

## Message One

### **Man is the Meaning of the Universe**

Scripture Reading: Gen. 1:26-28; 2:7; Zech. 12:1

- I. From God's Word we see that the center of God's universe is man—Psa. 8:3-9:**
- A. The heavens are for the earth, the earth is for man, and man has a spirit for God; this is the goal and meaning of the universe—Zech. 12:1; Isa. 42:5.
  - B. Man is the center and the meaning of the universe because God has fully entrusted man with His purpose—Gen. 1:26-28; 2 Tim. 1:9.
- II. Man is the center of God's eternal purpose—Gen. 1:26-27; Eph. 3:11:**
- A. God is a God of purpose, having a will of His own pleasure; He created all things for His will that He might accomplish and fulfill His purpose—Rev. 4:11.
  - B. Man is the climax and the center of God's creation—Gen. 1:26, 31; 2:2:
    - 1. To accomplish the work of creating man, there was the need of the Triune God—the Father, the Son and the Spirit; a council was held among the three of the Godhead regarding the creation of man—1:26a; cf. Matt. 28:19.
    - 2. All of the other living things were created “according to their kind,” but man was created according to God's kind—Gen. 1:11-12, 24-26; cf. Acts 17:28-29a.
    - 3. After God created man, He rested because He was satisfied—Gen. 2:1-3.
  - C. God created a corporate man to express Himself with His image and to represent Him by exercising His dominion over all things—1:26:
    - 1. God created man in His image as a vessel with the capacity to contain God and express Him—Rom. 9:21, 23.
    - 2. God's intention in giving man dominion is to subdue God's enemy, to recover the earth which was usurped by Satan, and to exercise God's authority in order that the kingdom of God may come to the earth—Matt. 6:10.
  - D. The Bible reveals man in three stages: first, the God-created man in God's creation in Genesis 1:26-28; second, the Satan-captured man in man's fall in Psalm 8:4; and third, Christ as a man in His incarnation for the accomplishing of God's redemption in Hebrews 2:6:
    - 1. After the psalmist in Psalm 8 turned his view from the messy earth to the bright heavens, he turned his view from the moon and the stars in the heavens back to man on this earth—vv. 3-4.
    - 2. God in the heavens remembered man and then He came to visit man by becoming a man through His incarnation—v. 4:
      - a. God visited man by being incarnated, living on this earth, dying, rising up from the dead, and ascending to the heavens to be crowned with glory and honor—Heb. 2:5-9.
      - b. God visited man through the long journey of His process to become the life-giving Spirit to reach us and to enter into us—1 Cor. 15:45b; John 14:17; cf. Luke 10:33.

- c. We all need to enjoy the Lord's visitation day by day; He is with us all the time—Matt. 1:23; 28:20; cf. Gen. 18:1.
3. Through God's visitation, the pitiful man in Adam and in the fallen situation is no longer pitiful; the man in Christ is wonderful—Eph. 2:5-6.

***Focus: Man is the meaning of the universe because he is the center of God's eternal purpose.***

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## **Ministry Excerpts**

### **MAN—THE CENTER OF GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE**

The Bible is the divine revelation. It unveils to us not only God but even more, the purpose of God. In fundamental Christianity most of the messages are concerning man's personal salvation. It is difficult to hear anything on God's purpose. I hope that all of us can see what the purpose of God is.

If we want to see God's purpose, we must come to the divine book, the Holy Bible. The center of God's eternal purpose is man. According to the Bible and even according to scientific study, it is clear that man is the center of the universe. The universe is composed of the heavens, the earth, and millions of things created by God. The sun is the center of our solar system, but this solar system is just a small part of one galaxy, and there are millions of galaxies in the universe. We have to realize what the center of God's universe is. From God's Word we see that the center of God's universe is man. If there were no human life on this earth, the universe would become meaningless.

The Bible says in Genesis 1 that God first created the heavens and then the earth. After this He created all the things of life. He began with the creation of the things of the lowest form of life, the life that is without consciousness, which is the plant life. Following this, God created the animals. The animal life is higher than the plant life because the animal life is a life with consciousness. Eventually, God created the human life. Therefore, we have the plant life as the lowest life, the animal life as the higher life, and then the human life as the highest life of all the created things.

### **MAN BEING GOD'S EXPRESSION AND REPRESENTATIVE**

Man is the center and meaning of the universe because God has fully entrusted man with His purpose. God did not commit Himself to any of the millions of other created items. He committed Himself only to man and entrusted man with His purpose. After He created the heavens and the earth, with the plant and animal lives, God had a conference in Himself with the three persons of the Godhead—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit. Genesis 1:26 says, "And God said, Let us..." Notice the plural pronoun us. This is very meaningful. There is only one God, but God said, "Let us." This indicates that there was a conference in the Godhead. God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." God had this kind of conference only for creating man. In this conference of the Godhead, a decision was made to create man in His image and according to His likeness.

The second half of Genesis 1:26 says, "And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping

thing that creepeth upon the earth.” This shows us that the decision made in the conference of the Godhead was not only to create man in God’s image but also to give man the divine authority, the dominion, the ruling power, the reigning authority, over all living things. Moreover, God gave man the authority to rule over the earth and even to subdue and conquer the earth (Gen. 1:28).

We should declare, “Hallelujah! I am not a small thing, because I was created according to the counsel of the Godhead. I was created in God’s image and I have His authority entrusted to me to rule over all things.” You should tell the animals that you have authority over them. If you do this, you will see yourself according to God’s viewpoint. This does not mean that you will be proud, but that you will respect yourself as a person who was made in the image of God to have His divine authority over all things.

At the beginning of this chapter in the Scripture reading, we have listed three portions from the divine Word: Genesis 1, Psalm 8, and Hebrews 2. Genesis 1 says that God decided to make man in His own image and to have man entrusted with His authority. But we know that after Genesis 1, man became fallen and lost such a position. After the fall of man, however, there is Psalm 8. The psalmist said, “When I see Your heavens, the works of Your fingers,/The moon and the stars, which You have ordained,/What is man, that You remember him,/And the son of man, that You visit him?” (vv. 3-4; cf. Heb. 2:6). Notice that the psalmist did not say, “What are the angels?” Instead, he said, “What is man?” While the psalmist was considering and looking at the heavens, he saw the moon and the stars. Seemingly he should have had an appreciation for the angels. But instead of appreciating the angels, he said, “What is man?” He looked at the heavens, the moon, and the stars, but he did not appreciate anything in the heavens. Rather, he appreciated man on this earth and wondered what man is.

In order to see what man is, we need the entire sixty-six books of the Bible. Man is wonderful and meaningful. The Bible is a divine book which reveals to us not only God but also man. Do you know who you are? If you want to know who you are, you need to know the Bible. You have to say, “I am God’s expression and God’s representative. I am a person created in the image of God and entrusted with the divine authority.” We all have to know this. This should not merely be a saying, a doctrine, or a teaching. This must be our practice. Day by day we should behave ourselves as those who always bear the image of God as God’s expression and who have been committed with the divine authority as God’s representative. This is God’s purpose for man, and even after man’s fall, God did not give up His purpose.

In order to accomplish His purpose, God Himself became a man. He identified Himself with man. He made Himself one with man. He came into man to be a man. Do you know what it means to be saved? To be saved, strictly speaking, is to have God incarnated into you to be one with you. To be saved is not just to be forgiven of your sins. To be saved is to have God identified with you, to have God incarnated in you, to have God become one with you.

By incarnation God brought Himself into man. Then by resurrection God brought man into Himself. Now there is a man in the heavens who is the mingling of divinity with humanity. He is a man altogether one with God. To be saved is to receive this man into you. Now that you are saved, you are a real VIP. You are truly a very important person. My burden in this chapter is to uplift you. You have to see how high you are. You have to see that you are a person on such a high level. (*The Life for the Preaching of the High Gospel*, ch. 1)

**References:** *Life-study of Genesis*, msgs. 6-11; *The Living and Practical Way to Enjoy Christ*, ch. 1; *The Life for the Preaching of the High Gospel*, ch. 1; *Life-study of Psalms*, msg. 5; *Holy Bible Recovery Version*, footnotes from Gen. 1—2