

4. Read Genesis 2:15, Numbers 3:7-8, 8:26, and 18:1-8. What are some of the implications for our lives of being created to be God's image bearers in his garden temple and being tasked, like priests, to "work" and "keep" it?

The First Page (A Series on Genesis 1)

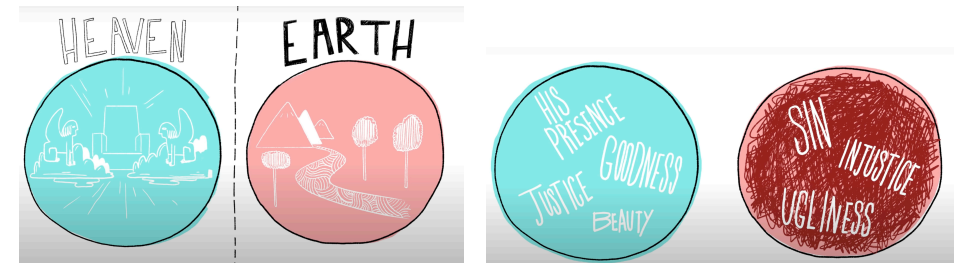
"What is the Bible All About? (The Heavens and the Earth)" (Part 2)
Genesis 1:1

What is the Bible All About?

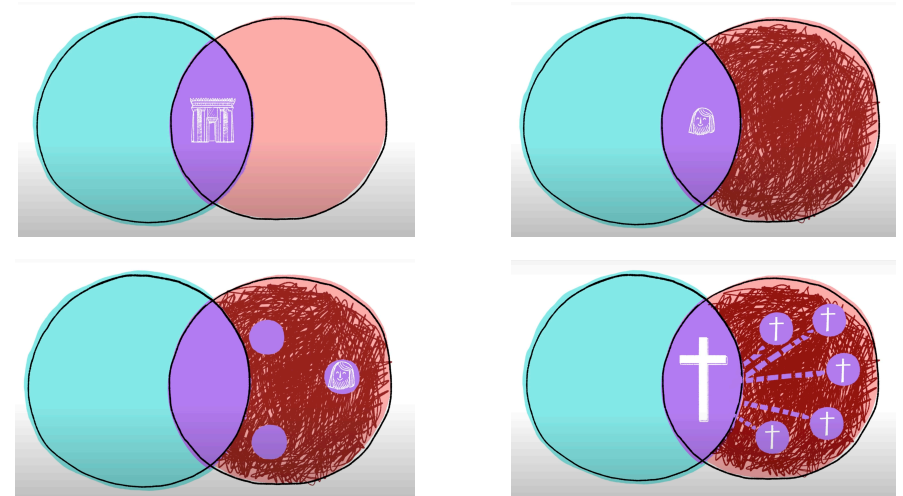
Don't Bury the Lead

5. Tim Mackie states that "God's Sabbath was not a withdrawal from the world and its operations. It was not a vacation or a nap. Rather, it was the point at which he stopped bringing order to creation and took his place at the helm of what had been created." How does this idea get worked out in our daily lives.

The Union of Heaven and Earth

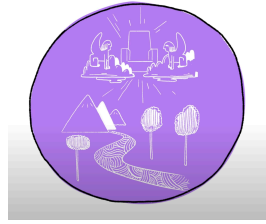


6. How can you better keep from "burying the lead" of the story of God in the way you tell the story and live it out in your daily life at work, school, home, neighborhood, and as a citizen in the public square?



The Garden Temple

- The purpose of the Garden and the temple was for humanity and God to meet and commune with each other.
- The 7 days of creation (and all the other 7's in the first page) foreshadow the tabernacle and the temple.
- Humans are placed Eden as God's image bearers.
- The humans are tasked to "work" and "keep" the Garden, the exact words used to describe the work of the priests in the tabernacle (Genesis 2:15; Numbers 3:7-8; 8:26; 18:1-8). Humans function as priests.
- The tabernacle and temple were modeled after the Garden.
- God ceases work and "settles in" on the seventh day (Exodus 20:8-11; Psalm 132:13-14)



"God's Sabbath was not a withdrawal from the world and its operations. It was not a vacation or a nap. Rather, it was the point at which he stopped bringing order to creation and took his place at the helm of what had been created." (Tim Mackie)

"In order to meet with God you had to go to a temple, which is why the beginning of the biblical story is so fascinating. God didn't create a temple for himself. Instead, he planted a garden where he dwelled with humans." (Tim Mackie)

Don't Bury the Lead

The Bible is a unified story that leads us to Jesus—the one in whom heaven and earth are being reunited. Our hope of seeing God's domain and our domain fully rejoined is what drives us to follow Jesus and pray that more of heaven invades more of earth, and more of us. (The BibleProject)

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. How does our own self focus impact that way we see the Bible story?
3. The number 7 plays a crucial role in the first page of the story of God—five key sentences are made up of 7 words, many of the key words occur 7 times or in multiples of 7, and there are 7 days of creation. When Genesis was written, the Hebrew word for 7 was spelled identically to the word that meant completion, perfection, or wholeness. When the tabernacle and temple are introduced in the story of God, the number 7 again plays a crucial role.
 - The construction of the tabernacle was completed in 7 stages (Exodus 40:19-32).
 - The ordination of a priest was 7 days (Leviticus 8:33-35).
 - Solomon's temple was constructed in 7 years (1 Kings 6:38)
 - The Temple was dedicated to God during a 7 day festival on the seventh month (1 Kings 8:2, 65)

Look up and read the passages above. How does the use of 7's in creation and with regard to the tabernacle and the the temple help you connect Garden and temple?