

Chapter 4

Genesis 1:26 - 2:25

The Story so Far

The Bible is God's book. God is the author of the Bible, but He used human beings to write it. Every word in the Bible comes from God. The Bible has one story – Jesus and His Kingdom. God's Kingdom = God's people, living in God's place, under God's rule and blessing. In the beginning, God created the universe and everything in it. God is the Creator and ruling King of this world. God is the ruling King of His creation. God made human beings to rule over everything that He had made. Human beings were God's representative rulers on earth. God is King; we were made to be kings over His world, but under His rule.

Objectives

- To understand what it means to be made in God's image – rule and relationship
- To explain the Trinity
- To convey that human beings were made to be in relationship with God

Connections

- The theme of God's Kingship continues – He makes human beings to be rulers in a loving relationship with Himself, and so establishes His Kingdom.

Summary

Human beings are made to rule this world and be in relationship with God, and with each other. In the beginning God established His Kingdom – God's people, living in God's place, under God's rule and blessing.

God's Kingdom

Made in God's image (Genesis 1:26)

When God speaks about creating human beings He says that He wants to make them in His own image. Very simply, He wants human beings to be like Him. There are two main ways in which human beings reflect God's image: rule and relationship.

1. Rule

Made to rule the world (Genesis 1:26-28)

Human beings are made to be like God. God is the ruling King of the universe, and He makes humans to be rulers of His world. Humans are made to rule this world under God's command, and so reflect what God is like.

Adam as priest-king of Eden (Genesis 2:8, 15)

God places the first man, Adam, in Eden with the instruction to take care of it. A similar instruction is given later in the Bible to the priests who are to guard the tabernacle – the place where God lives. When we read the story of the Garden of Eden in the context of the whole Bible, we realise that the garden symbolises the place where God lives with His people. This means that Adam is the priest-king of Eden. God would both bless and rule the world through Adam.

Made to live under God's rule (Genesis 2:16-17)

In the beginning God's people live in His presence in Eden. But they must learn that God is the ultimate King of Eden and the world. They can not live in Eden any way they want; it is God who will decide what is right and wrong, good and evil. This is what the tree of the knowledge of good and evil represents – God's Kingship. Man is made to obey God and to rule the world under God's rule.

God tells Adam and Eve that everything in Eden is theirs to enjoy, except for one tree. To eat from this tree would mean to make themselves rulers of their own lives; deciding for themselves what is right and wrong. Such an action would be rebellion against the King, and would result in death and the removal of God's blessing.

**To be made in God's image means humans beings
are made to rule.**

2. Relationship

A change of speech (Genesis 1:26)

On day six of creation God makes human beings. We know that God creates by speaking, but when He creates human beings there is a change in His speech. Compare the difference of days 1-5 to day 6 in the table below:

| DAY 1 – 5 | DAY 6 |
|---|---|
| DAY 1 "Let there be light" | |
| DAY 2 "Let there be an expanse" | |
| DAY 3 "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place ..." | |
| DAY 4 "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky" | DAY 6 "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness ..." |
| DAY 5 "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth ..." | |
| DAY 6 "Let the land produce living creatures ..." | |

Relationships in God

We already know there is only one God, so who is God talking to when He says, "*Let us ...*"? This will become clearer as we progress through the Bible, but for now we can see that there are relationships within the one God. God talks to Himself.

The Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit

The Bible teaches that there is one God, but in God there are also three persons. God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Each person of

God is a distinct person, and each person is God. i.e. the Father is not the Son, nor is He the Holy Spirit, but the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God. At present this may seem to be a very hard concept to understand but it will become clearer as the Bible progresses.

There is only one God; but in God there are three distinct persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Relationship (Genesis 1:26-28)

Human beings are made to be like God in regard to relationships. We are made to be in relationship with God and with each other.

Man needing a relationship (Genesis 2:18–20)

Everything about God's creation is good except one thing. Among all God's creatures Adam has no one to relate to. There is no suitable helper to help him rule Eden.

Woman made for relationship with man (Genesis 2:18, 21-23)

God provides for Adam and forms a woman from his rib. Adam and the woman are now in a relationship. God creates the woman so that Adam can experience a relationship, and have help in his responsibility of ruling the Garden of Eden.

Man and woman made to live together (Genesis 2:24-25)

God's rule for the man and the woman is marriage. God's purpose for man and woman is to become one - one in marriage, one in rule over the earth, and one in sexual union. Adam and his wife are to live together under God's rule of marriage. Their relationship is open and honest; they hide nothing from each other, even their own naked bodies.

To be made in God's image means human beings are made to be in relationship with God and with other human beings.

God makes human beings to be like Himself. God rules and God has relationships with Himself. Human beings are made to rule and live in relationship with God and with each other.

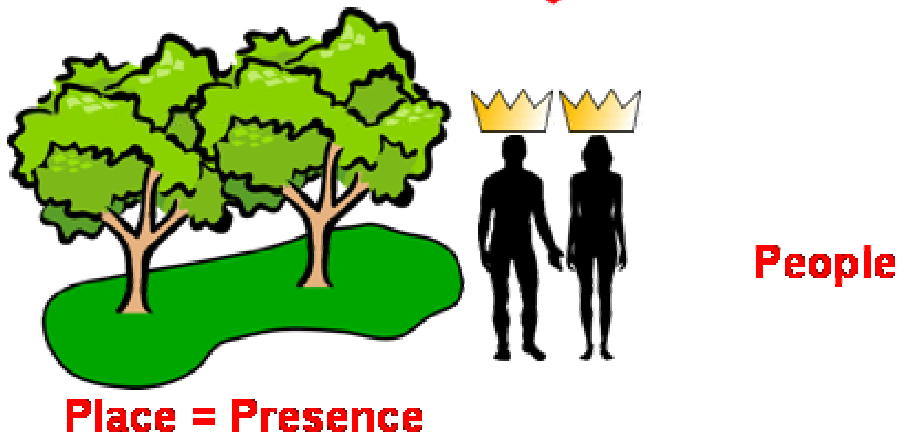
Human beings are made to rule this world and to be in relationship with God, and with each other.

God's Kingdom

In the beginning God establishes a Kingdom. God's people, living in God's place, under His rule and blessing. We can see this from the pattern of life in the Garden of Eden. God's people are Adam and his wife. God's place is Eden where He lives with His people. God's words are "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden, but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil". God has established a Kingdom. He is the King of His Eden Kingdom with Adam and his wife as the citizens.

God's Kingdom = God's people, living in God's place, under God's rule and blessing.

| God's Kingdom | | | | |
|--|--------------|---------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| <i>Constitution: 'I will be their God, they will be my people'</i> | | | | |
| God's promises | | | | |
| | Place | People | Rule & Blessing | King |
| Creation | Eden | Adam & Eve | God's word | Adam |





Think it through & discuss

1. In what way are human beings like God? In what way are we not like God?
2. In what way is Adam like a priest? In what way is Adam like a king? (see Psalm 8)
3. What does the tree of the knowledge of good and evil represent?
4. Define God's Kingdom in your own words.