

IN THE BEGINNING: GENESIS 1

2. The Glory of Creation – Genesis 1:1-27

Introduction

A revelation of the *God* of creation to lead us in praise of the *glory* of creation

1. God has carefully *ordered* the world he has created

- The structure serves the message: from discordant chaos to harmonious cosmos

Deliberate ordering:

- God's powerful repeated **words** answer & overwhelm all 'problems' of v2
- Two **triads of days**: forming the formless and filling the emptiness
- Multiple textual features focus on **order, design, purpose** and **care** in everything

Two implications:

- Human science is possible
- Human security is promised

2. God has carefully ordered the world *for* mankind

- The principal focus and climax of the creation account is the creation of man

Anthropocentric purpose dictates creation's story is told

Days 1-3 – Essential elements for human life: *time, space, sustenance*

Day 4 – Essential markers for times and seasons for man's worship of God

Implications for human purpose and identity

The order of creation with its inherent patterns of time, of work & rest, of day & night, of labour & Sabbath, point to the **purpose of human life** in both its *dignity* and its *destiny*:

- to **reflect** God's own nature – in the world in the pattern of work and rest in our lives
- to **relate** to God our creator – enjoying communion with him in his rest.

3. God has carefully ordered the world gloriously for mankind

- not just an *essential* environment, but one of **extravagant** beauty, wonder & delight

Days 4-6 proclaim a message of

Abundance

Beauty

Creativity

Diversity

God himself proclaims the **message** of this chapter repeatedly: *Behold, it is good...it is very good!* – and in doing so calls us to join him in praise of our God, and the glory of his creation.

May the LORD rejoice in his works –
he who looks at the earth, and it trembles,
who touches the mountains, and they smoke.

I will sing to the LORD all my life;
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.
May **my** meditation be pleasing to him,
as I rejoice in the LORD.

Psalm 104:31–34