

OT 3

GENESIS 2: All creation very good including Human nature

BIBLE PROJECT 2.0

BIG IMAGE: SYMPHONY



BIG IDEA 1: GOD COMMANDS OBEDIENCE—GOD IS LAWGIVER



For everything to be “in concert,” there must be direction.

Hittite Suzerainty Treaty/Covenant
Stipulations, Sanctions and sign
The Covenant of Creation
Sabbath is Covenant Sign

GOD commands obedience on the basis of his creation and ownership,
God establishes human responsibility.
Belonging implies & requires obedience.



BIG IDEA 2: GOD MAKES COVENANT SO MAKER AND CREATURE ARE IN TUNE.

The *Westminster Confession of Faith* [Chapter 7.2] states:

“The first covenant made with man was a covenant ... wherein life was promised to Adam, and in him to his posterity, upon condition of perfect and personal obedience.”

AKA, “CULTURAL MANDATE” WITH HIS HUMAN CREATURES.

The Covenant is in the form of the Hittite Suzerainty Treaty

The Hittites invented the FORM

Stipulations, Sanctions and sign

In the Covenant of Creation Sabbath is Covenant Sign Genesis 2. 1-3

CONSIDER THE SABBATH: “Rest” is an inadequate description of meaning of Sabbath. The Hebrew word is literally “ceased.” Maybe we could think “finished” or “satisfied.” As in the resting of completion. Could it be he enjoyed the Symphony?

Hittite Kings, when they conquered, **Dictated** terms in a specific FORM – a treaty of unconditional surrender—to the kings/people they conquered.

The Great King (Suzerain) to their (now conquered) Vassal people.

Ratification not needed. Obligations not optional.

There were certain elements to the Covenant/Treaty Form.

- Title/Preamble
- Historical Prologue
- Stipulations/ Requirements
- Witnesses
- Blessings and curses
- Oath/Ceremony/Covenant Sign
- Sanctions

Not all sections are always included. Genesis 1: 1-27 could be seen as Title, Preamble and Prologue

God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

Stipulations/ Requirements
Replenish
Subdue
Manage (dress, till and keep)
Take charge
Prohibition
Sanction

Blessings (and Curses)

- “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. Imagine the unfathomable variety of options!!!
- Genesis 2 makes the stipulations and curses clearer.
 - PROHIBITION: Gen 2:16-17 “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil,
 - SANCTION: for when you eat from it, you will certainly die.”

Right from the beginning God set up a well-tuned relationship with his creation including humans. He was the conductor and every part played his music.

Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. (Genesis 2:19)

BIG IDEA 3: GOD MAKES HUMAN COMMUNITY IN TUNE



The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.” (Genesis 2:18)

Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame. (Genesis 2: 25)

Marriage—to fulfill creation covenant

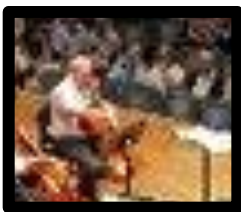
- **Ruling the earth depends on filling it;**
- **Filling the earth depends on procreation;**
- **Thus, the male+female marriage makes possible God’s plan that humans govern creation.**

BIG IDEA 4: GOD MAKES NATURE IN TUNE



Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. 9 The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. (Genesis 2: 8-9)

BIG IDEA 5: HUMAN SELF IS TUNED—INTEGRITY



BACK TO “THE IMAGE OF GOD”

Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame. (Genesis 2: 25)

Nothing to hide. The Image of God is undimmed, unhidden.

Knowing God, humans knew themselves. And under God’s direction they were completely free to be themselves. No pretense, no hypocrisy.

Integrity—identity: Adam bears the image of God. He knows his place in nature, having named the animals and having experienced the differentiation from them demonstrated in the creation of Eve. She is NOT one of the animals, just as he is not.

Being in tune with all other parts, each has his own part to play. Clearly being in tune with the rest of creation does not mean that he is the same as the rest of creation.

Adam/Eve created capable of complete obedience: doing God’s will. To be fully human was to be without sin, in a state of willing obedience to God. GOD made no junk: Therefore, he made humans GOOD. Remember God’s Project: **To create a world where his will is done, all creatures live in joyous concert and all fellowship fully with their Creator.** Adam (and Eve) was fully capable of fulfilling God’s Project. God made them that way.

To sin is to diminish true humanity. Adam and Eve were made able to obey God and therefore capable of not sinning. [Note: this is to distinguish them from “perfection” since that implies infinite wisdom and power. Only God is “perfect” in this sense.]

Therefore, to sin is to diminish truly human nature. Less than human; sub-human. So Alexander Pope and everyone since is wrong: *To err is NOT human, but sub-human.*

Nicene Creed: [Jesus] “was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man.”

Athanasian Creed: *Jesus is completely God and completely human.*

Adam/Eve were the first truly human beings; Jesus was the second. That’s why Paul calls him the “second Adam.” (1 Cor 15)

So compare the two Adams. See charts.

The TWO ADAMS	
First Adam	Second Adam—Jesus Christ
God’s Image	Fullness of Godhead bodily <small>(Col. 2:9)</small>
Created in God’s Image	Express Image of God <small>(Heb 1:3)</small>
Made directly from dirt	Born to Virgin Mary-Holy Spirit
No belly button	Belly button
Sought equality w/ God	Gave up equality w/God <small>(Phil 2:6)</small>
Disobedient	Obedient
Spiritual death	Physical death
Sinned	Sinless
Rejected by God	Rejected by men
Expelled from Garden	Prayed in the Garden
Condemnation	Justification

ROMANS 5:

¹⁸ “Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. ¹⁹ For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.”

All modernist/humanist views are reductionistic – they make humanity too small. That’s the consequence of studying the self by looking inward to discover our true nature--the exact problem that causes the fall.

Part I CONCLUSION: Therefore SYMPHONY: Good Music is a function of following the conductor and the music. And now God's Project is complete and Sabbath is about enjoying the Creator.

Man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy him forever--that's Sabbath.

Recap:

BIG IDEA 1: GOD COMMANDS OBEDIENCE—GOD IS LAWGIVER

BIG IDEA 2: GOD MAKES COVENANT SO MAKER AND CREATURE ARE IN TUNE.

BIG IDEA 3: GOD MAKES HUMAN COMMUNITY IN TUNE

BIG IDEA 4: GOD MAKES NATURE IN TUNE

BIG IDEA 5: HUMAN SELF IS TUNED—INTEGRITY

Miscellaneous: YAHWEH יהוה

Appears for the first time in Genesis 2—What's the significance?

Consideration of the literary devices used in Scripture OR more ways to “Get It”

See below “Literary Forms”

- Narrative—Luke 2: 1-7

● _____—Genesis 12:1

The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.

● _____—Judges 9:8-15

One day the trees went out to anoint a king for themselves. They said to the olive tree, ‘Be our king.’

“But the olive tree answered, ‘Should I give up my oil, by which both gods and humans are honored, to hold sway over the trees?’

10 *“Next, the trees said to the fig tree, ‘Come and be our king.’*

11 *“But the fig tree replied, ‘Should I give up my fruit, so good and sweet, to hold sway over the trees?’*

12 *“Then the trees said to the vine, ‘Come and be our king.’*

13 *“But the vine answered, ‘Should I give up my wine, which cheers both gods and humans, to hold sway over the trees?’*

14 *“Finally all the trees said to the thornbush, ‘Come and be our king.’*

15 *“The thornbush said to the trees, ‘If you really want to anoint me king over you, come and take refuge in my shade; but if not, then let fire come out of the thornbush and consume the cedars of Lebanon!’*

● _____—Exodus 3:8

So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey...

● _____—2 Samuel 12:1-4

*“There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor. **2** The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, **3** but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him.*

“Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him.”

● _____—Psalm 98:8

*Let the rivers **clap** their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy*

● _____--Ecclesiastes 12:1-7

*Remember your Creator
in the days of your youth,
before the days of trouble come*

*and the years approach when you will say,
“I find no pleasure in them” —*

2

*before the sun and the light
and the moon and the stars grow dark,
and the clouds return after the rain;*

3

*when the keepers of the house tremble,
and the strong men stoop,
when the grinders cease because they are few,
and those looking through the windows grow dim;*

4

*when the doors to the street are closed
and the sound of grinding fades;
when people rise up at the sound of birds,
but all their songs grow faint;*

5

*when people are afraid of heights
and of dangers in the streets;
when the almond tree blossoms
and the grasshopper drags itself along
and desire no longer is stirred.
Then people go to their eternal home
and mourners go about the streets.*

6

*Remember him—before the silver cord is severed,
and the golden bowl is broken;
before the pitcher is shattered at the spring,
and the wheel broken at the well,*

7

*and the dust returns to the ground it came from,
and the spirit returns to God who gave it.*

Literary Forms

Allegory—a story in which people, things and happenings have a specific hidden representation of some other reality. For example, *Pilgrims Progress*.

Didactic and Expository—straightforward teaching. Eg, Jesus’s Sermon on the Mount

Epic—Long narrative poem in a dignified style about the deeds of a traditional or historical hero, typically with certain formal structure, eg, *The Odyssey* by Homer.

Euphemism—a soft word for a harsher or harder reality like “sleep” for “death.”

Imperative: a command.

Fable—A fictitious story meant to teach a moral or political lesson; characters are often talking animals. Eg. George Orwell’s *Animal Farm*.

Imagery—pictures, statues, descriptions, figures of speech.

Hymn—poem or song in praise, usually, of God.

Legend—A story handed down for generations among a people and popularly believed to have some basis in historical fact, though not verifiable. George Washington and the cherry tree.

Simile—a comparison containing the direct indication of “as” or “like”. Her eyes are blue as the sky.

Metaphor—a comparison in which the “like” or “as” is not stated. All the world’s a stage.

Myth—a longer traditional story of unknown authorship which claims a historical basis, but without verifiability. For example the long story of the founding of Rome in Virgil’s *Aeneid*.

Narrative—an account told in story form.

Personification—a figure of speech in which a thing, quality or idea is represented as a person.

Consider the following if you choose to prepare for week 4

READ GENESIS 3-11: Look for the overall purpose of these chapters. Hint Chapter 11 shows the point

What literary forms do you perceive in Genesis 1-3?

The Tree of Life and the Tree of the knowledge of good and evil—how do you understand those images?

Genesis 2 presents what kind of outlook on the human species?

What commands do you find in Genesis 2?

MARKERS:

Genesis 9: Covenant with Noah sign of the rainbow

Genesis 11: Tower of Babel