)

They have been given the same things to eat and are dependent upon the Creator to provide this.

“All eyes look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time.” (Psalm 145:15)

However, there's something about humans that make different from all the animals.

Animals have been created according to its kind. Humans have been made in the image of God.

“Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth.” So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female.” (Genesis 1:26-27)

Being made in the image of God means that humans were created to express what God is like.

### 2. Humans reflect what God is like by being relational.

As God is a relational being (for eternity the Father has been loving the Son and the Son has been loving the Father in the Spirit), so people are to be relational beings too.

God created humans, male and female, to relate to one another.

People are to love one another as God the Father and God the Son love each other in the Spirit.

### 3. Humans reflect what God is like by being representatives.

As God rules over the creation, so we are to rule over creation.

“God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth.” (Genesis 1:28)

Humans are to rule over creation by forming (subdue the earth) and filling (be fruitful and multiply).

This rule was to be seen in the place God provided for the first man and woman to live – a place that had already subdued and where He would be present with them.

“The LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he placed the man he had formed.” (Genesis 2:8)

“Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze.” (Genesis 3:8)

It was then to spread to the whole earth as Eden’s borders were expanded as they subdued the land outside of it.

The man and his wife were also to have lots of children so that the earth would be filled with other men and women who bear God’s image.

This would result in the presence of God spreading over the whole world and the glory of LORD covering the earth as the water covers the sea.

“For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD’s glory, as the water covers the sea.” (Habakkuk 2:14)

### 4. As creatures, the first man and woman were to obey their Creator by ruling over His creation.

By nature, they were to do all He commanded without expecting any reward from Him.

If Adam and Eve had perfectly obeyed God’s commands in the Garden of Eden, they would not have deserved or earned eternal life (access to the tree of life), for they would only have been doing their duty.

How then could they be blessed with eternal life?

“The LORD God caused to grow out of the ground every tree pleasing in appearance and good for food, including the tree of life in the middle of the garden, as well as the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.” (Genesis 2:9)

The answer is that a covenant was needed.

*“The distance between God and the creature is so great, that although reasonable creatures do owe obedience to Him as their creator, yet they could never have attained the reward of life but by some voluntary condescension on God’s part, which He hath been pleased to express by way of covenant.” (1689 BCF 7.1)*

A covenant was the means by which God can bless those He has made with the reward of life.

Without God establishing a covenant with humans, there could be no relationship with Him other than Creator-creature.

## **C. Mankind in covenant with God**

### 1. Both Adam and Eve were given responsibility of being God’s representative by ruling over creation.

Yet it was Adam, specifically, who was given the responsibility of representing the entire human race (federal head) in this.

“For just as through one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so also through the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous.” (Romans 5:19)

“For just as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.” (1 Corinthians 15:22)

God would rule over Eden (the kingdom of creation) through him, and it was with him, that God made a covenant – a covenant of works.

## 2. Adam was given specific commands to obey.

He was to take care of Eden, keeping it pure, by ensuring that God’s boundaries were not transgressed.

“The LORD God took the man and placed him in the garden of Eden to work it and watch over it.” (Genesis 2:15)

He was not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

“And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree of the garden, but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for on the day you eat from it, you will certainly die.” (Genesis 2:16-17)

Eve was to help him with this.

## 3. If Adam obeys, he and those he represents, would be rewarded with eternal life.

This reward was the promise of eternal sinless life.

“I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.” (Revelation 2:7)

“For in bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was entirely appropriate that God—for whom and through whom all things exist—should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings.” (Hebrews 2:10)

Adam though created sinless and upright, was not glorified, as he was capable of sinning. So, to receive this reward, *“he must obey perfectly, personally, perpetually.”*

But if Adam disobeys, he will die, and all humanity with him.

“The LORD God said, “Since the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil, he must not reach out, take from the tree of life, eat, and live forever.” So the LORD God sent him away from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. He drove the man out and stationed the cherubim and the flaming, whirling sword east of the garden of Eden to guard the way to the tree of life.” (Genesis 3:22-24)

In this covenant of works was the opportunity for all mankind to dwell with God for all eternity.

“Then I heard a loud voice from the throne: Look, God’s dwelling is with humanity, and he will live with them. They will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and will be their God.” (Revelation 21:3)

## 4. God tested Adam’s obedience.

He allowed Satan disguised as a serpent to enter the Garden.

“Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, “You can’t eat from any tree in the garden?” (Genesis 3:1)

What would Adam do?