

IN THE BEGINNING: GENESIS 1

3. The Goal of Creation – Genesis 1:1-26–2:3

Introduction

Genesis 1 teaches not just past history, but preaches future hope

The goal: God's image in man *will* crown God's creation with glory

The Imago Dei

- Man is to represent God *in* creation and reflect God's kingly rule *over* creation
- The 'three Rs' of what it really means to be human

1. Dominion: rule *for* God

Human beings receive responsibility to exercise dominion over the whole realm of creation, reflecting God by exerting rule *for* God (verse 26, 28).

Responsible dominion: reflecting the Creator's own pattern

- subduing the earth
- filling the earth

2. Dependence: relationship *with* God

To be human means being created for dependence on God, ruling on earth by responding to God in heaven. We reflect our Creator by engaging in relationship *with* God.

Mirroring divine relationship

'in the image of God he created *him*; male and female he created *them*' V27

'Let us make man in *our* image' v26

- 'the first glimmerings of a Trinitarian revelation' (Blocher)¹

We are made for communion with God himself, and for community with one another

Two implications:

- Human relationships are our *priority*: what really matters in life
- Human relationships are *prophetic*: pointing beyond, to the essential relationship for fulsome human life

3. Destiny: rest *like* God

The climax of the message reveals the goal of creation: mankind is to reflect God by enjoying rest *like* God. Our destiny is to rejoice with him, in his rest forever.

- "the creation of man crowns the work, but the Sabbath is its supreme goal" (Blocher)

The Gospel of hope: a future for man

- Hope in the wilderness
- Hope for the world

Christ – the beginning and the end, the glory and the goal

¹ Henri Blocher, *In the Beginning* (Leicester: IVP, 1984), 84