

Final Paper

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Genesis 1:26-28

This passage is at the end of God's six-day creation. On the fifth day, God created life in the water and in the air, as well as animals on the earth. Here God is speaking to multiple audiences, which include Jesus and the Holy Spirit. During the first five days, all things were created by the word of God, God spoke, and creation is done. But on the sixth day, God created man in His own image, and God also assigned them dominion over the earth. This is the first time that men were called to participate in God's creation. The similarity between men and God brought God's creation to the highest point.

This passage focuses on the theme of God creating man in his own image. In the three sentences, making man in God's image has been mentioned twice. Not like the rest of the lives God created, God gave the ability for man to dominate the rest of lives, and subdue the earth. Man has the honor and privilege to represent God.

In Psalm 8:4-8, the author realizes how insignificant men are and how glorious men were made in the image of God. Over here, the author goes further to indicate that God not only created men in his image but also is mindful of them, and crowned them with glory and honor. Men's position escalated to a point that they are only a little lower than angels.

In 2 Corinthians 3:18, in the Old Testament, men were created in the image of God, that's most about physical appearance. But due to the Fall, men were distorted by sin, and couldn't represent God anymore even though they were still in the image of God. It is Jesus that men could restore the image of God. Now the image is not only about physical looking, but it points

to a life that has been transformed into the likeness of Jesus, adding much deeper meaning to the image of God.

In Romans 8:29-30, this passage again mentions the image of Jesus. It points out that we as God's predestined ones should be like Jesus. We have the image of Jesus is to draw others to him. And with the image of Jesus, we are called, justified, and glorified by God. Only in this kind of image, we could represent God.

As the image carrier of God, we should know that it's a privilege as well as a responsibility. Our words, actions, our life should reflect the glory of Jesus, not only in church settings. People would be drawn to us by the glory we reflect from Jesus who's living in us.

Genesis 12:1-3

After God washed out the whole earth by flood because of people's sins. But that didn't prevent people from sinning, they built Babel tower, and God dispersed them over the earth. After many generations, God called Abram out of nowhere and made a covenant with him. This is the first time God used the word "nation" when there were many small tribes around. God promised to make Abram's name great, and make Abram a blessing to others. God also promised his protection upon Abram.

This passage focused on the theme of covenant, which is unilateral, God is the one who completes the covenant, and Abram's part is just obeying and following God.

In 2 Samuel 7:8-14, when David wanted to build a temple for God, God didn't accept it but set a covenant with him instead. In this passage, God recalled his protection to David as he

promised to Abram. For Abram, God cursed those who dishonored Abram. But for David, God helped David to cut off his enemies, this is much further than just cursing. Not only help, but God also has been with David wherever he went. There is one thing in common, God also promised to make David's name great. God also promised David he would establish a house for David, and this is the first time, God used the word "kingdom" instead of "nation" for David's offspring, here, God's covenant is not only with David but also with his offspring. And this offspring was raised by God.

In 1 king 9:3-7, that's when Solomon had finished building the temple for God, God appeared to him and made a covenant with him. Because Solomon built the temple which is a place where people could worship God. Instead of being with Solomon as God did with David, God said his heart and eyes would be always at the temple. God promised Solomon that he would establish a royal throne for David. This is the first time, God set the responsibility for Solomon and his offspring in order to have the promise fulfilled. In some way, God had foretold the future destruction of Israel and the temple Solomon rebuilt.

We see here God had done a lot for us, he solely set multiple covenants with our ancestors, but none of them obeyed the covenants, and they failed in many ways like us today. But God send his son Jesus to us, and the covenant he made with us, is done through his own life, so when we participate in his death and resurrection, our life has been transformed. This covenant is a life-changing covenant, so we have the power to live a life differently. Our mission is to lead more people to this everlasting covenant, which would benefit them this life and also guarantee a life afterward.

Exodus 19:1-6

This is the covenant God made with Moses at Mount Sinai. God reminded Moses what he had done for Israel, if Israel obey God, God will take them as his possession. And above that, this is the first time God used Kingdom and Nation in Israel, that's not about Royal or ethnicity, it's about religion and the Holy. God wanted each of his people to be a priest, which echoes the passage in 2 Peter. This is a covenant as well as a prophecy.

The theme is a covenant to set apart Israel as a Holy nation. Similar to the covenant set with Abraham in Genesis 12, God would form his people into a nation, but here God first brought out the concept of Kingdom, and more specifically God would like his people to become Holy and focusing on worshipping Him.

In Isaiah 43:16-21, over here, again God mentioned what he did to Egypt which he also said in Exodus 19:1-6. But he said that's an old thing, he'll do a new thing. He emphasized that he formed the people, and they'll glory his name among the nation.

In 1 Peter 2:9-10, after chapter one talks about how Christians live a life worth the Gospel, over there, Peter reemphasized the new identity they have in Jesus as well as the mission for them. The new identity is similar to what God had promised to Israel in Exodus 19:1-6, they are God's possession. In the Old Testament, God's people had a priesthood, but today, God's people are a priesthood.¹ Their mission is to proclaim what God had done in their lives which is the Gospel. In Exodus 19:1-6, God just gave them the covenant, there was no specific mission with it, but in this passage, God had made it very clear.

In today's world, people are looking for their identities which are most attached to what they have or what they have done. Even in the church setting, 20% of Christians serve the rest 80%, most Christians don't quite realize their identities in Jesus, some of them live a life which

¹ Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary* (Colorado Springs: David C Cook, 2008), 401.

has no different than nonbelievers; some of them struggle with sins and couldn't live out the power and authority in Jesus; some of them stay at the stage of a spiritual child, couldn't grow into maturity. There are many programs of discipleship in the church, there should be more on how to live out our identity in Jesus.

Psalm 2

This passage is a Messianic Psalm about prophecy. There are four voices in this passage, the voice of the nations, the voice of the Father, the voice of the Son, and the voice of the Holy Spirit.² The nations rage and gather together to set themselves against the Father and his Son. The Father laughs at the nations and has set his Son to discipline the nations. The Son has the word from the Father and will be king of all kings. The Holy Spirit leads people to the reverence and obedience of God.

The theme of this passage is the prophecy of Jesus Christ. Although there is the reality of nations raging against God, God's wrath is reserved for those who are against him. Here the prophecy of Jesus is the hope for the nations, the Holy Spirit will guide those who put their trust in the Son. There are judgments from the Father, but there are also hope and blessing through Jesus the Son.

In Mathew 3:17, Jesus was baptized, after he went up out of the water, the Holy Spirit descended on him and God spoke direct from heaven. This is the first time God revealed Jesus's identity, God's beloved Son. In the Old Testament, as well as in Psalm 2, all things written about Jesus were prophecies. Here the first time, those prophecies have been fulfilled and revealed by God.

² Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary* (Colorado Springs: David C Cook, 2008), 88-90.

In Mark 9:7, during Jesus' transfiguration, God spoke to Peter, James, and John through the cloud about Jesus again. After Mathew 3:17, the second time God said "This is my beloved Son." God didn't just emphasize it, He also stated that they needed to listen to Jesus. The prophecy of Jesus as the beloved son of God had been fulfilled again.

In Acts 13:30-33, Paul spoke in the synagogue in Antioch in Pisidia. He talked that Jesus had resurrected from death. The resurrection of Jesus fulfilled the prophecy in Psalm 2, that Jesus is the beloved Son of God.

As Christians today, we know that many prophecies in the Bible have been fulfilled. Among all of them, the prophecy of Jesus as the Son of God, His death, and resurrection means the most to us. As Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15:13-19 because Jesus has been raised from the dead, the prophecy of him has been fulfilled, our life is not in vain.

