

# CREATION DAYS 6 (CONTINUED) AND 7

## DAY 6 – THE CREATION OF MAN AND WOMAN

- After God finished creating the land animals, on the same day, He turned His attention to His most important creation – mankind
- Mankind is unique among all that God made, the very pinnacle of His creative work
- God’s monumental work of creation reaches its apex on day 6 with the creation of the first man and woman



- Up to this point, everything that has been created has been merely a prelude for the creation of the human race, which was the primary focus of God’s creative purpose from the beginning
- Everything has been created for the main purpose of preparing a perfect environment for Adam
- This is still the case...mankind is still at the center of God’s purposes for the material universe
- “...the unfolding of creation establishes a theater in which the great redemptive saga can be played out. Man is the main character. God’s own Son even becomes a man at the climax of redemption’s drama. This is the purpose for which the entire universe was created: so that God’s grace, mercy, and compassion could be lavished on this creature whom God had created in His own image. In the end, the theater is destroyed. It is a profound and humbling thought.”<sup>1</sup>

**Genesis 1:26-27** ~ Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...”

- A significant change in the creation account occurs with the creation of man/woman in the image of God
- In Genesis 1, “Then God said” is usually followed by “Let there be...” (vv. 3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24)
- The language “let it be done” expresses an impersonal yet sovereign decree (fiat) that immediately brought things into existence...they are mandates issued to no one in particular
- But in v. 26, the phrase “Then God said” is followed by personal pronouns: “Let Us make man in Our image”
- Prior to this point, God had never said, “Let *Us* make” anything
- This marks a major change in God’s creative work...He was personally and intimately involved in the creation of man in a way that He had not previously been with any other part of creation
- “This speaks of the creation of Adam in terms that are uniquely personal. Scripture deliberately employs such pronouns in order to stress God’s intimate connection with this aspect of His creation. It establishes a personal relationship between God and man that does not exist with any other aspect of creation...He has no personal relationship with any of those things in the same sense He does with humanity. All those things were created by God through His fiat decree, and they began to exist because He ordered them to. But there is never a hint of any intimacy or personal identification between God and those things. God’s relationship with humanity is unique in all of creation.”<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> John MacArthur, *The Battle for the Beginnings*, 157-158.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., 159-60.

- For the first time in the Bible, God introduces Himself with the personal pronouns “Us/Our” (3x in v. 26)
- The Trinity has been alluded to in a couple ways prior to this:
  1. The word for “God” (*Elohim*) used in 21 of the first 25 verses of Genesis 1 is plural
  2. The presence of the “Spirit of God...moving over the surface of the waters” (Gen 1:2)
- But the plural personal pronouns in v. 26 are unmistakable proof of plurality within the Godhead
- The Trinitarian seeds in Genesis 1 are further developed in the rest of the OT (Ps 2:7; 45:7; 110:1; Is 48:16) and the NT (Matt 3:16-17; Eph 1)
- What is hinted at in Genesis 1 is further explained in John 1

**John 1:1-3** ~ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

- Thus, the act of creation involved each member of the Trinity and both communion and consultation between the members
  1. God the Father – Gen 2:4-5
  2. God the Son – John 1:1-3; Col 1:16; Heb 1:2
  3. God the Spirit – Gen 1:2; Ps 104:30
- The Father was the source of all things (Gen 1:1)...the Spirit was the energizer of all things (Gen 1:2) ...the Word was the revealer of all things (Gen 1:3)
- The Father planned the work of creation...the Son did the work of creation...and the Holy Spirit energized it
- Wrapped up in this inter-Trinitarian plan was the entire redemptive plan of God: The Father had promised to give a redeemed people to the Son as a love gift...and the Son agreed to die in order to redeem them
- 3 purposes of mankind emerge from this text

## To Reflect the Image of God

**Genesis 1:26-27** ~ Then God said, “**Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness;** and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” 27 **God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.**

- A number of factors indicate that mankind being created “in the image of God” is very significant:<sup>3</sup>
  1. God’s creation is declared to be “very good” only after the creation of man
  2. The creation of man is introduced differently than other parts of creation (“Let there be” vs. “Let Us make”)
  3. The one God who creates man as male and female uses plural pronouns for Himself (Us/Our) as the creator of singular “man” who is plural (male and female)
  4. The phrase “image of God” is stated three times in v. 26-27 but never in relation to other parts of creation
  5. Three times in v. 27 it states the God “created” (*bara*) male and female in His image
  6. Man is given a place of rulership over all other created beings on earth, indicating the priority of man in God’s creation
  7. Only the creation of man as male and female is expanded on in detail in Genesis 2
- But what does it mean that man is made in the image of God?
- Scripture declares but does not explain clearly just what it means that man is created in God’s image

<sup>3</sup> Adapted from Bruce Ware, “Male and Female Complementarity and the Image of God” in *Biblical Foundations for Manhood and Womanhood*, 72.

- Two Hebrew words are used in the phrase “in Our image, according to Our likeness”
  1. “image” (*tselem*) = semblance, statue, copy, model, a carving
  2. “likeness” (*demuth*) = similitude, pattern, shape
- These terms are not distinct (i.e. one expressing spiritual similarities and the other expressing physical similarities)
- These terms are parallel and synonymous for the purpose of emphasis (as is common in Hebrew)
- They emphasize the fact that man has been made in the very image of God



- The same two words used in Genesis 5:3...Seth was not identical to Adam but was like him in many ways

**Genesis 5:3** ~ When Adam had lived one hundred and thirty years, he became the father of a son in his own likeness, according to his image, and named him Seth.

- Although these terms do not define what this image is, they show that God is the original of which man is the copy (but not an exact replica)
- The definition of “image of God” must include that which is unique to humanity and not shared by animals since those aspects that we share in common with animals cannot constitute what distinguishes us from them
- Because God is a spirit and has no body, the image of God in man cannot speak primarily of man’s physical body or what he looks like
- In fact, many of mankind’s physical traits do have much in common with animals (i.e. similar internal organs, similar skeletal structures, etc.)
- So, the image of God in man must primarily relate to his immaterial nature, things such as self-consciousness, moral consciousness, and consciousness of others
- Furthermore, a possible definition should include both what man IS and what man DOES as unique from the rest of creation
- “Must we think of the image of God in man as involving only what man is and not what he does, or only what he does and not what he is, or both what he is and what he does? Is “image of God” only a description of the way in which the human being functions, or is it also a description of the kind of being he or she is?”<sup>4</sup>
- Thus, a definition must address the structural capacities to mirror God (the “being”)...and the relational capacities to represent God (the “doing”)
- The image of God does not merely refer to what we are; it also refers to what God created us to do
- Definition: “God made human beings, both male and female, to be created and finite *representations* (images of God) of God’s own nature, that in *relationship* with Him and each other they might be His *representatives* (imaging God) in carrying out the *responsibilities* He has given to them. In this sense, we are *images of God* in order to *image God* and His purposes in the ordering of our lives and the carrying out of our God-given responsibilities.”<sup>5</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Anthony Hoekema, *Created in God’s Image*, 69.

<sup>5</sup> Ware, “Male and Female Complementarity and the Image of God” in *Biblical Foundations for Manhood and Womanhood*, 79.

- We reflect the image of God when we display His communicable attributes (holiness, wisdom, goodness, truth, love, grace, mercy, patience, righteousness) and elements of personhood (intellect, emotion, and will)
- We also reflect the image of God when we discharge the responsibilities He has given us (i.e. work, naming the animals, exercising dominion over the rest of His creation)
- In short, we are persons and our lives are wrapped up in relationships
- Even the way God created our physical bodies to engage in relationships argues for this
- “Man’s very posture, standing upright, distinguishes him from four-footed beasts and creeping things. The animals’ natural posture directs their gaze downward, toward the earth. Man, on the other hand, is naturally positioned to look upward, toward the heavens, where he can contemplate the glory of God displayed there...Our tongues, with their ability to form words and speak meaningful language, also reflect our likeness to God. Even our faces, with their naturally expressive eyes and a host of meaningful expressions are especially suited for relationships. So while the human body itself is neither the seat nor the primary expression of the image of God in man, even the body is specially made so that it can serve as a vehicle through which that image is manifest.”<sup>6</sup>
- “[The likeness of God] is what defines the human being’s unique identity. It is the whole reason God took such a personal interest in the creation of this particular species. It explains why the Bible places so much stress on the fact of God’s hands-on creation of Adam. He fashioned this creature in a special way – to bear the stamp of His own likeness. Man was made in the image of God. That sets him apart from every other creature in the physical universe.”<sup>7</sup>
- “Being made in the image of God is usually understood to point to the sense in which we are like God. Though He is the Creator and we are creatures, and though God transcends us in being, power, and glory, nevertheless there is some sense in which we are like Him. There is some analogy between God and us. God is an intelligent and moral being. We are also more agents equipped with a mind, a heart, and a will. These faculties make it possible for us to mirror God’s holiness, which was our original vocation.”<sup>8</sup>
- The uniqueness of man is further illustrated in the fact that God made only one male (Gen 2:7) and one female (Gen 2:21-22)
- In contrast, God made thousands or even millions of all the other living animals in the air, in the water, and on the earth
- All the other creatures are spoken of in the plural: birds...sea creatures...cattle...creeping things...beasts of the earth (see Gen 1:20 ~ Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures)
- But God created just one man and one woman
- Although the entrance of sin into the world marred the image of God in man, it did not totally erase it (Gen 9:6; James 3:8)
- To reject this notion (that mankind is made in the image of God) results in profound implications for the sanctity of life (abortion, euthanasia, human trafficking, elder care)
- These realities clearly prove the fallacy of evolution since random mutations in the genetic code over millions of years cannot result in someone made in God’s image

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<sup>6</sup> MacArthur, *Battle for the Beginning*, 164-166.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, 163.

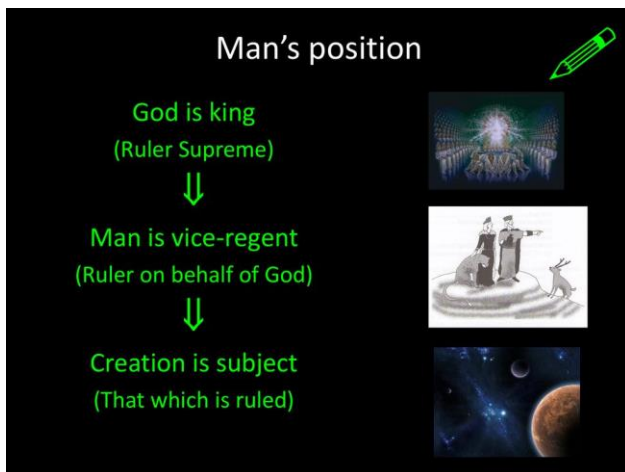
<sup>8</sup> R.C. Sproul, *Essential Truths of the Christian Faith*, 131.

## How could humans have evolved and still be in the “Image of God”?<sup>9</sup>

- “Many people assume that evolution is incompatible with the belief that humans are created in the image of God. Doesn’t image-bearing require miraculous creation of humans rather than shared biological ancestry with other creatures? When in the evolutionary process did humans attain this image?”
- “At BioLogos we believe that God created humans in biological continuity with all life on earth; the distinct cognitive abilities we have were given to us by God through this gradual process. We also believe that God created us as spiritual beings; God established a unique relationship with humanity by endowing us with his image and calling us to an elevated position within the created order. Science cannot judge our spiritual capacities or divine calling, so there is no contradiction.”

### To Subdue the Realm of Animals

**Genesis 1:26, 28** ~ Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and **let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth...**” 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.**”



- God intended man to be sovereign over the planet...to rule over everything He put on earth
- Man is to shape creation in such a way as to reflect the beauty, order, and glory of the Creator
- In doing so, man is to communicate to all creation the love and power and goodness of the Creator
- He is to represent God’s authority to a world over which he was given dominion
- He is not, on the one hand, to abuse it or on the other hand, to worship it
- God’s dominion was presented by a representative

- That God intended this responsibility for more than just Adam is clear from the plural “them” in v. 26 (“let them rule over”) and the “them” in v. 28 (“God blessed them, and God said to them...subdue it”)
- It is God’s design that the whole human race be involved in exercising dominion over His creation
- To “subdue” (Gen 1:28; *kabash*) involves a degree of sovereignty, control, and direction over nature
- Some ways this responsibility as vice-regent were first exercised by Adam:
  - He was to work as a gardener in Eden (Gen 2:15)
  - He named all the animals (Gen 2:19)
- This was the way God intended it...all living creatures and all of creation were to be under man

**Psalm 8:3-8** ~ When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained; 4 What is man that You take thought of him, And the son of man that You care for him? 5 Yet You have made him a little lower than God, And You crown him with glory and majesty! 6 You make him to rule over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet, 7 All sheep and oxen, And also the beasts of the field, 8 The birds of the heavens and the fish of the sea, Whatever passes through the paths of the seas.

<sup>9</sup> <https://biologos.org/common-questions/how-could-humans-have-evolved-and-still-be-in-the-image-of-god/>

- Unfortunately, the effects of the Fall prevent man from completely fulfilling this responsibility since absolute dominion was forfeited and yielded to Satan
- For this reason, he is known as the “ruler of this world”

**John 12:31** ~ Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.

**2 Corinthians 4:4** ~ in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

**Ephesians 2:2** ~ in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

**1 John 5:19** ~ We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

- Man was supposed to be the “ruler of the world”...but this role was partially abdicated and given to Satan
- Thus, the entrance of sin into the world has made it more difficult for man to exercise dominion over the world
- Things like war, disease, poverty, civil unrest, etc. make it evident that man does not fully function as God’s vice-regents
- Because of sin, the dominion God intended man to recognize has never been fully realized
- However, despite this, man still does exercise dominion as evidenced by his ability to: develop civilizations, cities, nations...cultivate farmland...advance technology...create vaccines...send men to the moon...install worldwide communication networks...transport people to all parts of the world in hours...build dams to create large reservoirs...harness the energy of the sun...manage animal populations
- But even still, mankind does not fully exercise the dominion God intended
- However, Christ has come once to defeat the power of Satan...and will come again to regain that dominion and establish Himself as the rightful ruler of this world
- All things will be subjected to Him when He comes to fulfill God the Father’s intended plans for Creation
- “And upon His return to earth, He will receive His kingdom and establish it worldwide, reigning on an earthly throne in His glorified human body. And thus in the Person of Christ, humanity will finally have the full dominion God planned from the start – and more.”<sup>10</sup>

**1 Corinthians 15:24-27** ~ then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be abolished is death. 27 For HE HAS PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET. But when He says, “All things are put in subjection,” it is evident that He is excepted who put all things in subjection to Him.

**Hebrews 2:8** ~ 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.

- When Christ rules on the earth, major elements of the curse will be reversed and paradise will be largely restored

**Isaiah 11:6-9** ~ And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, And the leopard will lie down with the young goat, And the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little boy will lead them. 7 Also the cow and the bear will graze, Their young will lie down together, And the lion will eat straw like the ox. 8 The nursing child will play by the hole of the cobra, And the weaned

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<sup>10</sup> MacArthur, *Battle for the Beginning*, 174.

child will put his hand on the viper's den. 9 They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea.

**Isaiah 35:1-2** ~ The wilderness and the desert will be glad, And the Arabah will rejoice and blossom; Like the crocus 2 It will blossom profusely And rejoice with rejoicing and shout of joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, The majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They will see the glory of the LORD, The majesty of our God.

**Isaiah 65:20-21** ~ No longer will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, Or an old man who does not live out his days; For the youth will die at the age of one hundred And the one who does not reach the age of one hundred Will be thought accursed. 21 They will build houses and inhabit them; They will also plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

- Believers will reign with Christ in His earthly kingdom for 1,000 years, exercising the dominion they were intended to in Eden

**Revelation 20:4** ~ Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

## **To Multiply the Number of People**

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**Genesis 1:27-28** ~ 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.”

- The way for Adam to exercise dominion as God's vice-regent and to subdue His creation was to propagate life
- From the very beginning, God intended that there would be “male and female” so that mankind could procreate within the bounds of marriage
- His design has always been for a permanent monogamous marriage relationship between a man and a woman
- Thus, Eve was no afterthought in God's plan; rather, she was uniquely suited for a perfectly compatible companion for Adam

**Genesis 2:18** ~ Then the LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.”

**Genesis 2:24** ~ For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

- It is clear that the creation of woman was critical to God's command to Adam to “Be fruitful and multiply; and fill the earth”
- Adam was to procreate, propagate the human race, and populate the earth with people so that God's mandate to exercise dominion over His creation could be executed
- Obviously, he needed a partner for that
- Hence, the creation of two sexes was critical to the fulfillment of God's kingdom mandate
- “Bearing God's image as His vice-regent, the man and the woman together exercise dominion over the earth through procreation. Neither the man nor the woman can fill the earth and subdue it without the other and without further offspring. It is abundantly clear that fulfilling the mandate to “be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it” takes both a man and a woman. In this way, Scripture reminds us that procreation is at the very heart of God's creation purpose for humanity as male and female, within the confines of marriage.”<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> <https://answersingenesis.org/family/marriage/match-made-heaven/>

- For this reason, the command, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth” occurs repeatedly throughout Genesis

**Genesis 1:22** ~ God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.”

**Genesis 8:17** ~ Bring out with you every living thing of all flesh that is with you, birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, that they may breed abundantly on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.

**Genesis 9:1** ~ And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.

**Genesis 9:7** ~ “As for you, be fruitful and multiply; Populate the earth abundantly and multiply in it.”

- The evolutionary lie has resulted in God’s original design being redefined through homosexuality, transgenderism, easy divorce, etc.
- Is this command to “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth” also a command for us today? → some take this view and refuse all forms of birth control
- No, not in the same sense as it was for Adam and Noah...they were responsible for populating the earth which had very few people on it
- So, the mandate to them was essential in order that God’s design for man to exercise dominion over creation could be realized
- But the original intent and design of God for mankind to rule over the earth is still in operation today so in that sense the mandate is still generally in place and most people will get married and have children
- However, there are numerous exceptions to this command that demonstrate it is not permanently binding on every single individual today:
  1. Jesus never married and never had physical children
  2. Jesus did affirm that celibacy is a personal choice (Matt 19:12)
  3. Paul taught that being single is better in certain circumstances (1 Cor 7:32-35, 38)
  4. Those who are infertile would be disobeying this command which is not the case
- But there might be some situations when choosing to not have children violates this mandate:
  - When a Christian wants to simply live without the “problems” of children
  - When a Christian has adopted environmentalism’s lie that “overpopulation is a root cause of resource depletion, species extinction, poverty, and climate change,”<sup>12</sup> which amounts to an attack on God’s design for the family

## Other Details

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**Genesis 1:29-31** ~ Then God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you; 30 and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, I have given every green plant for food”; and it was so. 31 God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

- God graciously provided plants for Adam, as well as every other creature in the animal kingdom, to eat

<sup>12</sup> [https://answersingenesis.org/culture/canadian-billboard-says-most-loving-gift-is-having-one-child/?utm\\_source=articlesmedia&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=20201010&utm\\_content=1-banner-cta&mc\\_cid=15f702a1ec&mc\\_eid=d44976c98d](https://answersingenesis.org/culture/canadian-billboard-says-most-loving-gift-is-having-one-child/?utm_source=articlesmedia&utm_medium=email&utm_term=20201010&utm_content=1-banner-cta&mc_cid=15f702a1ec&mc_eid=d44976c98d)



- At this point, they were all vegetarians because there was no sin and, therefore, no death
- The world was filled with abundant food...all kinds of varieties of food was literally hanging on the trees for Adam to enjoy
- God filled the world with a vast array of wonderful fruits and vegetables
- Prior to the creation of man and woman, each day ended with God pronouncing that it “good” (Gen 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21)
- At the end of day 6, God pronounced that His creation was “very good” (Gen 1:31)
- This statement was in anticipation of the pronouncement that it was “not good” for man to be alone (Gen 2:18)

## DAY 7

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**Genesis 2:1-3** ~ Thus the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their hosts. 2 By the seventh day God completed His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. 3 Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

- Creation is now complete: 3 times it says God’s work was “completed”...3 times it says “all their hosts/all His work”...2 times it says He “rested” (*shabat*)
- The seventh day is unique because God “blessed...and sanctified it”
- “sanctified” = *qedesh* = “holy, set apart”...this is the first time in Scripture anything is said to be holy
- The seventh day was elevated above other days
- This argues strongly against the doctrine of evolution which suggest that creation is still a work in progress
- God did not rest because He was tired or weary from the work of creating because God never gets tired



**Psalms 121:3-4** ~ He will not allow your foot to slip; He who keeps you will not slumber. 4 Behold, He who keeps Israel Will neither slumber nor sleep.

**Isaiah 40:28** ~ Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth Does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable.

- God rested in order to enjoy what He had made, like a master craftsman who pauses to admire and reflect on his finished work
- But God’s “work” still continues today in that He continues to sustain and govern His creation

**John 5:17** ~ But He answered them, “My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working.”

**Colossians 1:17** ~ He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

- God also rested to establish a pattern for us to follow for our work week...He merely modeled the need for rest
- This weekly day of rest is necessary in order to rejuvenate and be refreshed for another 6 days of labor

**Exodus 20:11** ~ For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.

- Clearly our work week is based on God’s week of creating
- This is a solid argument for the “days” of Genesis being 24-hour days rather than millions of years
- This Sabbath later became the sign of the Mosaic covenant and was a day that God expected Israel to set aside and do no work

**Exodus 20:8-11** ~ Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a sabbath of the LORD your God; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you. 11 For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.

**Exodus 31:12-17** ~ The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, But as for you, speak to the sons of Israel, saying, ‘You shall surely observe My sabbaths; for this is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the Lord who sanctifies you. Therefore you are to observe the sabbath, for it is holy to you. Everyone who profanes it shall surely be put to death; for whoever does any work on it, that person shall be cut off from among his people. For six days work may be done, but on the seventh day there is a sabbath of complete rest, holy to the Lord; whoever does any work on the sabbath day shall surely be put to death. So the sons of Israel shall observe the sabbath, to celebrate the sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant.’ It is a sign between Me and the sons of Israel forever; for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, but on the seventh day He ceased from labor, and was refreshed.”

- The Sabbath is no longer binding on believers today for a number of reasons:
  1. The Sabbath was the sign to Israel of the Mosaic Covenant – since we are now under the New Covenant (Heb 8:7-13), we are no longer required to observe the sign of the Mosaic Covenant
  2. In Col 2:16-17, Paul explicitly refers to the Sabbath as a shadow of Christ, which is no longer binding since the substance (Christ) has come
  3. The NT never commands Christians to observe the Sabbath – on the other hand, each of the other nine commandments are reiterated in the New Testament
  4. In our only glimpse of an early church worship service in the NT, the church met on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7; see also 1 Cor 16:2; Rev 1:10) because this is the day Christ rose from the dead
  5. When the Apostles met at the Jerusalem council (Acts 15), they did not impose Sabbath-keeping on the Gentile believers
  6. Paul rebuked the Galatians for thinking that God expected them to observe special days, such as the Sabbath (Gal 4:10-11)
  7. Today, believers enter into Sabbath rest spiritually (Heb 4:8–11) because Jesus is our Sabbath
  8. Nowhere in the NT is Sunday called the “Christian Sabbath”
- Thus, we are not Sabbatarians today