



February 4, 2020

## **A World of Good**

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

As we enter into the topic of why there are human beings, it is important to recognize how often the word good appears in the first two chapters of Genesis. God creates light. It was good. He creates the firmament that holds up the water above us. That is good too. If not, we would have a rather hard time of things. He creates dry land with herbs, grass, and fruit, also good. Then the sun and moon, and all the light in the sky. I find myself agreeing with the writer; it is all good!

Then, verses 20-25 describe the creation of all the creatures in the sea, in the sky, and on the dry land. Think about the beauty, majesty, and variety of the creatures God made. Notice the way we are drawn to go see them at zoos and aquariums. When looking at them, we use adjectives that go well beyond good.

You see, all these creations are good. And then, after all else, God came to create human beings and put them in charge of the earth. That is, we are to be responsible for the earth and life upon it. It is an assignment that we are still working on today, whether we believe in God or not. If you look at human history, from its most rudimentary form to its most complex, you will see that this is what human beings have always done and continue to do. Although we forget about God in many cases, which is why things often don't work so well, we are still on the project. We are, in our nature, perfectly fitted for what Moses wrote down as the charge that God put on us when we were created:

*"Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth" (v. 28).*

The charge to humankind was to rule the earth for good. And it was good that it should be so. This is affirmed in verse 31: "God saw everything that He had made, and indeed, it was very good."

**Practice:** *Yet many people who like the things that creep and crawl around the zoo have some doubts when it comes to human beings. They wonder if the world might not be better off if God had stopped before he created people. In order to discover whether this is true, we must seek to answer the following two questions: What did God create when he created human beings, and what is especially good about them? Take some time and reflect on these questions in preparation for future devotionals.*