

The Big Day

Genesis 1:24-31

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Message transcript

So, we began our study through the Bible last week, and what an amazing book it is that we get to study together. By statistics alone, it is the most valuable, most important, book on the earth. It's the all time best seller. We know that. It's sold over six billion copies worldwide, written in, I forget what it is, like, 1,300 different dialects. And really the whole thing, the word of God, is a miracle. It was written by 40 (we believe), 40 different human authors. That is, 40 authors that God inspired to write the book. And it was written over a period of 1,500 years. So there was a very large time gap from the beginning of the writing to the end. And yet, in spite of that, the Lord was able to produce 1 book that is perfectly consistent in its doctrine, and is perfectly applicable to every generation. Now, how in the world did he do that? Because we can't even get like 10 modern day scholars to write 1 piece of paper on 1 subject, and bring agreement to the subject. We can't do that in our modern day. And yet God took 40 different authors over 1,500 years of cultural shifts and changes, and from all of that variety, God gave us a complete Bible, that you can't find a single error or inconsistency in. It's just truly amazing.

And he writes the Bible for 1 major driving purpose. You know, it's thematic. And if you look at those big themes, you step back (the closer that you look at the Bible, the more things you see, you know), but as you keep stepping back, looking for those big themes, ultimately you come to that 1 theme that we see from the beginning of the Bible to the end. And that is the theme of "how can mankind be right with God?" So really, that's the journey that the Bible would take us on. It all brings us to that 1 crossroad, that crossroad where you see your sin, and you see the cross of Christ, and then you make your decision, if you'll bear your own sin, if you'll bear the wrath of God on yourself, or if you'll nail it the cross and accept Christ. So that is the driving theme of the Bible. And along that journey, the Lord gives us all the information we need for life. No matter what time period that you lived in. Everything you need to know about living life is right here in this book, the Bible.

But along the way, as far as we go through the journey of the Bible, the Lord gives us not necessarily everything we want to see or want to know in scripture; but for sure, he gives us all that we need. For example, I would have loved more verses on the scientific facts of creation. Like, if it were up to me, I would be OK with, like, a Moses 3 volume set of science and creation. I love that stuff because as a Christian, it's so awesome when the world, and their science, and their archeology, catch up to the Bible. And we as Christians can say, "yeah, we knew that. We knew that all along." That's great. I would love for more of that to happen. You know, for example, Isaiah, when he wrote *Isaiah 40:22*, and stated that **God sits above the circle**, or the sphere, **of the Earth**, that was all new scientific information. When Job told us in *Job 26:7*, that God **hangs the earth on nothing**. That was all new information when Isaiah and Zechariah wrote to us and explained to us that **God stretches out the heavens**. In other words, the heavens are constantly expanding and pushing outward. That was all new scientific information. That was something that cultures didn't know. That was something unique to the Bible. And eventually science found out. What do you know the earth is... it's a circle. It is spherical. You can travel around it and come to the same point. The scientific world found out that, sure enough, God did hang the earth on nothing. It's a ball floating out in space. Who would have thought it? No cultures at that time knew that. Last of all, fairly recently, scientists discovered that what God said about stretching out the heavens is actually true. The universe, we're told from science now, is always ever

expanding, pressing outward, just as the Scripture says. The Lord stretches it out like a curtain; it's moving, it's growing, it's expanding, things are spreading out. So we come to all these things where science catches up and we realize that the Bible may not have all the information we want, but there's enough there that, along the way, we can look at the Bible, and we can look at what science and archeology is discovering, and we can go, "wow, God, you knew that all along." We had it right here in our lap, in the Bible.

So though we don't maybe have everything we want, or to the extent that we want... You know, I'm sure some of us would like a section of the Bible devoted just to marriage. Like, "Lord, how can I get along with this guy? How can I get along with this woman?" You know, there are things (did I hear an amen?), there are things we would like to know more of, but here's the thing, God has given us a complete work, a complete work. Now, when I say complete, it's complete on his terms. That is, God has given us what serves his purposes. And what his purposes are for us is that we might have fellowship with him. His purpose is to bring us into that fellowship. And he tells us this book is all we need to get that. It's the complete plan of redemption, and that is more important to God than our scientific curiosities. That's more important to God than some of the other things we'd like to know about our nature, about this world that we live in. God is first and foremost concerned about your spiritual walk with him. He's first and foremost concerned that you come to know him, that you do life with him, and that you grow in him. So, you know, when you look at it, we will have eternity to explore every nook and cranny of what God has created, and will be much better suited for it at the time. We'll be much better suited to fully appreciate the immensity of what God has made. I think we're going to be busy for a while. I know I'm going to have a lot of questions, and I'm going to want to see a lot of things.

So anyway, last Wednesday we made it all the way up to day 6 in our study of creation. And as I mentioned, day 6 was a full day. It was a big day. A lot of stuff took place on day 6. So we're going to take a look at that tonight. And then next week, we'll hop into Chapter 2, as we jump into day 7. And we'll see that up close and personal, look at some of the additional detail that Moses wants to give us about those early days of creation, but day 6, let's take a look beginning at verse 24.

²⁴ Then God said let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind, cattle and creeping thing and beast of the Earth, each according to its kind. And it was so. ²⁵ And God made the beast of the Earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth, according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

Now verse 24. It's rather tough, I think, for translators to distinguish between the animal types that are being spoken of here. But just to give you a little help, if you look at the three Hebrew words that are used, it does bring a little bit of clarity to it. The Hebrew word for cattle, which is the way my translation translates it, that Hebrew word means literally dumb. But I think the idea there is domestic. This is a domestic animal. It's not a strong-willed animal. And then in contrast to that, the Hebrew word for beast means lively roar, and strong. You get the idea there's a strong-willed animal there. So I think essentially what you're looking at there is the difference between a domestic animal and a wild animal. And then sandwiched between the two of those, we have the creeping things, the creeping things. So all of those tiny, pesky critters that scurry about in the dark: the snakes, the spiders, the scorpions, the lizards, the millipedes, the cockroaches, the stink bugs. This is where they had their origin. Now, I'm not one to complain, but personally, I would have been just fine without this part of creation. I don't like them and they don't like me very much. The creeping things. But for whatever his purposes, and in his brilliance, God decided that his plan, his planet, needed those things too; the creeping things. So he created them. And here we are, stuck with them. I'm sure it was fine at first in the perfect state. But, you know, in consideration of after the fall, those creeping things have now just become creepy things. And thank God we have Orkin and bug zappers, and all the things that we need to fight them. But, yeah, I could have done without that part of creation, personally.

And here we see this expression again, according to its kind. You notice that the Lord is intentioning to really drive this home. According to its kind. And that should jog your memory from last week's study if you were here. Because we discussed how the biblical account of creation teaches that what we see of animal life right now is the way animal life has always been, all the way back to the beginning. And we talked about how science supports this as fact. We talked about how the fossil records support that. Sure, there have been extinctions along the way. Sure, there have been changes within the different kinds of animals. Things do change over time. We understand all that. We called that micro change last week. But what we never do see is that macro change from one kind to another. We never see that jump. And so we talked about that last week as well, that jumping or morphing from one kind to another. And that regardless of how much time lapses, you're never going to see that jump.

And, you know, without a doubt, that whole lapse of time thing is a way of getting your attention drawn away from the impossibility of those specie leaps from kind to kind, get you not to look so closely at that. So they throw out this idea of a very, very old earth. Because when you start talking about, you know, cats turning into dogs, monkeys turning into people, we realize that in a very long span of time we haven't seen it. And so that throws that into question. But if the evolutionists can distract us and say, well, yeah, but you're only looking at a thousand years now. If you look at a million years now, now you're going to see where it's possible that these changes from time to time could happen. Well, then we study back to the fossil records of millions of years, and we do the math, and we figure things out, and we realize... no, no, it couldn't happen in millions of years either. OK, the earth is billions of years old. And so evolution does this. They keep adding time cushion to help try to support their theory. But no matter how much time they add, no matter how old they think the earth is, you're just never going to see that jump from kind to kind. It's all a farce. It's all a waste. It is all a deception and a distraction. It's best just to believe what God says; especially when you have science and archeology supporting that. So we've already picked on Darwin's theory of evolution, mainly because that is the most popular counter argument for creation, but really, this is a fact of scripture that eliminates all other theories that would try to circumvent the belief of the instantaneous creation of animals. Now, you and I know the answer to the question, what came first, the chicken or the egg? And we know it was the chicken. The chicken was created, adult life was created. It was programed to procreate. And any attempt to circumvent that instantaneous creation of life, as we see it and we know it, is going to veer off, disagree with true science. And it's certainly going to veer off and disagree with the Bible. Because the Bible locks this in. The Bible could not be any more clear.

And it even destroys the theistic evolution viewpoint. I don't know if you know what that is. Theistic evolution, basically what that is, is a marrying together of Christianity and science (evolution). It's a way of compromising. It's a way of saying, OK, you scientists are pretty sure the Earth is billions of years old. We Christians think it's 6,000. OK, you know what, we'll abandon our young earth theory, and we'll put it like this: we do believe God created everything, but basically he just got the ball rolling. You know, he created simple forms of life, got the ball rolling, and said go to it. And then over millions and billions of years, like the evolutionist says, then God sort of let that life unfold and evolve. But I understand the reason why a Christian might want to compromise with the evolutionist. Maybe it's an attempt to win the evolutionists, but it's far from what God's word says. God works this in as definite. God works this in as once and for all creation in six literal days. Animals will always remain within their kind. So...

²⁶ Then God said, "let us make man in our image, according to our likeness. Let them have dominion 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." ²⁷ So God created man in his own image. In the image of God, he created him. Male and female, he created them.

Now, this is the summary statement. As you know, we're going to see the origin of Eve, and how that was a little different than Adam's origin. But this is the summary statement. In the next chapter, Moses is going to zoom in on that specific section. But for right now, when we look at verse 26, something pretty heavy jumps out to my attention. Did you notice what God said? Verse 26? God said (listen closely), "let us make man in our image." So did you notice that God is having a conversation here? He's saying let us. He's talking to someone or something, right? "Let us make man in our image." So the big question is, who is he talking to? And that brings us back to something that I held out from you last week in our study (purposefully), and that is the fourth word of our Bible, verse 1, the fourth word. Now, you read it in English and it says God. In the beginning, God. All right. But you cannot see from that English word just what all is involved with that title of God. We know that's not his name, God is not his name. That's not his proper name. He does have a name. That's his title. He is God. But when we look at that Hebrew word, we realize there's something much bigger to that Hebrew word.

First of all, if you've had any Hebrew lessons, like even two or three lessons, you're going to look at that word, it's the word Elohim, Elohim, you're going to look at that word, you're going to see that suffix on the end that says im. And you're going to instantly know that is a plural word. The fourth word, Elohim, or God, is a plural word. Now, the Hebrews have a little bit different way of pluralizing their words than we do. We just, like English, we throw an S on it. We just add an S to everything to make something plural. So if I said I just saw dogs outside, you wouldn't know if I was talking about 2 dogs or 20 dogs. All you'd know is that I'm talking about more than one dog. Plural. But the Hebrews made a distinction there, so that they could give a plural word that meant 2; or, so that they could give a plural word that meant 2 or more. And you'd be surprised, I guess, at, if you didn't know already, what word, what plural, that the Lord uses here to describe his title. Now El, we know El. Let's take a look at that root. Because the title here is Elohim. And we are probably familiar with that, that root of the title of God (El). You've probably heard of El Shaddai or El Elyon. You know, that EL part is the beginning root title of God. So if it was going to be a single, singular word, it would just say, El. In the beginning, El created the heavens and the Earth. But it's not a singular word. If it was a dual, dual plural, meaning two beings, then we would see the word Ela here. But that word is never used in the Bible. Now there's another plural, which is to add an im to the end of a Hebrew word. And when you do that, the meaning is that this is a plural of more than 2. Whatever your pluralizing in Hebrew with im, it is a plural of more than 2. And that is the word that is used for God. In the beginning, God; meaning three or more persons. God in three or more persons created the heavens and the earth. So OK, we say, God is plural then? Correct.

Well, then why doesn't the translation say "in the beginning gods created the heavens and the Earth?" "In the beginning, our gods (plural) created the heavens and the earth." Well, that is because our translators know something about the Bible, and what it teaches when you balance the Scriptures out. Because the Bible does not teach that we serve 3 gods, does it? So the Bible teaches the plurality of God, and we'll just come out and say it, right? God exists in 3 persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. But God does not just exist in a plural form, as if we serve gods. But rather, God is also singular in nature. And you see that right here. Believe it or not, in the verses we just read (look at verse 27), you'll see the pronoun "his." And you'll see "he." And you'll see that all through the first chapter (God, plural). But then you'll see these words that are singular to describe him. And our translators know, and that's why they don't translate God as gods. They know what the Bible teaches, that God exists as a singular and yet a plural. In other words, he is 1 God in 3 persons. Now, I know we all believe that. That's sort of like Sunday School 101: God in three persons, one God in three persons. But I just want to show you how often, as we go through this, that you will see that taught in the scriptures. It's in the fourth word of the Bible. We already start to learn about the plurality of God. And then all through this chapter, we are held in check by the singularity of God. So interesting. Interesting, very interesting.

The best explanation that I can give you for this is to give you a little example, and this is the way that I explain the Trinity, because that's what we're talking about here. The Trinity is not a word that is used in the Bible, but

that word sums up what we know about God. Trinity is the shortened form of Triunity. And you just look at the word, break it up, tri = 3, unity = 1. God is a triunity. He's 3 in 1. He's 3 beings, but he's 1 God. So here's my example that kind of helps to explain this. And I've, still to this day, never heard anyone give an example like this. But to me, it's the thing that makes the most sense. So this is an Arlyn exclusive tonight. For what that's worth. I guess, you know, keep that in mind. That's a warning. But let's let's just say this as an example. Let's say that in this made up example, there are 3 of me. And yet all 3 of me are controlled by 1 brain. By the way, I would really love this. All right. So listen to the example. There's 3 of me and I'm controlling all 3 of my different bodies with 1 brain. And my brain is strong enough to do it. My brain is strong enough to see through all 3 bodies, and hear through all 3 bodies, and carry on 3 different conversations, but it's all connected to this 1 brain. So I send 1 me out to work. I send 1 me to be the secular worker and make money so that I can live my life. Now, the 2nd me, I'm going to make my spiritual me. That me is going to stay home and study the Bible all day. That me is going to answer your phone calls with your spiritual questions. And then the 3rd me, I'm going to reserve for relaxation and snacking. That's going to be the me that grows the fastest. But that's beside the point. So here's these 3 me's. They're all out doing different things. They have their different roles and they have their different functions. But they're all me. They're all controlled from 1 place. And so if you're working with the work me, that is the full version of me. If you are studying the Bible or asking Bible questions to the spiritual me, that's the full me. Or if you're at home on the couch, relaxing with me, snacking with me, then you're getting the full me, you're relaxing and snacking with the full me. So it's 3 bodies, 3 versions of me, all different roles, all different functions, and yet completely unified by 1 mind. And that is the best way that I can explain God. It's tough for us to understand. I know, it stretches the mind. The greatest theologians of all time have wrestled with this understanding of the Trinity. But essentially we see God in 3 beings, yet perfectly, perfectly unified in all things controlled by that 1 Spirit.

So anyway, what you are reading in verse 26 is a conversation then among Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It's a divine board meeting (which, by the way, we need to have a board meeting this week, so I'll have to get with you guys). But yeah, this is a divine board meeting. "Let us make man in our image." Now, the individual that does not believe in the triunity of God might say, "well, I don't know that that's a stated fact. I think maybe he's just talking with the angels, you know, gathering of the angels." "Hey, Angels, I got an idea. Let's make this new thing mankind and let's create them in our image, you know, holy, heavenly, spiritual." But the scriptures themselves that we are looking at tightens this all up by saying, "God created man in his OWN image." We weren't created in the image of angels. So God wasn't talking to angels when he said, "let us make man in our image." Very clearly, this is a divine board meeting where Father, Son and Holy Spirit are conversating. So, this is what we call the "let us statements." And you'll see many of them as we go through the Book of Genesis, and as we go through the Bible. And I'll point them out as we do them. They're conversations among God.

I love that about God. He is built-in community. He is built-in fellowship. And it's no wonder that he desires that so much for us. He is in perfect fellowship with himself, which, by the way, is another reason, if we're looking for reasons why we really probably shouldn't have been created, that's one of them. God was perfectly content in who he was. He had perfect communion and fellowship with himself. And yet God, for whatever his purposes were, whatever the desire of his heart, created us to also have fellowship with him. And this idea of fellowship, he loves. And that's why he has set up the church. That's why he's called us to work together in the church, not as Lone Ranger Christians, or rogue Christians, out there doing our own thing for the Kingdom of God. No, he's called us to live this spiritual life in fellowship. God loves fellowship and he thinks it's good for us. And if our fellowship is good and godly, then it is good for us.

So, God's last creation was mankind. He saved the best for last. This was the crowning achievement of God in creation. And because of that he made us very different. We were the only creation, the only part of creation, that was made in the image of God. And so there's uniqueness in that. Mankind would be set up to have dominion over the earth. And because of that special permission from God, mankind would be especially

equipped to carry that out. So mankind is made as a higher life form than the animals. I hope we understand that. Not all people understand that. You know, a handful of years ago, it was a big deal on the West Coast to preserve the life of the spotted owl. And if you if you like, destroyed the nest of a spotted owl, or destroyed an egg of a spotted owl, you could be fined very stiffly, or end up in jail for destroying the newborn life of a spotted owl. And yet you could go down the street to Planned Parenthood and you could have your own baby aborted. It's almost as if that the world has taken the animal life and put it on the same plane with mankind. But it should not be that way. God created mankind to have dominion, and he created mankind in a special way, a way that the animal life was not created. Mankind alone would have free will. Mankind alone would have sophisticated thinking and verbal communication. Mankind alone would be uniquely made for fellowship with God, unlike the animals. So the spirit of mankind is different than the spirit that God put in the animals. Solomon tells us in ***Ecclesiastes 3:21***, that ***the spirit of mankind goes upward and that the spirit of the animal goes down to the earth***. We alone were made to have this communion with our father. We alone, in this creation, were made to know the heart, the mind, the will of our God.

And it would seem, according to Solomon, that we alone were made to outlive our bodies and live forever. We are a unique creation. And just as God is a 3 part being, he created us in his own image, and he made us a 3 part being. We're 3 part beings. We're little versions of the Trinity all in ourselves. We are body, we are soul, we are spirit. And those are 3 very different things. We're body. That's the physical part. We're soul, which is the thing that relates to the mind, the will and the emotions. And we are spirit, which is that spiritual part of us that relates to God. And those three things are very different. They're very separate within you, though they're joined together by you. You can have differences between your body and your soul. Your body can say, "I really want another piece of that pie," and your soul, your mind, your thinking, your will, can say, "no, I really don't need that." And so, you can have these disagreements within your own self, that show you the differences that you have. You can have those fleshly desires that are contrary to God, and yet you can have a spirit resisting that, saying, "no, I love the Lord and I want to serve the Lord." So we are 3 part beings, even as God is 3 part being: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

And he gave us many of his own traits when he created us in his own image. I wish I could go into detail on this, but let's just do this for sake of time. Let's stick to the script. And let's look at the obvious, the obvious trait that we see right here in Genesis 1, and that is that God is creative. Isn't that what the chapter is about? And just as God is creative, he made us creative as well. We think stuff up out of nowhere. And then if we're motivated, we go make it. And I know this is tough for our youth to understand, but there were days before the automobile, the TV, the music disk, the Internet, the smartphone. But you know what, we imagined that up creatively and we went out and we made it. According to Al Gore, he made the Internet. I'm not so sure about that. But mankind, we are creative, just like our father is. And he's even built into us the ability to procreate. And that's what we're going to get in verse 28.

²⁸ Then God blessed them. And God said to them, "be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth and subdue 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."

So I like this because this was God's initial commission to mankind. We see his role. We see his possession (the earth and the creatures in it). And now we see mankind's commission. This is the mission that mankind would be on. First off, be fruitful and multiply. Yes, God wanted lots of people on this planet. Now, that doesn't mean we have to be unwise about repopulating the Earth. Always remember that God created for so long. And then he said, it's good, that's enough. And you can do the same thing, too. You can use your wisdom as you are procreating little ones to populate the earth. But God loves people. He wanted the earth to be filled. And he was giving mankind dominion over the earth. And now, those that are commissioned by God to subdue the earth (notice that word subdue the earth), and that's an interesting word to be used here, I think. Because the word subdue means to conquer and maintain rule. And we're probably thinking to ourselves, subdue what?

What is there to subdue? Now, I don't know how much subduing the animal life needed, or the plantlife needed. I mean, there's probably not much there since this was before the fall. So you don't have animals attacking animals, and animals attacking people. I don't really know how much subduing was needed there for the animal life. But here's what I do know. This was a great heads-up to mankind, that there was going to be a power struggle on the earth. As it's going to turn out, mankind was never really left uncontested in his dominion over the Earth. If he was, it wasn't for long. Because in Genesis 3, we're going to see the challenge to mankind's dominion. In Chapter 3, we're going to find out that, unfortunately, mankind wasn't alone on this planet, that somewhere along the way, before Genesis 3, Lucifer was cast out of heaven for his pride. And guess where he landed? Isn't it our luck? He landed on the earth. You know him as Satan today. He's been around the whole time. This has become his stomping grounds, as you already know. And as Adam and Eve are about to find out. He is crafty. He is tricky. He is an enemy and he will not be easy to subdue. They won't even make it to Chapter 4 before there's a change of power, before there's a change of dominion.

But I love this. Be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth and subdue it. This is great advice for us today. Now we're looking at things in a spiritual light. We're looking at things from the New Testament point of view. Literally, the way it's written, no, this isn't still the commission of mankind. It's different now, for now. But spiritually, this really, truly does make for a very good plan of attack in the Christian life.

First off, be fruitful. What does it look like to be fruitful in spiritual life? Well, I would just point you to **Galatians 5:22-23**. Here's what it looks like to be fruitful. Here's what fruitfulness looks like in spiritual life today. **The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.** That's what it looks like to be fruitful.

Secondly, multiply and fill. What does it look like in spiritual life today to multiply and fill? Well, I think if you want to multiply on the earth, then that means we have to expand out our godly influence on the world. I think that means that we have to fill our world with God's word. I think that means we have to win our families to the Lord. We have to win our friends to the Lord. We have to win our acquaintances to the Lord. When we do that, we're multiplying and filling.

Thirdly, subdue. What does it look like to subdue in spiritual life today? Well, we aren't talking about a military campaign to take over the Earth for Christ, I would not necessarily be opposed to that. I'd have to give it some thought. But no, that's not what we're talking about. We're talking about subduing that which is within our sphere of influence. You know, for Adam and Eve, that was everything. Subdue everything. You're in charge. But for us, our sphere of influence, our sphere of authority, is quite a bit more limited. But we do have authorities in our life. We do have those spheres of influence. You know, it starts with our family. It extends to our friends, our churches. We have influence in those areas. You know, just because we have won someone to the Lord, that doesn't mean the job's done. They're subduing that needs to be done. That is where you are trying to push down the attempts of the enemy, to flip the power, to regain power in the lives of those people. That's why we do church. That's part of it. You know, we're trying to maintain what the Lord has won. And that involves subduing. That involves pushing down the attempts of the enemy to drag any of us out of here and back into the world.

So, that's what we do to maintain Kingdom expansion. We do that by pushing back against the influences that are struggling to get a hold of our hearts and minds. For me, that means my kids. I have two teenagers. I'm feeling this struggle of subduing my home for the Lord. And I don't know how I'll do. We'll have to wait till they're in their 20s. We'll reevaluate and see how I did. But that's part of my role, to subdue those influences. And you have some form of that in your life as well.

²⁹ *and God said, "see, I have given you every herb (or herb, herb, I think, never quite know how to pronounce that) that yields seed, which is on the face of all the earth. And every tree, whose fruit yields seed to you, it shall be for food."*

So I love this. God said I'm giving you all kinds of good stuff to eat. I'm giving you all kinds of variety for you to enjoy. All the plant life you can eat. Just enjoy whatever strikes your fancy. Have at it. You know, I'm glad God didn't like, just give us a magic pill to take every day. Like, it just, you know, they just fall from the heavens and land on the earth and you take your magic vitamin pill. This is how it is. You know, you do this and you live. You want to live here, take your daily pill. God didn't do that to us. He gave us food so that we can enjoy replenishing our bodies. Yes, as you saw here from the scriptures, we all started off as vegetarians. But thank God, after the fall, right after the fall, (and again, I think it has to do with that canopy that we talked about last week that collapses and suddenly the Earth's atmosphere is drastically different), and right after the fall, praise the Lord, he says, guess what? You need meat in your diet now. So have some burgers. I'm so glad I live post-Flood. I'm so glad I live post-flood. Because I love burgers. I love steak. I love meat loaf. Basically, any time I eat a cow has to die. That's pretty much it. But I love food. Food is a gift. Food is a gift from God. He loves to bless people. The Bible says **"every good and perfect gift comes from above."** The Bible says **"he satisfies our mouth with good things."** The Bible says **"he's given us, of all things freely to enjoy."** And how the unbeliever takes advantage of the goodness of God. You know, the unbeliever gets all that, too. **"It rains on the just and the unjust."** Their crops grow, too. They get all of God's bounty that he has provided for mankind to enjoy. And they're ungrateful. And they don't recognize his hand in it. I do. I thank God for food. It's in all of my celebrations. Again, every time I celebrate, a cow dies. It's in all of my celebrations. And I'm always thankful that the Lord has given me food. Can you tell? I've had a lot to celebrate in the last couple of years. God has been good.

³⁰ *Also to every beast of the Earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food. And it was so.* ³¹ *Then God saw everything that he had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning of the sixth day.*

So, interesting, there were no carnivores to begin with in God's creation. Animals won't start eating each other until after the fall. That's when we will begin to see the effects of the cursed planet that we live on, and animals start attacking one another. And now we have carnivores. And, you know, honestly, people act the same way, really, people attacking one another, destroying one another, killing one another. The first murder in the Bible is coming up real quick. It doesn't take long for the planet to begin attacking itself. Things will go from God's perfect order and design to absolute chaos. But you know what? Even though mankind wrecks God's planet, even though mankind falls to sin, God does not abandon his fallen creation. God, even from the beginning, has a plan. And we'll talk about that more in Chapter 3. So, if you think about it, Genesis 1 cost God nothing, cost him nothing. Everything that takes place in Genesis 1 is all additions. And it causes him no pain to create. It causes him no shedding of blood to create. It causes him not even a drop of sweat. Because what did we say? "By the word of the Lord, the heavens were established." That's how he created; he spoke. You know, he imagined this all up in his heart. Everything we see and all the stuff out there that we can't see, he imagined it all up in his heart. And when the time came, he spoke the words and everything fell in line to follow through with the commands of God. And that was creation. No sweat. No work, no sacrifice, no cost. And yet the human race then would fall and now God has a decision. He could let the human race go to hell, as it chose for itself. Technically, choosing anything other than God is worthy of hell. "To know to do good and to do it not is sin." "Anything that's not of faith, it is a sin." But the other option would be to provide a plan of redemption. And that is the thing that would cost God greatly. That is the thing that would pain him dearly. That is the thing that would shed blood. And that is the route that he chose for us. How amazing, how incredible, that he would create us. And that he would love us so much, and desire to see our redemption.

That word means to buy back. In other words, you had something, you lost it, and now you're going to redeem it. You're going to buy it back. That God would redeem us at the cost of his of his own Son's death on the cross. And now, if you remember something, this isn't God passing the buck to the Son. This isn't like one of those "let us statements." Let us decide who gets to go and redeem the Earth by shedding blood on the cross. And like Jesus got the short end of the stick. Father and Spirit didn't have to go. But Jesus got the short end of the draw, and he would. No, it's not that. Because as we've discovered, God is 3 in one. And so that's why the scriptures can tell us that God was himself dying in Christ. This is God shedding blood. This is divine blood that would be shed to redeem us. The great cost of redeeming mankind. Yet he loves us that much that he would do it. How amazing. I think I would just scratch the whole thing and start over. You spoke a word and boom, there it was. You can speak a word and boom, there it's gone. And start over and create mankind with a little, you know, free will, but a little less. You know what I mean? Like free will, but not stupid. But God didn't do that. He chose to keep what he made and to redeem us. And I'm so thankful. Let's close in a word of prayer.