

ARE WE SAVED BY THE **BLOOD?**

WEEK 1: “The Pattern for Paradise”

Overview

Are We Saved by the Blood?

1. The Pattern for Paradise - **What was God's purpose** in creating humans?
2. The Origin of Sin - **How did humans get separated from God's ideal?**
3. The Sacrificial System - **What was the point of blood sacrifices?**
4. The Law and Jesus - **What do we mean by God's Law?**
5. **How does the New Testament <relate> to the Old Testament?**
6. Righteous Judgment - **Is God's character really perfect and complete?**
7. The Substitutionary Atonement – **“Jesus died in our place” – what does that mean?**
8. The Price of Reconciliation - **Was “the precious blood of Christ” a price that was paid?**

“The Pattern for Paradise”

God’s Purpose for Creating “Man”

- A. What God planned
- B. What he created
- C. Creation of man/woman
- D. It was good



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What God planned

*He is the Maker of
the sea, and ev
Psalms*

*“You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honour and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they were created
and have their being.”*

*And he swore by Him who lives for
ever and ever, who created the
heavens and all that is in them, the
earth and all that is in it, and the sea
and all that is in it...*

Revelation 10:6

*...vens and the earth, the
ord, and the Word was with
d. ²He was with God in the
things were made; without*

him nothing was made that has been made.

John 1:1-3

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What God Created

God brought the universe into existence out of nothing (*ex nihilo*), that is, without pre-existing materials

*By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.
(Hebrews 11:3).*

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What God planned

God’s wonderful plan was to make earth a place teeming with life.

In fact, as astronauts observe the earth from space, it stands in sharp contrast to all the other heavenly bodies, planets and stars which are barren or fiery.

“The heavens declare the
glory of God”
(Psalm 19:1).



What God planned

‘When God created the world he did not create out of any need or any weakness or any deficiency. He created out of fullness and strength and complete sufficiency.’

‘God created us to know him and love him and show him. And then he gave us a hint of what he is like — the universe.

The universe is declaring the glory of God and the reason we exist is to see it and be stunned by it and glorify God because of it.’ ’

[John Piper, Why Did God Create the World?]

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What God planned

His invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made.

Romans 1:20–21



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What God created

Order → Progress → Climax



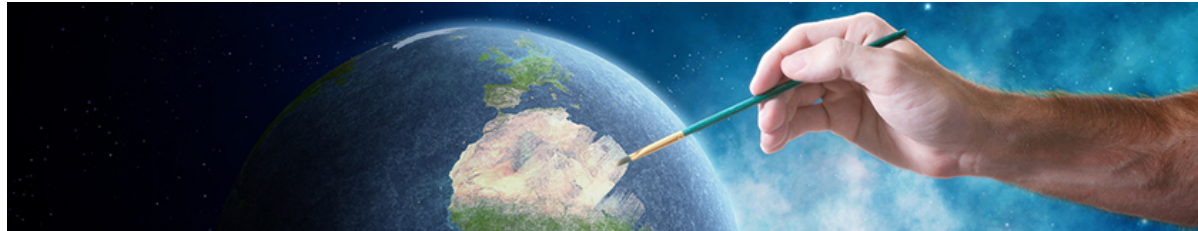
Order is seen in the careful structuring of the various stages of creative activity in a six-day format, evening to morning.

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What God created

Order → Progress → Climax

Progress can be seen in the sequential development and filling out of the earth and its inhabitants, and in the increase of personal attention God gave to His creative work.



But of the human race God, using strikingly personal and plural language, said, “‘Let us make mankind’ ... So God created mankind ... male and female he created them” (vv. 26–27). The human race is thus the capstone of God’s creative activity.’

[The Doctrine of Creation, AG Position Paper]

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What God created

Order → Progress → Climax

‘The biblical narratives intentionally show careful, **intelligent planning** and rules out the idea that any part of creation came into being by mere chance.

- God exercised His wisdom and control at all times (Psalms 136:5; 148:5; Isaiah 45:12; 48:12–13)
- Brought the entire created order to a complete and well-designed climax (Genesis 1:31).’ [Ibid.]

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What God created

Order → Progress → Climax

*Human beings are the zenith
of God's creative activity.*

Genesis 1 Overview of all creation

Genesis 2 God lavished very personal and particular
attention on the creation of both Adam and Eve

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Creation of man/woman



“Let us make mankind [*“human being,” not exclusively “male”*] in our image, in our likeness” (1:26), “so that they may rule ... over all the creatures” (1:26).

Neither the previous inanimate or animate creation was so described.

God had simply said, “Let there be’... And it was so” (as in Genesis 1:6–7).

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- ‘Being made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26–27), human beings are free, rational, capable of self-appreciation and self-expression, capable of moral and spiritual understanding, and created for fellowship with each other and with God.’

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- God formed Adam from the dust of the earth and breathed into him the breath of life (2:7).
- God deliberately made Eve from Adam’s rib [perhaps “side”] (2:22). Both Adam and Eve, male and female, are declared to be made in the “image” and “likeness” of God.
- These carefully delineated creative acts indicate that humans are distinct from animals

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God did not form Adam from some previously existing creature

*All flesh is not the same flesh,
but there is one kind of flesh of men,
another flesh of animals, another of
fish, and another of birds.
(1 Corinthians 15:39).'*

It was Good

‘We strongly affirm that Adam and Eve were real, historical persons whose fall into sin (Genesis 3) is likewise historical. Both their and our redemption is historically effected through Christ, the “second Adam.” To suggest that Adam is not a historical person uniquely created by God may well diminish vital biblical teachings on the nature of humankind, their fall into sin, and, perhaps, the nature of Christ himself.’

After His acts of creation, God looked at His creation work and pronounced it ‘good’.

He was pleased with what He saw.

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Questions ?