

CHAPTER 1

God's Original Design

In Genesis 1:26, God said the following:

*Let us make man in our image, after our likeness:
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.*

The word translated “man” in this passage is the Hebrew masculine noun *adam* (Strong, H119).¹ Typically, this noun refers to humanity as a whole. In other words, God’s original intent for His creation was for humankind to subdue the earth.

God wanted an earth populated with the men and women He created. The Hebrew words for “image” and “likeness” are the words *tselem* (Strong, H6754) and *demuwth* (Strong, H1823), which mean “resemblance” and “similitude,” respectively. God wanted the men and women He created to not only take dominion over the earth, but also to look, function, and act like Him in every way.

This was God's original design: a perfect race of men and women who looked and acted exactly like God.

In Genesis 2:5, we are told that there was no one to till the ground. This is very interesting because, in Genesis 1:26, God said, "Let us make man..." Yet in Genesis 2:5, man was not yet formed. However, if you continue on to Genesis 2:7, you will see that God "formed man of the dust...and breathed into his nostrils..." so that man became a "living soul."

This is an amazing truth because it gives us great insight into the mind of God.

In Genesis 1:26, God made or created man, but in Genesis 2:7, God gave him form. The word translated "form" in Hebrew is the word *yatsar*, which means "to frame... pre-ordain," to give "divine activity" (Strong, H3335) and purpose.

In Genesis chapter 1 God created man as a spiritual being first. Then in Genesis chapter 2 He framed him and gave him purpose and divine activity. This is why humanity is in the state it is in; humans are spiritual beings, but when they lack divine activity and divine purpose, they cannot operate in the things of God.

Understanding divine purpose helps us see what God intended for us to have from the very beginning of creation. He wanted us to be perfect, to lack nothing, and to take dominion. Adam was never sick. He was never impoverished. There was not a time when he tried to speak to God and didn't get a response. He was in perfect communion and fellowship with God. He was in divine health.

Unfortunately, due to sin, this perfect relationship did not last. In Genesis chapter 3, Adam and Eve disobeyed God and ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. This sin perverted humankind's relationship with a holy God, and ushered in a curse. Due to our tripartite nature, the curse of sin and disobedience affected every area of human existence: spirit, soul, and body.

God warned Adam that the day he ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil he would surely die (see Gen. 2:17). That is exactly what happened—in all three of the areas we are about to discuss.

SPIRITUAL DEATH

The most consequential aspect of this death was spiritual: humankind was separated from eternal fellowship with its Creator. The separation severed our access to eternal life with God and to spiritual authority in the earth. By virtue of Adam's transgression, humanity relinquished its God-given right to rule the earth. It instead transferred this right to Satan.

DEATH OF MIND, WILL, AND EMOTIONS

This is the death of the soul. When Adam sinned, he ushered in the sin consciousness. He hid from the presence of God due to the guilt of his transgression. For the first time in their existence, Adam and Eve became acquainted with fear.

Human decisions were affected by this sin. It caused us to have a natural inclination to rebel and walk in the carnal nature.

PHYSICAL DEATH

Through sin, Adam (and all humans) lost the physical capacity to live forever. Having been put out of the Garden of Eden, he became subject to the natural elements, which he had not previously been subject to. This meant that he could become sick or poor; he could suffer lack; and his organs would eventually fail, causing death.

God's original design included an eternal life of perfect righteousness and fellowship with Him, divine health, and spiritual and physical prosperity. God originally intended for the humans He created to possess both His attributes and His authority, which was to be exercised on the earth.

Sin is the force that separates man from God's original design. Jesus Christ came to destroy the works of Satan and bring man back to a place of eternal fellowship with God—in other words, to restore man back to perfection. As a matter of fact, born-again believers are made perfect in Christ: "And ye are complete in Him, which is the head of all principality and power..." (Col. 2:10).

Christ stands exalted forever at the right hand of the Father. This means that because we are in Christ, we stand perfectly complete and restored before the Father in heavenly places.

Christ redeemed us from Adam's curse when He died on the cross for our sins and took the penalty of death on our behalf. God's original design was fully restored to us; therefore, it is important to understand God's original design. Without understanding it, we cannot fully grasp what salvation was intended to produce in the life of a born-again believer.

In many sectors of Christianity, Jesus Christ is presented as a religious relic, an object of worship; but the biblical truth is that Christ is a living Redeemer who paid a tremendous price for our salvation. This salvation has profound implications for every New Covenant believer. The salvation that Christ accomplished not only impacts the total man, but it has afforded us eternal access to God's original design.

Divine healing is a huge part of this redemptive package. The more we understand God's original plan for us, the more conscious we are of what Christ accomplished on the cross—and the better positioned we are to place a demand on what He accomplished, *especially healing*.

POWER IN PRAYER

Father, thank You for the life You have prepared for me and for all Your children. I draw on Your Spirit and Your grace so that I might perceive my life, and the purpose of my life, through Your eyes. I set my heart in agreement with Your Word, so that I will enter into the fullness of Your redemptive plan. In Jesus' name. Amen.

ENDNOTE

1. All Strong's numbers marked with an "H" are from the "Hebrew and Aramaic Dictionary." Numbers marked with a "G" are from the "Greek Dictionary." See Bibliography for full publication details.