



## Repentance Tabernacle Church

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### Creation!

**Lesson Text:** Genesis 1-2

**Focus Verses:** Genesis 1:27-28 - <sup>27</sup>So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. <sup>28</sup>And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

**Truth About Covenant:** God created the world for us and wants to be in covenant with us.

Contrary to the “cosmic accident” modern evolutionary theory, the Bible teaches that humanity was created for a distinct and noble purpose within a carefully-ordered creation wrought by the hand of our loving God for our enjoyment and for His glory. While it is almost a certainty there were aspects of “garden keeping” Adam and Eve may not have found all that enjoyable, life in the original Eden was the apex of humanity’s existence and is still our model for God’s highest purpose for human life. If we are ever to recover from the trauma of the Fall, we must look back to that original story for guidance and hope.

God, the only Creator, Adam and Eve the crown of creation. Genesis 1: *“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth”* (v. 1), all by Himself. *“And God said, Let there be light: and there was light”* (v. 3), just one God who spoke, and it happened just as He said. He presents building His creation layer upon layer and at the end of each stage, God called it good. Finally on the sixth day, His newly formed earth, He sculpt it into an “image” of Himself, male and female, that He called human. *“And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good”* (v. 31). Only then did He stop working and rest.

Genesis 2, God turned His attention to building a home for His image bearer, Adam. This home was the famed Garden of Eden, earth’s first and last true Paradise. Given the idyllic setting, it was all the more alarming when God suddenly pronounced: *“It is not good that the man should be alone”* (v. 18). Adam needed fellowship with another human—one who was like him. Eve was a divine gift to Adam, perfectly matched to meet his needs.

If you wonder what motivated God to create in the first place, it was a desire for fellowship—to have someone to love and to be loved in return. To signify the uniqueness of humanity’s relationship with Him, God granted them dominion, sharing His authority so they could rule with Him, caring for creation in their role as His representatives.

The mission and calling God has given us is not designed to be fulfilled on our own, but as part of His body, the church. Remember, Jesus’ command to go and make disciples was given corporately to all the disciples, not just to Peter or Jesus’ inner circle. The Great Commission is a group project (Matthew 28:19). Not only do I need to rely on my brothers and sisters to help me achieve my goals, but more importantly, I need to be the kind of brother (or sister) who supports others in their pursuit of God’s purpose.

Covenant with God is corporate and individual. God’s gracious invitation to covenant relationship with Him and His church is a saving call because it is simultaneously a call “**out of**” sin and the depravity of a fallen world and a call “**into**” a renewed life established on God’s original purpose and design (covenant). Without both aspects, we cannot experience true salvation; we will either become completely isolated from the world or totally assimilated into it. But when we enter into a covenant with God, we receive both an identity and a responsibility that allows us to be, as Jesus said, “**in**” the world but not “**of**” the world (John 17:14-16).

Yes, God has a “**chore**” for you—a job, a calling, a responsibility for which He has specifically designed you. But God doesn’t just love you for what you can do for Him; He loves you because you are you. You are His child, loved with a love as deep as Calvary and as passionate as Pentecost. He wants to be in a relationship with You, to be with you through life’s thick and thin, to partner with you in the call He has for you to answer, to celebrate your successes, and to help you grow stronger through the setbacks. **He’s just waiting for you to say yes to Him today.**