

God Created Man

Teacher Preparation

1. Study lesson.
 ■ Scripture Gen. 1:26, 27 2:4-17
2. Visuals
 - Key Verse 3 Gen. 1:26
 - Trinity of God 3.1
 - Trinity of man 3.2
 - Fertile Crescent 3.3
 - Two births 3.4
3. Objectives: To appreciate—
 - Trinity of God and man,
 - man's unique body.
 - Adam in garden of Eden and
 - how man relates to God.

Lesson 3

Today, we look at God's special creation called—**man**.

★Teacher reads, as class follows.

Gen. 1:26, 27 And God said, Let us make **man** in **our image**, after **our likeness**. 27 So God created man in **his own image**, in the **image of God** created he him; male and female created he them.

Notice the phrases: "in our image", "after our likeness", "in his own image", and "in the image of God." Of all the creation, **only** man was created in God's **image**.

Trinity of God

The Trinity of God is introduced in Genesis.

A Key Verse is—

Gen. 1:26 Let **us** make man in **our image**, after **our likeness**.

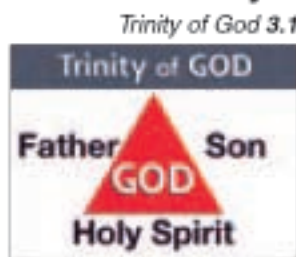


Notice the plural pronouns **us**, **our**, and **our**. They reveal God as a **Trinity**—one God in three Persons. The Persons of the Godhead are God the **Father**, God the **Son**, and God the **Holy Spirit**.

Deu. 6:4 says, "The LORD our God is one LORD." The

one God is in **three** Persons. As one triangle has three equal sides and three equal angles, each Person of the Trinity is equal in power.

And all three Persons of the Godhead were **active** in **Creation**. Gen. 1:1



"In the beginning God (the **Father**) created the heaven and the earth." Gen. 1:2 "the **spirit** of God (**Holy Spirit**) moved upon the face of the waters." Col. 1:16 "For by him (**Son of God**) were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by **him**, and for him."

Thus, Gen. 1:26 plants the seed for the doctrine of the Trinity of God, which is developed fully in the NT.

Man—a trinity

The **trinity of man** is best understood by the Trinity of God, for God created Adam in His image. So man is a trinity with a **body**, **soul**, and **spirit**. Yet, Adam was only one man—not three; as God is one God—not three Gods.

Nature has examples of trinities (three in one), such as—an **egg** has three parts—shell, yolk, and white; yet it is only one egg. And **water** exists in three forms—liquid, ice, and vapor.

I Thess. 5:23 lists the 3 parts of man—"... and I pray God your whole

spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." The trinity of man is—

body, soul, and spirit.

point →

1. The **body** is the house of flesh that the soul lives in until the body dies. At death, the soul departs from the body and gives "up the ghost" Gen. 25:8, 17.

2. Man's **soul** is invisible—it is the real "you" and includes the mind, emotions, and will. The soul is immortal; it lives on after the body dies, either in heaven or hell, depending on whether the person



trusted Christ as Savior. For the believer—absence from the body is to be present with the Lord (II Cor. 5:8).

3. The third part of man is his **spirit**, which is the person's link or connection with God. It is the part of us that is made to have communion with God. John 4:24 *"God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must **worship** him in **spirit** and in truth."*

As physical death separates the soul from the body, spiritual death separates the person from God.

Human body

★Teacher reads, as class follows.

Gen. 2:7 *And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and **breathed** into his **nostrils** the **breath of life**; and man became a **living soul**.*

Man is different from all other created beings, for the breath of God gave man his immortal soul to live forever, either with God, or away from God. Man is not just a higher form of animal, as evolutionists claim. The first man was unique among all God's creation, because he was the only creature made in God's image with an immortal soul.

His **body** was made from the chemicals (**dust**) of the ground. And God designed the body in an amazing way. For example, our eyes are like living cameras with marvelous adaptability; our ears have receptors to translate sounds into signals for the brain which receives information from all five senses. The brain then interprets, catalogs, and stores it in memory banks; then connects all the data for man's thinking.

The brain processes information in a fraction of a second, which enables us to see, hear, feel, talk, and think. The brain, like a super computer, quickly and quietly directs all the body functions. Yet it weighs only

about three pounds. Today's computers imitate the functions of the human brain.

The **body systems** (respiratory, digestive, nervous, etc.), are marvels of engineering design. Consider the remarkable heating and air conditioning system that automatically maintains body temperature. The discovery of each person's DNA adds a marvelous dimension in studying the human body.

"The life of the flesh is in the blood"

Lev. 17:11 says, *"the **life of the flesh** is in the **blood**."* Though written about 3,500 years ago, it accurately states the function of blood in the body. Only in recent years has medical science discovered the blood's vital part in the body. Blood distributes food and oxygen to the body, aids in repairing body systems, and continually carries on the life processes within the body.

The human body is the most sophisticated and unique of all earthly life that God created. Scientific discoveries support what scripture said centuries ago: man is *"fearfully and wonderfully made"* Psa. 139:14. Other creatures have some of these features, but not to the same extent as man, who is the highest and most intelligent of all creatures.

Mist, no rain

Let's read about earth's first weather conditions.

★Teacher reads, as class follows.

Gen. 2:4–6 *These are the generations of the **heavens** and of the **earth** when they were **created**, in the day that the LORD God made the **earth** and the **heavens**,*

⁵ *And **every plant** of the field before it was in the earth, and **every herb** of the field before it grew: for the LORD God had **not caused** it to **rain** upon the **earth**, and there was not a man to till the ground.*

⁶ *But there went up a **mist** from the earth, and **watered** the whole face of the ground.*

At the beginning there was **no rain** on earth, and men were few so God had a **mist water** the ground. Evidently, God had an automatic built-in sprinkling system for the ground. With no rain, there were no clouds, no rainstorms, rainbows, hurricanes, tornadoes, wind storms, etc. This meant the earth's **atmosphere** was always **calm** with perfect weather.

It was over 1,600 years after Creation that **rain started**. The waters above the firmament fell continually for 40 days, causing the great Flood of Noah's day. We will discuss that in a later lesson.

God planted a garden

★Teacher reads, as class follows.

Gen. 2:8, 9 *And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in **Eden**; and there he put the **man** whom he had formed.*

⁹ *And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is **pleasant to the sight**, and **good for food**; the **tree of life** also in the midst of the garden, and the **tree of knowledge of good and evil**.*

God chose a special area for this Garden because He loved and cared for man—His special creation. The trees were pleasant to see and also good for food. And two special trees were placed in the Garden—the tree of **life**, and the tree of the **knowledge of good and evil**.

★Teacher reads, as class follows.

Gen. 2:10 *And a **river** went out of **Eden** to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads.*

A river flowed out of Eden, then it parted into ^{point} four rivers. One river encompassed the "**land of Havilah**", which is where Abraham's son, **Ishmael**, later settled (Gen. 25:18). Another river encompassed "**the whole land of Ethiopia**" in northern Africa (Gen. 2:11–14).

Fertile Crescent 3.3



Because the entire area is in the shape of a crescent, ancient historians called it the Fertile Crescent—the cradle of man's civilization.

The geographic location of man's first home was near the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, which was later known as Babylon. Today it is the country of Iraq.

Adam in Eden

★Teacher reads, as class follows.

Gen. 2:15 *And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the **garden of Eden** to **dress** it and to **keep** it.*

Man's responsibility to dress and keep the garden was not labor, but pleasant occupation—the joy of productive tasks. Perhaps—like a hobby for us today.

★Teacher reads, as class follows.

Gen. 2:16, 17 *And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:¹⁷ But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt **not eat** of it: for in the **day** that **thou eatest** thereof thou shalt **surely die**.*

The presence of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the Garden was a special **test** for Adam. God gave Adam one restriction, and the consequence was **death**, if it was violated. Adam could not really understand the consequence, for he had never seen anything dead—a dead flower, dead leaf, animal, etc. Adam only knew good; he did not know evil. But God warned him of the consequence. Since Adam did not know what death was, it required him to believe what God said.

Why a free will?

Why would God give man a free will—rather than make him a **robot** that had to obey? Perhaps, because God desires to be loved by those who choose to love Him; rather than by those who have no choice and are programmed to love Him.

Giving man a **free will** allows God to enjoy the highest level of fellowship with man. It is the same with us. We want people to like us because they choose to; not because they have to. So the eternal God wants

fellowship with those who choose to believe and love Him. For that reason, God did not make us robots; He made us accountable for our choices.

Man can relate to God

Adam had characteristics that permit him to have **fellowship** with God.

Those characteristics are—

1. Man has a high level of language and thought.
2. He has an awareness of moral right and wrong embedded in his conscience, and
3. Man has the freedom to make choices both temporal and eternal.

In this way, man can relate to God as no other part of creation can. Not only are we free to make choices between right and wrong, we are also responsible and **accountable** for what we think and do and say.

To know that we are made in the image of God, develops in us a sense of dignity and worth, which should influence us to see dignity and worth in other people.

Man is truly the **crown jewel** of God's creation, for only man can enjoy fellowship with God and have eternal life. Isa. 43:4, God says, "*Thou wast **precious** in my sight,... and I have loved thee.*" This cannot be said of any other part of creation.

New birth necessary

Since God created man to have fellowship with Him, Jesus said, "*Except a man be **born again**, he cannot see the kingdom of God*" John 3:3.

Therefore, for a person to enter heaven when his body dies, the person must have a new birth, which means his spirit must be quickened (brought to life) by God's Spirit.

Let's compare **physical** and **spiritual** birth—

Physical birth A new baby

has **earthly life**,
an **earthly father**,
is given a **name**,
always needs **food**, and
has a place called **home**.

Spiritual birth— The person

receives **eternal life**,
has a **heavenly Father**,
is called **Christian** (family name),
has **Bread of Life** for spiritual food,
has **heaven** as his **eternal home**.



read first column then
second column

3

If you have not had a spiritual new birth, why not call on the Lord Jesus and ask Him to be your Savior, so one day you'll have a home in heaven.

Key Verse 3

Review Key Verse

Gen. 1:26 →

Let's say it together.



Prayer

As class exits, assistant gives out *Compass #3*.