

BIBLE STUDY on GENESIS (NIV) Part 1 (d)



GOD CREATES THE WORLD

Read Genesis 1 : 1 - 28, 31

(continued from Issue 57)

The Sixth Day of Creation - A Picture of Fruitfulness and Authority

We see that all nature is to be fruitful and to multiply according to its kind. To man is given the added command to subdue the earth and to have dominion over every living thing. We will see in Lesson 3 that man utterly failed in this mission. Man could now reproduce only after his own kind—men like himself, falling far short of the glory of God and in bondage to satan. Yet, praise God! **“For what the law was powerless to do ... God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so He condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit”.** (Romans 8 : 3b - 4). We, too, can be sons of God through Christ and be conformed to the image of His Son, bearing the fruits of righteousness: **“...because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.”** (Romans 8 : 14).

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.” (Galatians 5 : 22 - 23a). **“... filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.”** (Philippians 1 : 11). Jesus says, **“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in Me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing.”** (John 15 : 5).

Because Jesus was victorious over death, He could say, **“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”** (Matthew 28 : 18 - 20). We have been given authority to do Christ’s work in this world. Satan is a defeated foe (enemy). Jesus says, **“I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.”** (Luke 10 : 19). **“You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.”** (1 John 4 : 4). Are you living the fruitful and victorious life of a child of God? >>



The Seventh Day of Creation - A Picture of Rest

God’s work of creation by His word was complete and so God rested. No rest can come until God’s will has been done.

There is also a rest for the people of God. Jesus said, **“Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls.”** (Matthew 11 : 28 + 29).

Jesus came to do God’s will. **“And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. ...because by one sacrifice He has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.”** (Hebrews 10 : 10, 14). Just as God *finished* His work of creation, Christ *finished* His work of redemption and is now seated at the right hand of God. By faith in Christ’s *finished* work, we can enter into *spiritual rest*, knowing that we are forgiven and have peace with God. Our works can add nothing to what Christ has done. **“... He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy.”** (Titus 3 : 5a). **“There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God’s rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from His.”** (Hebrews 4 : 8 + 9). As we receive Christ’s finished work *for* us, we will have rest.

Some do not enter that place of rest in Christ because there is still a struggle in themselves between the old nature and the new creation in Christ. There need be no struggle. We are not in bondage to the old nature anymore. It was crucified with Christ. We are free; we are new. We are not in the flesh but in the Spirit if the Spirit of God lives in us (Romans 8 : 9). As we allow God to do His work in us, we will have rest.

God sanctified the seventh day. This means that he set it apart for His special use. One of the Ten Commandments shows us that God also wants His people to complete their work in six days and to set apart a day for rest and spiritual blessing. **“If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath and from doing as you please on My holy day. If you call the Sabbath a delight and the Lord’s holy day honourable, and if you honour it by not going your own way and not doing as you please or speaking idle words, then you will find your joy in the Lord and I will cause you to ride on the heights of the land and to feast on the inheritance of your father Jacob. The mouth of the Lord has spoken.”** (Isaiah 38 : 13 + 14).

As we “rest” from our own works in our life on earth by doing everything in God’s strength and by His direction, God can use us in special ways that have eternal value. Then when we enter into heaven at the end of our life, we can *fully* “rest” from our labours. **“Then I heard a voice from heaven say, “Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “they will rest from their labour for their deeds will follow them.””** (Revelation 14 : 13)