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THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

*Hebrews 2:5-8
Lesson #5
God's Glory
02/4/2024*

1

The majesty of Christ

HEBREWS

*2:5-8
His Glory*

(What is the essence of God's Glory?)

2


Westminster Shorter Catechism

Question #1

Question:
What is the purpose of man?

Answer:
The purpose of man is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever.

So what does that mean?



3

Hebrews 2

“5 For He did not subject to angels the world to come, concerning which we are speaking. 6 But one has testified somewhere, saying, “What is man, that You remember him? Or the son of man, that You are concerned about him? 7 You have made him for a little while lower than the angels; You have **crowned him with glory and honor, and have appointed him over the works of Your hands**; 8 You have put all things in subjection under his feet.” For in subjecting all things to him, He left nothing that is not subject to him. But now **we do not yet see all things subjected** to him.”

4

We glorify God when we respect:

“5 For He did not subject to angels the world to come. 6 But one has testified somewhere, saying, “What is man, that You remember him? Or the son of man, that You are concerned about him? 7 You have made him for a little while lower than the angels; You have **crowned him with glory and honor, and have appointed him over the works of Your hands**; 8 You have put all things in subjection under his feet.” For in subjecting all things to him, He left nothing that is not subject to him. But now **we do not yet see all things subjected** to him.”

God's power in creation - Dominion

God's image in humanity - Dignity

God's Son in redemption - Drama

5

The O.T. quote is from Psalm 8

“3 **When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have set in place;** 4 what is man that You have made him, that You have crowned him with glory and honor, and have appointed him over the works of Your hands, and have put all things under his feet, and have made him a little lower than the angels, and have crowned him with glory and honor, and have appointed him over the works of Your hands; 8 You have put all things in subjection under his feet; 9 Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!”

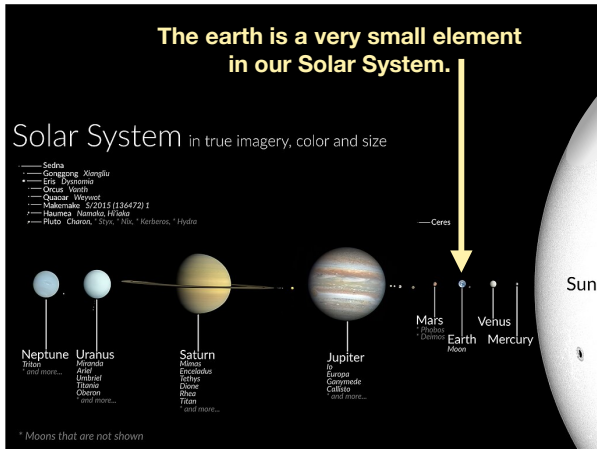
We glorify God when we respect:

God's power in creation - Dominion

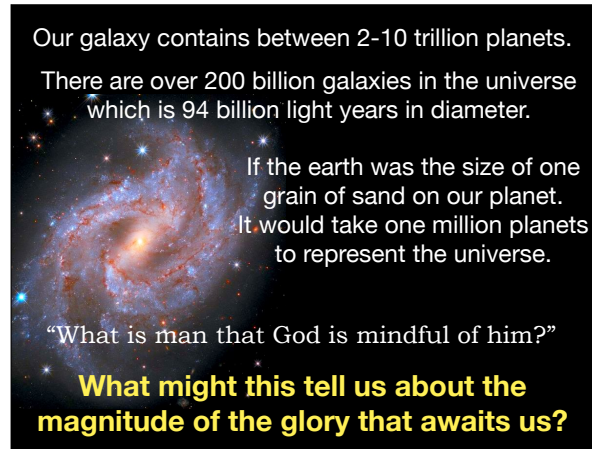
Psalm 19:1

“The heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.”

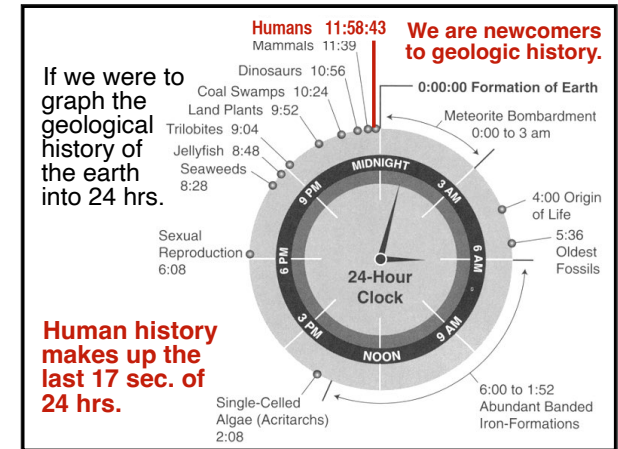
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7



8



9

God's power in creation - Dominion

The size of the cosmos is **GOD'S VISUAL AID** to the greatness of its Creator.

- We worship the Creator, who is much **GREATER THAN WE CAN IMAGINE.**
- We glorify God when we worship the **CREATOR, not the creation.**
- Can we imagine what our sharing in Christ's **INHERITANCE** will be like.

10

Idolatry is the worship of God's visual aid, rather than the (unseen) Creator.

Romans 1

“20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been **clearly seen, being understood through what has been made**, so that they are without excuse. 21 For even though they knew God, they did not **honor Him as God or give thanks**, but they became **futile in their speculations**, and their foolish **heart was darkened**. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and **exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man**. . . . 25 For they **exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator**, who is blessed forever. Amen.”

11

The meaning of Totem Poles

“The idea of god was nothing more than a symbolic representation of the collective values of the society that worships (itself through) him, she, or it.”

Emile Durkheim
1858 -1917

12

Missteps

The worship of nature
The yielding to nature
The abuse of nature
Denying the dignity
of humanity.

James 3:9

“With it (the tongue) we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been **made in the likeness of God;**”

13

We glorify God when we respect:

God's image in humans - Dignity

Colossians 1

“16 For by Him (Christ) all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — **all things have been created by Him and for Him.** 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.”

that is not subject to him. But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him.”

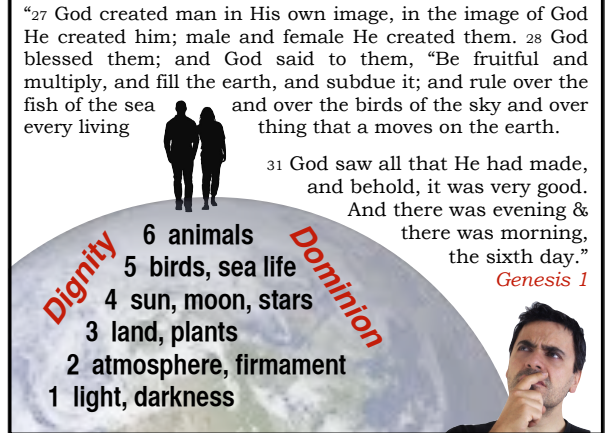
14

“27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

31 God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good.

And there was evening & there was morning, the sixth day.”

Genesis 1



Dignity 6 animals
5 birds, sea life
4 sun, moon, stars
3 land, plants
2 atmosphere, firmament
1 light, darkness

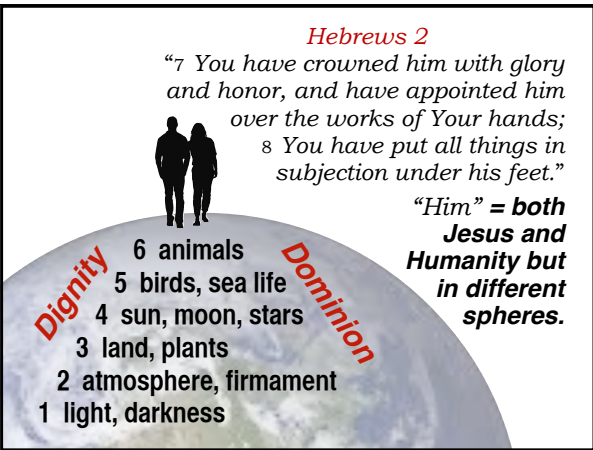
Dominion

15

Hebrews 2

“7 You have crowned him with glory and honor, and have appointed him over the works of Your hands; 8 You have put all things in subjection under his feet.”

“Him” = both
Jesus and Humanity but in different spheres.



Dignity 6 animals
5 birds, sea life
4 sun, moon, stars
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Dominion

16

The creation is God's Habitat for Humanity and is designed for Human cultivation, and consumption.

Genesis 2:15

“The Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to **cultivate** it and **keep** it.”

Genesis 1

“27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and **fill** the earth, and **subdue** it; and **rule** over. . . .”

17

Are we:

- Expecting too little from the image of God in all who bear it. We are drunk on depravity and starved on dignity?
- Expecting too much from this world with respect to our hope and peace?
- Demanding “dominion” without “character” and “rights” without “responsibility”?
- Expecting “good” activity to have a messianic role in our lives?



18

The Character mandate
We bear the image of God.

Dominion - Dignity = Danger

<p style="text-align: center;">The Creation mandate <i>We are stewards of the planet.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The Conversion mandate <i>We are to make disciples.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">The Cultural (civil) mandate <i>We are our brother's keeper.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The Charismatic mandate <i>We have individual roles and gifts.</i></p>

19

The Root

Know yourself
(get in touch with your heart)

Accept yourself
(God's grace for yourself)

The Fruit

Forget yourself
(think of yourself less often)

Give yourself
(be salt & light to the world)

The path glorifying God in this world starts with the dignity of God's image shaping the character of God's people.

20

We glorify God when we respect the "Image of God" in others.

James 3

"8 But no one can tame the tongue; *it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison.* 9 With it we bless *our* Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, **who have been made in the likeness of God**; 10 from the same mouth come *both* blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way."

- Political discourse
- Civil rights - abortion
- Social welfare - war, poverty, etc.

21

What is our present role in changing our world?

1. Jesus' answer to social injustice is the **resurrection** and a new heaven & earth.
2. The Way of the Cross is **the way of Jesus** - bringing **signs** of peace & justice to this world and directing our hope to a world to come.
3. Our expectations and responsibilities for **systemic social reform** on earth are important signs but not solutions.

22

Hebrews 2

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God's Son in redemption - Drama

23

"The religious left wants the kingdom on earth without its king and before its time."

Richard John Neuhaus



24

The Creation is corrupted until our inheritance is realized.

Romans 8

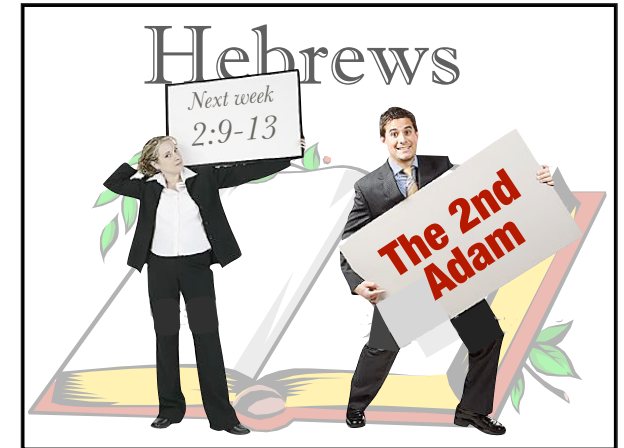
“18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. 19 For the **anxious longing of the creation** waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was **subjected to futility**, not of its own will, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself also will be **set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God**. 22 For we know that the **whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth** together until now.”

25

We glorify God when we respect:

“5 For He did not subject to angels the world to come. 6 But one **has testified somewhere saying**, “What is man, that You are concerned about him? 7 You have appointed him in the glory and honor, and have appointed him over **the works of Your hands**; 8 You have put all things in **subjection under his feet**.” For in subjecting all things to him, He left nothing that is not subject to him. But now **we do not yet see all things subjected** to him.”

26



27