

IT WAS VERY GOOD

Genesis 1:26-2:3

Key Verse: 1:31a

"God saw all that he had made, and it was very good."

1. Read verses 26,27. After having created the world, an environment that could sustain life and made all other living creatures, what did God decide to do? What do these two verses teach us about God and his plan for mankind? (See Ps 139:13-16; Ps 8:1-9)
2. Man was created on the same day as the animals. What characteristics does he share with them? Read verse 27 again. What does it mean that God created mankind in his own image? What are some of the God-like attributes we can find in man?
3. How did God bless man and woman? (28) What was the work he had created them to do, and how did he commission them to do it? How does this command establish creation order and give meaning and direction to mankind?
4. What does it mean to "subdue" and "rule over"? (cf. 2:15) How does this command open the door for study and exploration of the world and for all kinds of useful work?
5. Think about the fact that God created man for mission. How can you know your Creator and find the work he created you to do? What should be our main mission in a fallen world?
6. Read verses 29-30. (cf. Mt 6:33) How did God provide for the physical needs of mankind doing God's work? How should man respond to God's gracious gift? (Ps 104:14,27, 31,33) What would the world be like if men and animals did not have to struggle to survive? (Isa 11:6-9)
7. Read verse 31. How many times is the phrase "God saw that it was good" (or its equivalent) repeated in chapter 1? What does verse 31 teach us about God and the world he created? About myself? What difference does it make for me to know that God created me for a good purpose? (Eph 2:10)
8. Read 2:1-3. What did God do on the seventh day? Why did he bless the seventh day and make it holy? (See Mk 2:27) How do men without God seek rest? How can we find real rest? (Mt 11:28-29)