

Orlando Bible Students Newsletter

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The Promises of God

Man's Creation and Promised Dominion

The Bible is full of the promises of God toward His human creation. From Genesis to Revelation, these promises explain where man comes from, where he is going and what provisions God has made for him.

Man's beginning is described in Genesis 1:26 (*New American Standard Bible*): "Then God said, Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

Here, God is speaking to his only begotten Son, prior to man's creation. Called the "Word" (Greek: *Logos*) in John chapter 1, God's only begotten son was the Heavenly Father's first and only direct creation. Then, he was used by God as his associate in making the rest of the creation. "In the beginning was the Word [*Logos*], and the Word was with God; the Word also was a god. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him [*Logos*]; and without him was not anything made that hath been made."—John 1:1-3 *Revised Version Improved Corrected*

The Apostle Paul confirms the Son's role in the creation in Colossians 1:15-17 *NASB*: "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through him and

for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together."

Paul describes how God and his Son worked together in the creation: "Yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist for him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through him." —1 Cor. 8:6 *NASB*

Genesis explains more about man's creation in Genesis 1:27. "God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." (*NASB*) Man was created in God's mental and moral likeness with the ability to reason and know right from wrong. However, man was created terrestrial, "of the earth, earthy" and not a spirit being like God and his Son.—1 Cor. 15:47

At man's creation he was given rulership over the earth and all of its creation. "God blessed them; and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."—Gen. 1:28 *NASB*

David wrote about this exalted position God and his son gave to man in Psalm 8:4-8 (*NASB*): "What is man that you take thought of him, and the son of man that you care for him? Yet you have made him a little lower than God, and you crown him with glory and majesty! You make him to rule over the works of your hands; (*Continued on next page*)

Man's Creation and Promised Dominion (continued)

You have put all things under his feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens and the fish of the sea, whatever passes through the paths of the seas.” Installed as the benevolent ruler of earth’s domain, man ruled over the animal kingdom in peace.

Genesis adds that, “Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought them to the man [Adam] to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field.” (Gen. 2:19,20 *NASB*) Thus, one of the first acts God allowed Adam to exercise as ruler was to name the animals he would have dominion over.

However, due to Adam and Eve’s disobedience in the Garden of Eden, man lost this dominion. Quoting from the prophecy in Psalm 8, Paul adds in Hebrews 2:8 (*NASB*): “... For in subjecting all things to him [man], he [God] left nothing that is not subject to him. But now we **do not yet see** all things subjected to him.” Due to sin, man is no longer ruler over the earth or its animal kingdom. While man does exert control over the animals and nature due to his superior intellect and power, he is not the benevolent ruler installed at his creation.

Following the flood, God put the fear of man into the animals. “The fear of you and the terror of you will be on every beast of the earth and on every bird of the sky; with everything that creeps on the ground, and all the fish of the sea, into your hand they are given. Every moving thing that is alive shall be food for you.” (Gen. 9:2,3 *NASB*) To the animal kingdom, man changed from benevolent ruler to feared predator.

However, this situation will not continue forever. Man’s dominion over the earth and the animal kingdom will be restored through the work of Christ’s earthly kingdom. Isaiah 11:1-5 describes Jesus’ earthly kingdom, and his restoration of man’s dominion is revealed beginning in verse 6. “And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, And the leopard will lie down with the young goat, And the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little boy will lead them. Also the cow and the bear will graze, Their young will lie down together, And the lion will eat straw like the ox. The nursing child will play by the hole of the cobra, And the weaned child will put his hand on the viper’s den. They will not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain, For the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea.”—Isa. 11:6-9 *NASB*

Isaiah chapter 65 describes Christ’s kingdom of peace. “For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former things will not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; For behold, I create Jerusalem for rejoicing and her people for gladness.” (Isa. 65:17,18) The new heavens and earth represent the new religious and civil arrangement of Christ’s kingdom, centered in Israel with Jerusalem as its capital. In this kingdom, “The wolf and the lamb will graze together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox; and dust will be the serpent’s food. They will do no evil or harm in all my holy mountain, says the LORD.”—Isa. 65:25 *NASB*

In this kingdom, man will be raised back to his dominion over the earth and the animal kingdom. Additionally, Christ will bring peace to the animal kingdom. Similar to before the flood, the prey and predator animals will live together in peace and harmony because God wills it.

To learn more, see our offer for the free booklet *Father, Son and Holy Spirit* on the back page of this newsletter. ■

Archeology Proves the Bible

Excerpts from the booklet Archeology Proves the Bible

The Bible is the textbook of Christianity. Christ quoted the Old Testament Scriptures as the Word of God; he was guided in his ministries by their instructions and comforted by their promises. Jesus' apostles shared his confidence in the truthfulness of the Old Testament Scriptures; and in addition to the teachings and example of Jesus, they, like him, based their teachings on the Old Testament. The New Testament is in reality an explanatory supplement to the Old Testament, so that for Christians the Old and New Testaments together are an infallible revelation of the plans and purposes of the Creator with respect to his human creatures.

This understanding and acceptance of the Bible as the Word of God was quite general by all professed Christians until the nineteenth century, when, in the minds of many, inroads of doubt began to be made by the assertions of higher critics and the theory of human evolution. To the higher critics most of the historical records of the Old Testament have no basis in fact, but are merely allegories, myths, and fables. According to the theory of human evolution God did not create Adam and Eve, and there never was a Garden of Eden; but instead, man is said to have evolved from lower forms of animals.

Thus seen, higher criticism and the theory of human evolution have been frontal attacks on the validity of the Holy Scriptures. However, in the minds of honest and thinking people this trend toward unbelief in the infallibility of the Bible is gradually being reversed. This is being brought about by the spade and pick of the archeologist. Archeologists began their work of exploring the lands of the Bible about the middle of the nineteenth century, some even before this. J. E. Taylor, Paul Botta, A. H. Layard, and Henry Rawlinson were among the pioneers in excavating the ruins of cities mentioned in the Bible.

This work continued with varying degrees of enthusiasm until it was halted almost entirely by the outbreak of World War I. Following the war, it was resumed and, while slowed down considerably by World War II, archeologists continue to find outstanding proofs of the validity of one after another of the historical accounts of the Old Testament. For example, the Bible speaks of Abraham's living in a city by the name of Ur. It was claimed by doubters that no such city ever existed, but archeologists have proven that this conclusion was wrong, for they have discovered the ancient city of Ur, and in the locality where the Bible places it. The city of Nineveh, where the people repented as a result of the message the Prophet Jonah presented to them from the LORD, has also been discovered.

One of the claims made by the higher critics was that Moses could not have written the first five books of the Old Testament, for the art of writing was not known at the time the Bible indicates that Moses lived. Now we know that writing was in vogue even before the days of Moses. We quote from *New Discoveries in Babylonia*, p.38: "Nearly a thousand years before Abraham was born and a millennium and a half before the birth of Moses, Lugalzaggisi, King of Erech, began his inscriptions with words which do not differ greatly from those used by the last king of Babylon, 2,200 years later."

To obtain a free copy of the booklet *Archeology Proves the Bible*, please contact the Orlando Bible Students at the address/phone given on the back of this newspaper, please provide your mailing address and ask for the booklet *Archeology*.

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Calendar of Events

Orlando Bible Students Convention October 24-25, 2026

South Seminole Lodge
122 Triplet Lake Drive
Casselberry, FL 32707

For further information contact:

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Or contact us at our website:
www.orlandobible.org

The Orlando Bible Students is a non-denominational group that meets for Bible studies and devotions on Sunday mornings.

For further information call: 407-695-6815

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