DAY SIX -- LET US MAKE MAN

Sunday, November 1, 2026 -- GENESIS 1-11 series -- msg 11 -- Pastor Andrew Coleman

GENESIS 1:26-28 English Standard Version (ESV)

> **26** *Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."*
> **27** *So God created mankind in his own image,*
> *in the image of God he created them;*
> *male and female he created them.*
> **28** *God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."*

REVIEW: GOD CREATES…

Day One: God created light and separated light from darkness.
Day Two: God separated the waters from the expanse, made the sky.
Day Three: God separated land and sea, He made dry ground and vegetation.
Day Four: God made the sun, moon and stars.
Day Five: God made the sea and air creatures.
Day Six: God made land animals and human beings.

KEY OBSERVATIONS FROM THE TEXT:

1. **GOD ANNOUNCES THE CREATION OF HUMANITY IN A REMARKABLE WAY . vs 26-28**

   A. Notice the CONTRAST with everything preceding.
   - Previously: "*Let there be..."*
   - Previously: *"Let the earth bring forth..."*
   - Now: *"Let US make man in OUR image...".*

   God had already created universe, light, atmosphere, oceans, continents, vegetation, heavenly bodies, and innumerable living creatures… all extraordinary!
   But what comes next (or last) is extraordinary to the extraordinary!

   B. Notice the emphasis on God, His essence and His relationship to this creation.
   Us/Our, image/likeness vs 26, 27

   We are transitioning from the grandeur of the created universe to the extraordinary significance of humanity.

C. Notice that verse 27 shifts from narrative prose to poetry prose.

27 *So God created mankind in his own image,*
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

In most English translations paragraph indentation represents poetic prose.

- The poetry marks the climax of God's creative work.
- The poetry invites the reader to stop and contemplate.
- The poetry gives prominence to God's image and male/female creation.
  H. C. Leupold in his *Exposition of Genesis* says, "*The dignity of humanity is so great that the language rises to meet the occasion*."

2. GOD REVEALS A REMARKABLE PLURALITY IN THE GODHEAD.

"Let US make man in OUR image, after OUR likeness."

Three common possibilities of what this means…

- God was referring to himself and angels.
  (except that angels are not in His image)
- The 'Royal We' is being used.
  (except that there are no examples of this in Hebrew)
- An actual indication of plurality in the Godhead: The Trinity.
  (in accordance of many other passages OT and NT)

GENESIS 1:2

The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

JOHN 1:1-3

*1 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 were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.*
(also see John 1:14; Rev 19:13; 1 John 1:1)

COLOSSIANS 1:15-17 (Paul writes about Jesus Christ)

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

MATTHEW 3:13-17 (All three at Jesus's Baptism)

*16 And when **Jesus** was baptized, immediately He went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw **the Spirit of God** descending **like a dove** and coming to rest on Him; 17 and behold, **a voice from heaven** said, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."*

GENESIS 1:26-28 English Standard Version (ESV)

> **26** *Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."*
> **27** *So God created mankind in his own image,*
> *in the image of God he created them;*
> *male and female he created them.*
> **28** *God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."*

The plurality of God vs 26 does not contradict the unity of God in vs 27.

This is ONE GOD in THREE DISTINCT PERSONS:
GOD THE FATHER, GOD THE SON AND GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT.

3. GOD GIVES HUMANITY A UNIQUE PLACE IN HIS CREATION.

Last week and in previous weeks we saw that God was FORMING and FILLING creation preparing it for something greater. God makes THE FIRST ADAM.

Notice that of all animals and resources on the earth – mankind is to rule over it.

- STEWARDSHIP
- AUTHORITY
- RESPONSIBILITY
- ACCOUNTABILITY

PSALM 8 -- GOD BE PRAISED FOR MAKING EXTRAORDINARY MANKIND

1 ***O Lord, our Lord,***
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.
2 *Out of the mouth of babies and infants,*
you have established strength because of your foes,
to still the enemy and the avenger.
3 *When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,*
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,
4 *what is man that you are mindful of him,*
and the son of man that you care for him?
5 *Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings*
and crowned him with glory and honor.
6 *You have given him dominion 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 along the paths of the seas.
9 ***O Lord, our Lord,***
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

MAJESTY! We see the GOODNESS and GENEROSITY of GOD towards humanity.