



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

God's Leadership Team: In The Beginning

JANUARY 11, 2012

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Welcome to the 2012 Legislative Session Study Series: Each of you have been ordained by God for this season of service. Our Bible study series will focus on other men and women whom God chose for leadership in an earlier time. Our aim is to learn from their example, both from their successes and failures.

INTRODUCTION

Adam was the first leader that God chose and commissioned for a purpose. You are one of the latter selections! In a multitude of ways, **each of us represents Adam**. It may help you to see the magnitude of this reality by reflecting on being born today into a family where your father was internationally renowned and your mother also a celebrity. Yes, you are of great heritage!

YOU ARE PART OF GOD'S CREATION

*Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*¹

That profound and perhaps most remembered Bible verse begins the account of all creation. Moses continued to describe how God (Elohim) created the earth, seas, vegetation, the heavens, and living creatures. After each action, God "saw that it was good". Next God created his management team, His stewards over all that was good.

YOU ARE ON GOD'S LEADERSHIP TEAM

*Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man like Us and let him be head over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every thing that moves on the ground."*²

Note the term "Us" in the above scripture. This is the first clear reference to the triune God. We translate the English noun "God" from the Hebrew name Elohim (the EL is a plural prefix). All three persons of the Trinity are delineated (and present) at the public baptism of Jesus (Luke 3:22, Matthew 3:16-17, Mark 1:10, John 1:32-34).

GOD'S CHARGE GIVEN TO HIS TEAM

*Genesis 1:27-28a God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them; and God said to them...*³

Man, the crowning point of creation, was made in God's image, as His representative in ruling over the creation. We are unique in that we embody God's communication attributes (Colossians 3:10). In our rational life, we can reason and have intellect, will, and emotion. In a moral sense, man started out as good and sinless.⁴

GOD SAID:

1. God's blessing to all living creatures was to be fruitful and multiply. Abortion and genocide were not included. Economics also decries the diminished young family class in the populations of Europe and the USA.
2. Rule over/subdue creation refers to a productive order to yield its riches and accomplish God's purposes. Drilling, harvesting, and mining are approved practices for God's purposes. Along with manufacturing, these are the basic industries in Kansas. Each job in these spins off up to seven in other sectors.
3. Rule over birds, fish, cattle, and creeping things: Some of you have had more success than I on these. I have had game birds hide from me, fish avoid my lure, cattle stand or stare when my purpose was to drive them, and we all have had creepy things bite us!
4. The plants, fruit, seeds, and trees are given for food. This sustained both mankind and other creatures prior to the curse. Both man and animals in the Garden of Eden were vegetarians (Genesis 3:14-19).
5. Cultivate and care for the garden. Caring for God's creation was and is a dignifying part of representing the image of God. What could go wrong with this?

BIBLE STUDIES

LEADERSHIP STUDY WEDNESDAYS: 7 TO 7:50AM, CAPITOL ROOM 142 SOUTH

STAFF/GUESTS: WEDNESDAYS: 12:05 TO 12:55 PM, GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM – CAPITOL 264WEST

Kansas

God's Leadership Team

GOD SAID THIS WAS NOT GOOD

*Genesis 2:20b... but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him.*⁵

The LORD God (Elohim) was commenting on Adam's incompleteness on the sixth day of creation. Adam needed a helper and an equal to complement him in fulfilling the task of filling, multiplying, and taking dominion over the earth. The LORD God put Adam into a deep sleep, removed one of his ribs, closed up the opening, and used the rib as source material to fashion Woman (called so because she was taken out of Man).

A FAILED PERFORMANCE REVIEW

*Genesis 3:9-10a Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid..."*⁶

Avoiding the "Boss" is a clear sign of guilt! The LORD God had commanded Adam to cultivate the garden and said that he may eat the fruit of any tree (but one) and it seems that this permission included the tree of life (Genesis 2:16, 3:22). Adam and most of his children in that generation had life spans of over eight hundred years. We read of the tree of life again, located in New Jerusalem (Revelation 22:2). Adam had been commanded to avoid the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2:16). This knowledge would cause Adam to die spiritually, distancing him from God. Fear not! Stay in communion with God!

THE DEVIL MADE ME DO IT

Genesis 3:1b And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?'"

If we stick with truth we can recognize a lying snake and a half-truth question. Next the Scriptures give us a glimpse of the spiritual world.

Satan, the dishonored angel named Lucifer, had been thrown out of heaven as a result of a failed rebellion (Luke 10:18). This spirit being now possessed the body of a snake and approached Eve with the intention of tempting humans to rebel. The serpent pointed out that the knowledge of good and evil would make her wise like God. Eve repeated Adam's apparent instructions not to go near, touch, or eat the fruit of that tree. The serpent lied and told Eve that she would not die (immediately). She was deceived and shared the fruit with Adam. Confronted by God, Adam blamed his wife. Eve blamed the serpent. God sent them out of the garden, separating them from the tree of life (Genesis 3:16-24).

CONCLUSION

Sin has consequences, often for generations! Adam gave firm instructions but the entire team failed the ultimate test. What do you do to avoid such a challenge in your leadership area? Have you set up "hedges" to protect you from temptations? What other options did Adam have? The LORD God sent His Son to pay the sin debt for the human race (Romans 5:11-13). Accepting His pardon restores you to commune with Him and enjoy life eternal (2 Corinthians 5:17-21).

¹ The Holy Bible, New International Version. (International Bible Society). 1984.

² The Holy Bible, New Living Version. (Christian Literature International). 1969.

³ The Holy Bible, New American Standard Bible. (The Lockman Foundation). 1995.

⁴ John MacArthur, The MacArthur Study Bible (Thomas Nelson Inc.). 2006 p17.

⁵ The Holy Bible, New American Standard Bible. (The Lockman Foundation). 1995.

⁶ Ibid

⁷ Ibid