

SEASIDE CHURCH // SERMON NOTES

March 3 | Genesis: The Goal of Creation

SUMMARY

We are finally at the end of the first section of the book of Genesis (1.1-2.3). This message covered the seventh and final day of creation. This is the day that all of creation has been moving towards and it shows us the goal of God's work of creating all things. The goal is God dwelling with humans forever!

GROUP QUESTIONS *(For use with your family, roommates, Community or Bible Group, or individually)*

- Questions for Pastor Rob? Feel free to text them in to (509) 557-0331
- Read Genesis 2.1-3. What do you notice in this passage? Discuss what's going on.
- What does it mean for God to "rest" or "cease?" Does God need a nap? (See Psalm 121.3-4)
- What do we mean when we say, "God's rest is God's rule?" (See Psalm 132.7-8) If God isn't literally resting what is he doing?
- What's different about the 7th day from the other days? What does this mean?
- Discuss this summary of events, does this make sense to you? God creates -> God gives management of his creation to humans -> God takes up his place as divine ruler of all on the eternal 7th day -> Humans do their job as rulers of earth for two pages of the Bible -> Then Humans fall into sin and give their rule to the snake/beast -> After that the Bible/Human history is about restoring what was lost in Eden.
- As a side note, Pastor Rob discussed how understanding the flow of events (above) is foundational to understand, "the problem of evil." Why is that the case?
- What does "holy" mean (2 aspects) and what does it mean for God to call the 7th day "holy?"
- The seventh day account ends with God and humans in a place (creation/Eden) communing together on an eternal 7th day. How does your heart react to this picture of humanity and God? How does it make you feel knowing this is the creation ideal?
- Humans are meant to dwell with God. How does John 1.12-14 and Revelation 21.3 fill out the picture from Genesis 2.1-3?
- Discuss this quote. "Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee." -Augustine

PRAYER POINT

Spend time praising God for his purpose to dwell with you forever. This is clear from Genesis to Revelation! This is the goal of creation. Allow yourself to get caught up in the heavenly gaze! "Humanity, nevertheless, is not the culmination of creation, but rather humanity in Sabbath day communion with God. This engagement with the divine is what—and what alone—can fulfill the purpose and potential for the image of God, not merely as keeper of the lower creation, but as lover of the fathomless Uncreated; in this way and for this purpose the image of God itself becomes the wonder of creation. In short, humanity was created for the heavenward gaze, the human soul for a life of prayer." L. Michael Morales

FOR FAMILIES WITH KIDS

Read Genesis 2.1-3. Review the other days of creation. Help your kids see that the goal of creation isn't just the making of everything we see, but an eternal day where humans would dwell with God forever. Though humans mess it up, God still wants to dwell with us. First he does it in the tabernacle/temple (Exodus 25.8) then through Jesus dwelling with us (John 1.14) and finally when all is made right in the new heavens and new earth (Rev. 21.3).

RESOURCES

Who Shall Ascend the Mountain of the Lord?, L. Michael Morales
God Dwells Among Us, G.K. Beale and Mitchell Kim

Email any questions to rob@seasidechurch.com