

In Step with Jesus 193

April 5, 2026

Key Text: Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” (Genesis 1:26)

Introduction

Last week we finished reading Genesis chapter one. So far, we have learnt that God is real whether we can prove it or not. God is as real as the air we breathe. We cannot see the air, neither can we tell where the air comes from, but we can feel the impact. While speaking to the woman at the well of Samaria in John chapter 4, Jesus said that God is Spirit. (John 4: 24) Just a chapter earlier (John chapter 3), Jesus had used the wind metaphor to describe the work of the Holy Spirit in the new birth experience to Nicodemus. He said “The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” (John 3:8). Just as we do not need complex scientific evidence to prove that the air or wind exist, we do not need evidence to prove that there is God. We simply know that God is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him diligently (Hebrews 11: 6). This is faith, and the righteous shall live by his faith. (Habakkuk 2:4)

The second lesson we learnt about God our creator is that He is a God of order. The systematic way in which He created light, space, and land, as well as all the things that exist in them reveals His orderliness. Today we will reflect on the fact that God’s orderliness was purpose driven. God demonstrated this purposefulness throughout His acts of creation, but it was most evident when He created humankind. Let us go over Genesis 1 verses 26 – 31 again and see what we can learn about God’s purpose in creation, but most importantly, His purpose for creating us.

Genesis 1: 26 - 31

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” ²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” ²⁹ And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every

bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. ³¹ And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Reflections

Before we delve into the purposefulness of God’s creation with regards to humanity, let us unpack God’s presentation of Himself in Genesis one verse twenty-six, because we cannot afford to ignore it. In the first three verses of Genesis chapter one, the bible gently introduced us to God, His Spirit, and His word but nothing more was said about this subject. Instead, the remaining verses up until verse twenty-six assumed that God was alone in the work of creation, but in verse twenty-six, God suddenly starts speaking in the first person plural, “let us make man,” implying that He was not alone in creation. We can find answers about who constituted the ‘us’ in verse twenty-six if we read John 1:1-4. It says, “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 anything made that was made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men.” Verse 14 of the same chapter says, “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” So, we have God (the Father) the Holy Spirit and the son, (Jesus Christ) involved in creation. We can spend this next few months in studying this theme but that will lead away from the focus of our study for now, but let us hold unto this simple truth that The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit were united in our creation because this truth will help us to understand their unity in our salvation when we get to that theme.

Now that we know the persons involved in our creation, let us reflect on the purpose for our creation. First of all, as we can see from our reading, God’s purpose for making us was for us to be like Him. In us, God made an image of Himself (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). In our modern day terms, God made a sculpture or an image of Himself, but He did not make a lifeless image as sculptors and photographers do, He made living beings with His life, or Spirit in them. So, God made humanity to represent Him on earth. Secondly, God created us for dominion or rulership over the earth. However, note that God was specific about what we were to have dominion over. We were to have dominion over “the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” Note that God did not include humans in the list of things to dominate. God created male and female to have dominion over all creation and not human beings dominating other human beings. Simply put, God created us to represent Him in His rulership over the beautiful earth He created and if we live up to this purpose, we will do our part to preserve and care for our beautiful planet.