

Grace from the Beginning: Personal Discoveries in Genesis 1

Rev. Ted Wood
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Genesis 4:5-7. Set the stage for where we are today.

- **“(For) Cain and his offering (the Lord God) had no regard.”**
“Regard” = *gaze at for help*.
 - o Before: uninterrupted fellowship; delight in all man did – “it was good” -- no recriminations or judgments.
 - o After: “You (Lord) are of purer eyes than to see evil and cannot look at wrong ...” Habakkuk 1:13.
- **“Cain was very angry ...”**
 - o Before: man’s delight was in the Lord God.
 - o After: “It displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry ... ‘I do well to be angry, angry enough to die.’” Jonah 4:1, 9.
- **“(Cain’s) face fell.”**
 - o Before: man rejoiced in every situation and circumstance.
 - o After: “Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me?” Psalm 42.
- **“If you do well, will you not be accepted?”**
 - o Before: the Lord God’s acceptance was unconditional.
 - o After: “... if you will indeed obey my commandments that I command you today, to love the LORD your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.” Deuteronomy 11:13.
- **“Sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you ...”**
 - o Before: there is no enemy or opponent to fear.
 - o After: “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.” John 10:10.
“Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.” 1 Peter 5:8.
- **“... you must rule over (sin).”**
 - o Before: life was being and “is”.
 - o After: Life becomes “should”, “must” and struggle: “toil ... thorns and thistles ... sweat of your brow ... and to dust you shall return.” Gen 3:17-19.

God’s provision of Grace. “... but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more ...” Romans 5:20.

But God’s provision of Grace, even before the Fall!

“The most important verse in the Bible is Genesis 1:1.” Bruce Bickel.

✓ **Genesis 1:6-7. A place to breath.** “God said, ‘Let there be an expanse (canopy) in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.’”⁷ And God made

(fashioned) the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse."

- ✓ Without a breathing space, we die: "I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life ... Everything that is on the earth shall die." Gen 7:21f
- **Genesis 1:11. God-given life.** *"Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed ..."*
 - ✓ "It is the Spirit who gives life ... The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life." John 6:63.
- **Genesis 1:14, 18. Manifest order.** *"Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years ... to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness."*
 - ✓ "God arranged (*appointed, assigned, ordered, put in place*) the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose." 1 Cor 12:18.
- **Genesis 1:22. A foundational purpose.** *"God blessed them (all living creatures), saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply ...'"*
 - ✓ "By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples." John 15:18.
- **Genesis 1:25, 27. Distinct identity.** *"God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds ... God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."*
 - ✓ "What is man that you are mindful of him ...⁵Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. ⁶You have given him dominion over the works of your hands ..." Psalm 8:4-6
- **Genesis 2:3. Gaining God's rest.** *"God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation."*
 - ✓ "There remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, ¹⁰for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. ¹¹Let us therefore strive to enter that rest ..." Hebrews 4:9-10