

BGM BIBLE COLLEGE

BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF WORSHIP

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LECTURE NO 3

THE REVELATION OF WORSHIP IN CREATION

I. GOD CREATED

In the beginning, God alone existed; for He was before all beginnings, and from everlasting to everlasting He is God. God spake, and all things came into being; for creation hearkened unto His voice and obeyed His command. God beheld His work, and said that it was good. The earth was without form and void, yet the LORD ordered it and filled it, bringing forth beauty out of desolation. And in the work of creation, the chief and highest act was the making of man.

II. MAN MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

On the sixth day God created man in His own image. What doth it mean to bear the image of God? In ancient times it was said of kings that they were the likeness of their gods; even so, man is appointed to be the representative of the living God upon the earth. To bear the image of God included our abilities, our relationships, our responsibilities, and our very identity. Man ruled over the creatures in such manner as reflected the character of God. Among all created beings, man alone hath this special place and honour.

III. WHAT GENESIS CHAPTER ONE TEACHETH CONCERNING GOD

All things proceed from God, for He is the Source of all. He is the Creator, the Sustained, and the One who upholdeth all things, and therefore He ruled over all. Man can understand himself only as he knoweth God. The LORD made man for fellowship with Himself. And on the seventh day God blessed the Sabbath, that He might teach mankind the order of labour and of rest.

IV. WHY GENESIS CHAPTERS ONE AND TWO ARE ESSENTIAL TO WORSHIP

The first and second chapters of Genesis are the foundation of the Christian faith. They reveal unto us the LORD as the mighty and sovereign Creator; therefore He alone is worthy to be worshipped. The account of creation teaches us whom we ought to worship. Worship began in the Garden of Eden, and the order and principles found therein appear throughout all the Holy Scriptures.

THE THEOLOGY OF WORSHIP IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN

Worship is, in truth, the obedience of man unto the Almighty God. We worship because the LORD hath created us that we should honour Him. In the first chapters of Genesis we behold God's original purpose for mankind. The Garden of Eden revealed unto us three great truths concerning worship: **Creation and Relation**, **Creation and Location**, and **Creation and Purpose**.

I. CREATION AND RELATION

Man was made in the image of God, that he might know God and worship Him in personal fellowship. Worship proceeded from relationship; for the LORD revealed Himself unto man, and formed him for communion with His Maker. Man was not created merely to keep commandments, but to walk in fellowship with the LORD. God breathed into man the breath of life, giving him the capacity to know his Creator. True worship springeth from knowing God, and we know Him through creation, through the Holy Scriptures, and supremely through Jesus Christ.

II. CREATION AND LOCATION

Worship was appointed in a particular place—the Garden—which declared that location and gathered communion have great importance in the life of worship. The place ordained of God symbolized order, fellowship, and the nearness of His presence. Eden itself was a sanctuary where God walked with man.

III. CREATION AND PURPOSE

Man was created with a holy purpose: to keep the creation, to exercise dominion according to God's will, and to live in harmony with His divine order. Worship is tied to mission; for man's labour in the garden was an expression of obedience unto God.

IV. WORSHIP IS PERSONAL

Worship is personal, for it is to know God and to walk in relationship with Him. God revealed Himself unto mankind, and man responded in fellowship. Worship is rooted not only in duty but in communion. For man hath the gift of knowing God, because the LORD breathed into him the breath of life. True worship cometh from knowing God through His works, His Word, and His Son.

V. WORSHIP IS ACTIVE

Worship is not only feeling or thought, but action. In Eden, Adam was commanded to tend the garden, to keep it, and to obey the voice of the LORD. Scripture used practical words for worship—such as serving, ministering, bowing down. True worship is living according to God's Word, not merely possessing sentiments or ideas.

VI. WORSHIP IS COMPREHENSIVE

Worship is not confined to what we do in the congregation; rather, every part of life may become worship if done according to the Word of God. Adam's daily work—the tending of

plants, the naming of creatures—was part of his worship because he obeyed God's purpose. Many duties seem small in our eyes, yet the true question is the intent of the heart: *For whom do I labour? By whose standard do I walk?*

VII. WORSHIP IS RESPONSIVE

Worship is man's response to God's revelation. Adam and Eve obeyed and worshipped because God had first revealed Himself unto them. Every act of obedience was an answer unto His being and His works. Creation itself declareth the majesty and goodness of the LORD; and when these are seen, true worship followed in praise, obedience, reverence, and holy fear.

VIII. WORSHIP AND THE PRESENCE OF GOD

In Eden, Adam and Eve dwelt near unto God and communed with Him; but sin broke that fellowship, and mankind was driven from His presence. Yet throughout the Old Testament, God made His presence known in the Tabernacle, the Temple, and the manifestations of His glory. The prophets foretold that God would once again dwell among His people; and this promise was fulfilled in Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh. Now, through the Holy Ghost, the presence of God dwelleth within the believers; and in the age to come we shall behold Him face to face.

IX. WORSHIP IN THE FUTURE GARDEN

The first chapters of Genesis reveal God's purpose: that man should dwell with Him. This theme runneth through all Scripture and findeth its fulfilment in Jesus Christ, whose life, death, and resurrection restore unto us access to God's presence. In Revelation chapter twenty-two, the perfect end is revealed: John beholdeth the holy city, like unto a garden; a river proceeded from the throne of God and of the Lamb; the tree of life is there once more. There is no temple therein, for the presence of God filleth all. The servants of God shall behold His face, and shall worship Him for ever; and separation from God shall be no more.

The Greek word for worship in that place speaketh of priestly service, even as the Levites ministered before the LORD. God shall dwell with His people, and they shall abide with Him for evermore.

