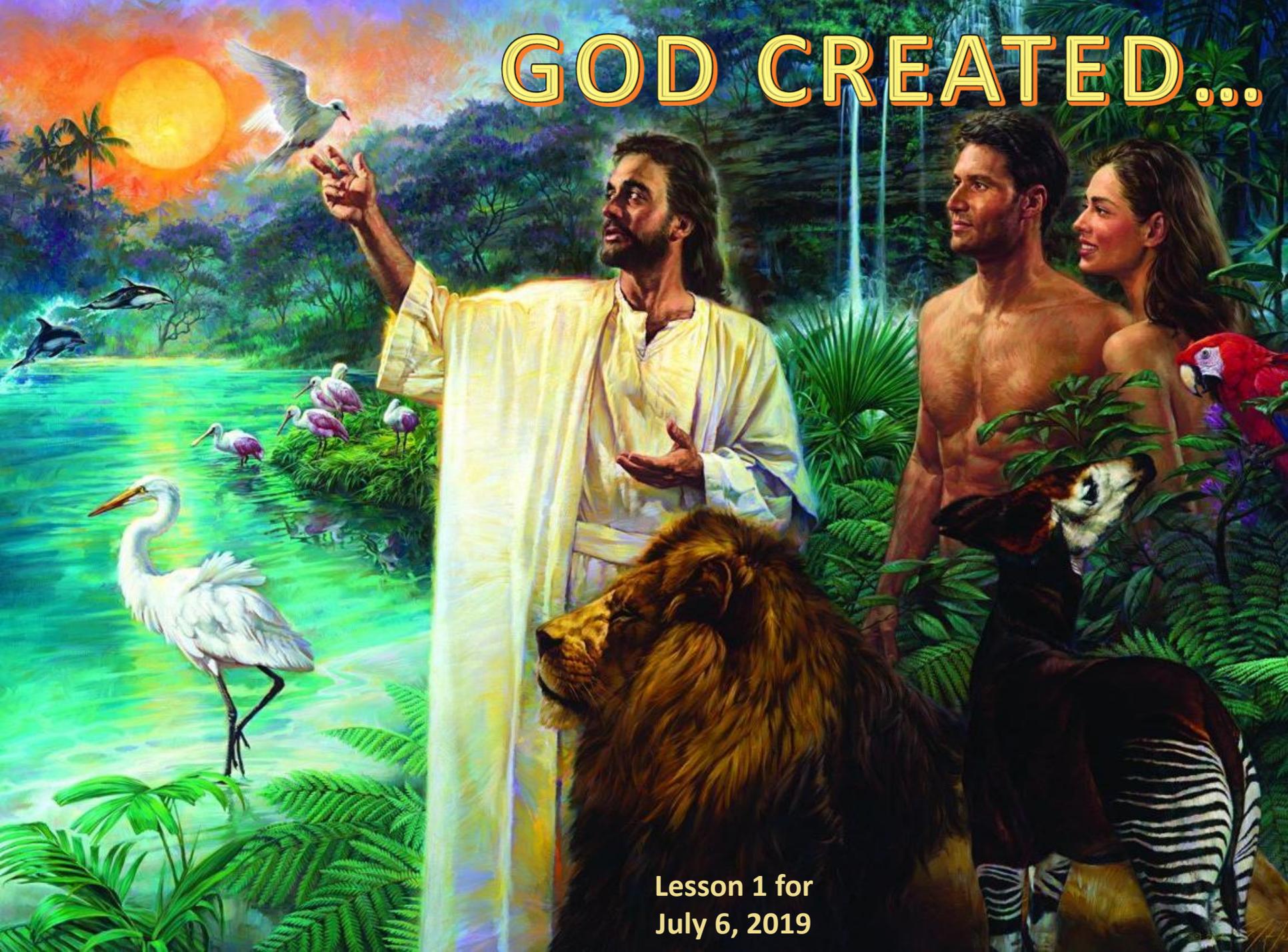


GOD CREATED...

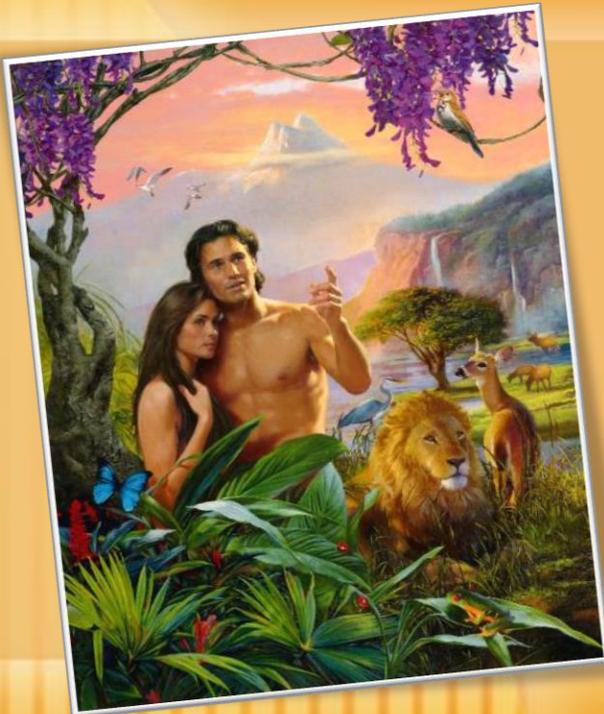
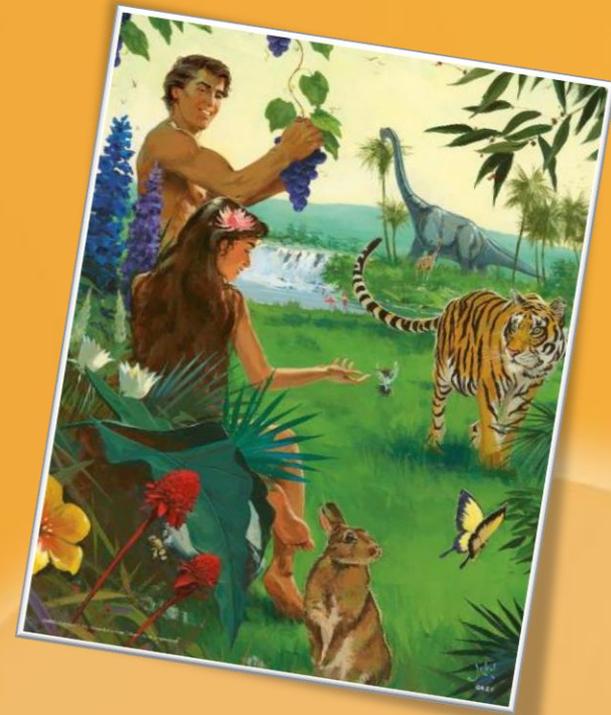


Lesson 1 for
July 6, 2019

God created a good and complete world, and He appointed human beings, created in His image, to “tend and care for” His creation.

Though sin broke the relationships that God originally had intended for us, we still have a role to play as stewards of the goodness of creation and caretakers of our fellow human beings.

Fulfilling this role is one way we can honor God as our Creator.



GOD AND CREATION

● A perfect Creator

● A perfect world

● A perfect steward



BROKEN RELATIONSHIPS

● Humanity and Earth

● Humanity and their neighbors

A PERFECT CREATOR

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” (Genesis 1:1)

Creation reveals several characteristics of God:



A powerful God: He spoke, and everything was created perfect (Genesis 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24; Psalm 29)



A committed God: He was not distant, but came close to His creation, spoke to it and touch it (Genesis 1:28-30; 2:7)



A God of order: He didn't create randomly. Every creative act made a way for the next one, until the perfect culmination (Job 34:13)



A creative God: He didn't create everything the same color or shape, but “according to its kind.” Every living being is different (Genesis 1:21, 24)



A God of relationships: God established a relationship between humans and the other living beings. He also “walked in the garden” (Genesis 1:28; 3:8)

What can we learn about God through His Creation today (Psalm 19)?



A PERFECT WORLD

“Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.” (Genesis 1:31)

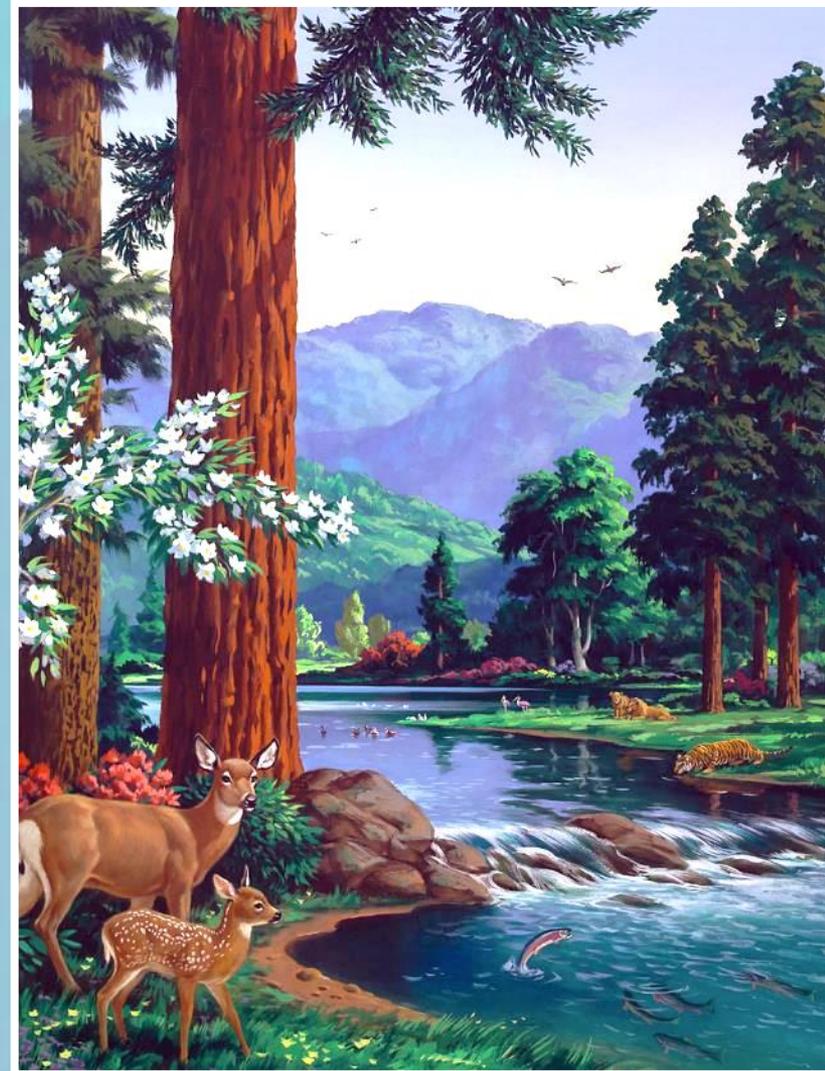
God was reviewing His creation during the Creation week, and He confirmed that everything “was good” (Genesis 1:10, 12, 18, 21, 25).

When He finished Creation, He looked at it again and confirmed that everything “was very good.”

God was satisfied with His Creation. Everything was beautiful and functional, exquisitely designed, practical, and full of life and color.

Who was the beneficiary of such a beautiful gift?

We are. Even after thousands of years of deterioration, we can still see the wonders of Creation and exclaim: How great is our God!





A PERFECT STEWARD

"Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it." (Genesis 2:15)

God entrusted Creation to the perfect steward: humanity.

He appointed them as lords and cares of the animals and nature (Genesis 1:28; 2:15).

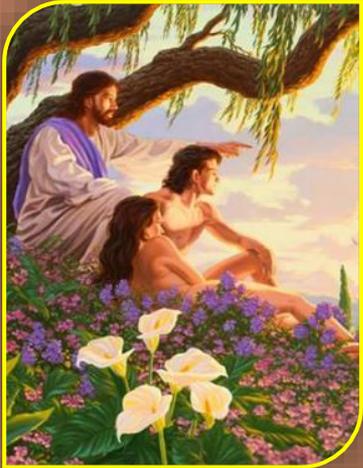
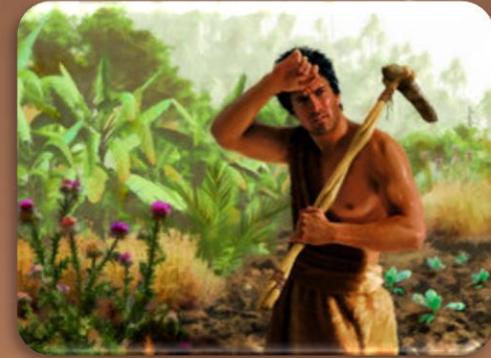


Adam and Eve were going to enjoy and benefit from God's gift, but they had to also take care of it.

Sin didn't change this responsibility. We are still responsible for tending and keeping the Creation, including animals and nature.

HUMANITY AND EARTH

"Then to Adam He said, 'Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field.'" (Genesis 3:17-18)



Unlike the rest of the Creation, Adam and Eve were given moral ability, so they could make their own decisions.

This ability was given to other beings God had created before, like angels. Lucifer used this freedom to rebel against God, and he decided to extend his rebellion to the newly created world.



Adam and Eve accepted Satan's insinuation, thus breaking their relationship with God, with one another, and with animals and nature (Genesis 3:8, 12, 18; 9:2).

HUMANITY AND THEIR NEIGHBORS



"Then the Lord said to Cain, 'Where is Abel your brother?' He said, 'I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?'" (Genesis 4:9)

Yes, Cain should've taken care of his brother. Jealousy and rage moved him to commit the first murder.

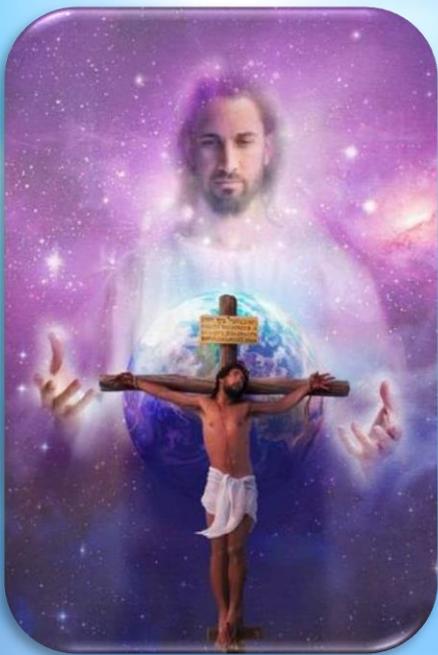
God has created all human beings (Job 10:8-12). Everyone is God's creation and deserves our care and respect.



Every person has the right to know that God loves them, to know about His sacrifice and the inheritance He has prepared for them.

There are many references to God as the Creator in the Bible. He is our Lord because He created us, and He's asked us to worship Him by honoring His Creation (Exodus 20:11).

He's also asked us to take care of His creatures. We are the keepers of our brothers and sisters.



E.G.W. (Christian Service, cp. 1, p. 13)

“Brethren and sisters in the faith, does the question arise in your hearts, ‘Am I my brother’s keeper?’ If you claim to be children of God, you are your brother’s keeper. The Lord holds the church responsible for the souls of those whom they might be the means of saving.

The Saviour has given His precious life in order to establish a church capable of ministering to the suffering, the sorrowful, and the tempted. A company of believers may be poor, uneducated, and unknown; yet in Christ they may do a work in the home, in the community, and even in the ‘regions beyond,’ whose results shall be as far-reaching as eternity.”

“The things of nature upon which we look today give us but a faint conception of Eden’s beauty and glory. Yet much that is beautiful remains. Nature testifies that One infinite in power, great in goodness, mercy, and love, created the earth and filled it with life and gladness. Even in their blighted state all things reveal the handiwork of the great Master Artist. Though sin has marred the form and beauty of the things of nature, though on them may be seen traces of the work of the prince of the power of the air, yet they still speak of God. In the briars, the thistles, the thorns, the tares, we may read the law of condemnation; but from the beauty of natural things, and from their wonderful adaptation to our needs and our happiness, we may learn that God still loves us, that His mercy is yet manifested to the world.”

E.G.W. (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 8, cp. 42, p. 256)