

Created: Purpose

Created for fruitfulness

Preamble - A Year Of the Lords Favour

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim (announce) good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, [2] to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, **Isaiah 61:1-2**

"Sing, barren woman, who has never had a baby. Fill the air with song, you who've never experienced childbirth! You're ending up with far more children than all those childbearing women." **Isaiah 54:1-5 MSG**

- His grace, kindness and love towards us
- Him being present with us and giving us Encounter with him
- The growing family here and depth of relationship
- The increasing growth in prayer
- Stewarding the favour is what is important - Joseph

Introduction

The first three chapters of Genesis are foundational to our understanding of scripture. All the key themes are there. This series focuses on the facts that human beings are:

We are created by design in the image of Creator God

There is ONE GREAT STORY WHICH DOES MOMENTOUSLY ACCOUNT FOR WHERE WE'VE COME FROM, WHY WE'RE HERE AND WHERE WE'RE GOING. ONE 'PLOT-LINE' which reveals and reflects the true meaning of existence. The plot-line of creation, fall, redemption and final consummation contained in the Old and New Testament Scriptures and embodied in the life, ministry, death and glorification and reign of JESUS CHRIST... Rev Dr **David Hilborn**

- In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1
- In the beginning God
- He created, this is his design
- We are not here by accident but by God's divine design

There is no more important decision you can make about the universe than this. Is there a Person behind it or not? How you regard the universe, how you treat it, what you hope to get from it and give to it, how you view your own life and work and relationships and goals – all will be shaped decisively by how you answer that question. **Mike Lloyd** Café Theology

- Created to be in friendship with Creator God
- Created to express his character on earth

- Created with purpose to steward God's earth and creation and be fruitful
- Created to reach all other peoples with the good news of friendship with God
- The enemy tried to thwart and twist God plan
- Jesus was sent to to redeem or purchase us and restore relationship with creators God and reestablish our purpose

Created For Purpose

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. " **Genesis 1:28**

God spoke: "Let us make human beings in our image, make them reflecting our nature So they can be responsible for the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, the cattle, And, yes, Earth itself, and every animal that moves on the face of Earth." God created human beings; he created them godlike, Reflecting God's nature. He created them male and female. God blessed them: "Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Earth! Take charge! Be responsible for fish in the sea and birds in the air, for every living thing that moves on the face of Earth." **Genesis 1:26-28 MSG**

1. Relationship with God

God .. blessed them .. he said to them ..

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. [9] But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?" **Genesis 3:8-9**

- Created for friendship, relationship and connection with the maker
- Abraham a friend of God, David a man after God's own heart
- In fact only in that place of relationship are we complete and whole
- We are then called to be an expression of his character on the earth

Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. **John 17:3**

You are my friends if you do what I command. [15] I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. **John 15:14-15**

We function best in relation ship with the Creator God
Many of us now him as Father or Abba - Close and intimate friendship

2. To steward the earth and be fruitful

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- In God's image
- Reflecting his nature
- To be responsible for the fish in the sea, birds in the air, all creatures and yes the earth itself!
- Take Charge
- Be responsible

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. **Genesis 2:15**

Earths Resources

Natural resources

- Back in 1961, the entire planet used just over slightly more than half of Earth's biocapacity. Today, 80 percent of countries use more biocapacity than is available within their borders.
- Human consumption of Earth's natural resources has tripled in 40 Years
- If the entire world lived like the average American, we'd need 5 planets to provide enough resources.
- Americans make up 5% of the worlds population yet produce 30% of the worlds waste and use 25% of the worlds resources.

Waste

- UK households binned £13bn worth of food in 2015 that could have been eaten; an estimated 7.3m tonnes of household food.
- In the UK we use 7 million disposable coffee cups every day – that's 2.5 billion every year. Less than 1% actually get recycled. Un-recycled plastic takes hundreds of years to break down, meaning lots of it ends up impacting the natural environment. In addition to the plastic, there are countless trees being felled to produce a product that only ends up being used for the length of time it takes to drink a latte.
- We throw away 2.5 million plastic bottles every hour,
- We produce enough styrofoam cups annually to circle the earth 436 times and trash enough office paper to build a 12-foot wall from Los Angeles to New York City.

- We throw away 570 disposable nappies each second,
- we throw out enough aluminium cans to rebuild our commercial air fleet every three months.
- Each year we fill enough garbage trucks to stretch from Earth halfway to the moon.

Damage to the planet

- Since 1980, about 35% of mangroves have been lost, 20% of the world's coral reefs have been destroyed and another 20% badly degraded.
- The Great Pacific Garbage Patch, which is a swirling vortex of waste and debris in the Pacific Ocean, covers an area twice the size of the U.S and is believed to hold almost 100 million tons of rubbish.
- One in four mammals is at risk of extinction. Humans are mostly to blame as we've encroached upon their habitats, polluted the earth and hunted far too many of them.
- At least 50 million acres of rainforest are lost every year, totalling an area the size of England, Wales and Scotland combined.

Ways to play your part

- **Reuse** shopping bags, reduce the plastic being wasted, keep a stash in your car or invest in tote bags.
- **Repair** rather than discard. See if the problem is fixable, sew up a hole, replace a bulb.
- **Reduce** waste — take a reusable coffee mug to coffee shops (also cheaper) use reusable water bottles.
- **Recycle** — Recycling just one aluminium can saves enough electricity to power a TV for three hours, and aluminium cans can be recycled an unlimited number of times. If the New York Times were to use recycled paper for just one day approximately 75,000 trees would be saved.
- Cancel/unsubscribe to unnecessary mail to save paper
- Pay attention to how you use water. Turn the tap off while you're brushing your teeth.
- Walk or ride your bike to work, you can reduce greenhouse gases while burning some calories and improving your health.

3. To be fruitful in reaching all peoples

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us--- [2] so that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations. [3] May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you. [4] May the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you rule the peoples with equity and guide the nations of the earth. [5] May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you. [6] The land yields its harvest; God, our God, blesses us. [7] May God bless us still, so that all the ends of the earth will fear him.

Psalm 67:1-7

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” **Matthew 28:19-20**

The Great Commission

Serving the Poor - food, education, clothing, opportunity, injustice, compassion activity

Right here and now

- Make Blessing a lifestyle
 - Live to add value to other people
 - Love on them - People are valuable and precious, they are not a project
1. **Begin with Prayer** - I will pray for the people in my life and the places I am in.
 - Make this your default position
 - Pray not only for yourself but for others
 - Have a short list of those you are believing God to save.
 2. **Listen** - I will listen to and discover the needs of others and the places where God is at work
 - Learn to listen -
 - Ask questions about others and not just speak about yourself
 - Silence your own heart to truly listen to other people - Be a friend
 3. **Eat** - I will share meals and spend time with people
 - Sharing food is so powerful
 - It creates a bond - invites somebody into your world
 - It's quite a personal and intimate thing
 4. **Serve** - I will respond to the needs of others and help them in practical and impactful ways
 - Look for ways to serve others, to add value for their lives
 - Make servanthood your life posture

Jesus called them together and said, “You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” **Mark 10.42-45**
 5. **Share your story** - I will share the story of Jesus and he is doing in my life with others
 - Speak Jesus when and where appropriate

- We do need clear sensitive and yet unashamed explanation of the goodness and saving power of Jesus
- Share your personal story - what Jesus has done for you

Conclusion - So we have some questions to ask

- Do we live as producers or consumers
- Are living like stewards or owners
- Is Jesus Lord In your life - really Lord ... And how is his lordship expressed?

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, [7] rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. [8] See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.

Colossians 2:6-8

For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. **Romans 8:19**

Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about them: "See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones. **Jude 1:14**