

### 1. Part 1: Back To The Basics

**WATCH VIDEO: BACK TO THE BASICS**

**YouTube Link: <https://youtu.be/6bUHEBpQ0lc>**

**The purpose of this Study Starter is to discover what the Lord's ekklesia will look like in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.**

a. INTRODUCTION: Scripture must find a place of manifestation in our lives

- i. Too often we read the word and never seek to find ways to bring it to life in our daily walk
- ii. The only thing that separates us from what we read in scripture is our willingness to pursue it in any meaningful way

b. **Read Acts 2:38-42** What has religion done to us?

- i. Religion has taught us to see the bible as a good book to express a form of righteous morality that guides us in our life – and simultaneously it makes practices and principles of scripture historical events that only applied to the season it was written
- ii. Acts 2:42 is a template for us today
  1. Historically it was a the peoples response to the advent of the Holy Spirit – it was an apostolic response to 'What must we do?'

2. **Acts 2:38-39 NKJV 38** Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 "For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

Think about the following statement?

People are still repenting today and being baptized in the name of Jesus – but doing so today out of a response to escaping sin rather than response to a message that declared the entrance of the Holy Spirit. Peter declared that the promise of the Holy Spirit was not only for those he was exhorting, but also to their children and included those who were 'afar off'

iii. Questions to discuss

1. Why do you believe receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost was included with the remission of sins?
2. Is the expression of the Holy Ghost different today from what we read in scripture? Why or why not?
3. Make a list of things that scripture says should accompany the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives (Hint: John 16, Acts 15:28, Romans 8:26-27)

4. Who are 'those afar off' in Acts 2:39? Are these the same people Jesus prayed for in John 17:20?
5. **John 17:20 NKJV 20** "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;

**In Matthew 28:20 Jesus commanded them to teach others 'everything He had commanded them to do'. Some of what Jesus taught is found in Matthew 10:8 – to go heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead and cast out devils. To teach less than this or to explain it away in denominational doctrine – is direct disobedience to the Lord's command**

**c. The apostles doctrine included much more than a baptismal methodology**

- i. It included teaching people to walk in the full expression of having Christ in them
  1. It meant teaching them to observe – closely look upon something with the intent of practicing it – all things that Jesus had taught them
  2. It included having the expectation that they would heal the sick – cleanse lepers – raise the dead and cast out devils

- ii. Too often we have embraced a 'that was then – this is now' belief system
  - 1. Therefore in this study we will began exploring how the practices and principles in scripture are to be expressed today.
  - 2. The goal is to establish, develop and release believers to fulfill their calling – purpose and ministry assignment

**d. Can you see yourself doing what you read in scripture?**

- i. Can you see yourself laying hands on the sick and seeing them recover?
- ii. Can you see yourself taking authority over demons?
- iii. If the need arises – do you to see yourself empowered to raise the dead
- iv. Leprosy is not prevalent today – can you see yourself praying that those with aids – cancer or any other such diseases be healed



# **THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY EKKLESIA**

## **STUDY STARTER PART 1 - 5**

**IT'S INTENTION – IT'S EXPRESSION – IT'S ACTIVATION  
GENESIS 1:26-28 AND MATTHEW 16:13-20**

**e. Read Genesis 1:26-28 Never forget God's original plan**

God has not changed his plan. He created man with dominion in His image and likeness. He commanded man to be fruitful, to multiply and replenish the earth and subdue it.

Unfortunately it has been obscured by religious rhetoric and division. It has been limited to getting people saved for heaven – but with no emphasis on subduing the earth in the dominion we have been given. It is hanging on waiting for the rapture rather than taking territory for the Kingdom of Heaven.

**Read Luke 16:16**

**Why aren't people pressing into the kingdom today? What will you do?**

**MY NOTES AND ACTION PLAN BEFORE OUR NEXT GATHERING**


## 2. Part 2 Be Fruitful, Multiply, Replenish and Subdue

WATCH VIDEO: Part 2 Be Fruitful, Multiply, Replenish and Subdue

YouTube Link: <https://youtu.be/T3eZr68-438>

**STAY FOCUSED:** This study will look deeper into the divine intent of the Father – then the expression of ekklesia in the earth and finally how we become activated into it.

### a. READ: Genesis 1:26-28

How should the ekklesia Jesus declared He would build look and function today? In Part 2 of this Study Starter will begin to explore the INTENTION, THE EXPRESSION AND THE ACTIVATION of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Ekklesia.

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. (John 14:12 New King James Version)

**It doesn't take a lot of research to see that there was and is a divine intent to empower and release man in the earth. This theme runs all throughout scripture – yet it has been generally a topic of discussion more than a reality to be activated**

- i. **Genesis 1:26-28 NKJV 26** [this is more than just creating man – it is the declaration of man's purpose in the earth] 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." 27 So God created

man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "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."

**b. YOU ARE BLESSED**

- i. Before commanding man to be fruitful, to multiply and replenish the earth and subdue it, God 'blessed' them. Discover what being 'blessed' in this passage suggests.
- ii. Taken from the Hebrew word 'bawrak' (see Strong's Concordance 01288) – it's root meaning is to kneel. It is an act of adoration.
  1. It is what we do – that is kneel before God to adore Him – yet in this passage God was adoring man
  2. This gives light to the fact that God saw what He had created as very good
  3. **Genesis 1:31 NKJV 31** Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So, the evening and the morning were the sixth day.
  4. **Discuss Psalms 8 and Hebrews 2:6-8**

- iii. After blessing man. God gave him a four part command to activate within the dominion he was given
  1. First be fruitful – or be full of fruit – it is internal capacity
    - a. Divine intent begins by letting man know that he had to be productive in the earth
    - b. Keep in mind that fruit produces from within
      - i. Throughout the NT we see Jesus referring to man being fruitful and that it would glorify the Father
      - ii. **John 15:16 NKJV 16** "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, [fruit is eternal] that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.
      - iii. **John 15:7-8 NKJV 7** "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8 "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.
    - c. People and things that did not bear fruit were rejected
      - i. **Mark 11:12-14 NKJV 12** Now the next day, when they had come out from Bethany, He was hungry. 13 And seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it. When He came to

it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. 14 In response Jesus said to it, "Let no one eat fruit from you ever again." And His disciples heard it.

ii. **Mark 11:20 NKJV 20** Now in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots.

d. This fig tree was like many believers – it had leaves but no fruit.

i. The presence of leaves suggested it was supposed to have fruit

ii. Too many have an image – they look good, but they are not bearing any fruit for the kingdom

iii. Jesus cursed it so that it would not live to ever be fruitful

e. Yet in Luke 13:6-9, He taught another parable of a fig tree that did not bear fruit in three years

i. In this parable someone interceded for the tree – asking for the opportunity to dig around it and fertilize it so that it can possibly bear fruit – in other words He was giving another it a second chance

ii. The Day of the Saints I will go into later is our second chance

- iii. We are being dug up out of confining systems – being fertilized and released into the world with the fruit of the Kingdom

## **STOP: DISCUSS WHAT IT MEANS TO BE FRUITFUL IN TODAY'S SOCIETY**

### **c. Man was commanded to multiply**

- i. The mission man was given was to reproduce from what was in him over and over again
  - 1. Fruitfulness is internal capacity and multiplication is external manifestation
  - 2. Understanding the difference between being fruitful and fruit
    - a. Being fruitful speaks of what is in you to produce – and the fruit is the actual thing that is produced
      - i. An apple is a fruit – it is what we enjoy.
      - ii. Within it is a seed – that is as much an apple as the one we eat – however in seed form we don't eat it – we plant it. Once planted – that seed has within it the capacity to produce an entire orchard of apple trees.

ii. The seed is used to multiply

1. **John 12:24 KJV 24** Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

a. Multiplication is only possible when the seed dies – this is where the tire hits the road

b. What you are willing to give up for the Kingdom determines the fruit you will produce

c. **You cannot separate the seed from the fruit.**

i. **The seed must be full of fruit.**

ii. **The fruit brings benefit to the world.**

iii. **Within the fruit is more seed to continue the cycle – which is the process of multiplication**

**MY NOTES AND ACTION PLAN BEFORE OUR NEXT GATHERING**


### **3. Part 3 The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Ekklesia – Jesus Had Choices**

**WATCH VIDEO: Part 3 Jesus Had Choices**

**YouTube Link: <https://youtu.be/YzLn3HdK--A>**

- a. We are continuing our study of The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Ekklesia – its intention – its expression and its activation. How should the ekklesia look today?
  - i. When Jesus declared He would build His ekklesia – by far it wasn't a random idea. Historically, everything we have learned about the word ekklesia, and how it was understood in the first century, suggests that Jesus was deliberate in using this particular word. He had other choices
    1. What about the TEMPLE or THE SYNAGOGUE?
      - a. Jesus could have easily said He would build His hieron, pronounced hee-er-on' – or His temple. The temple was the primary place of worship for all Jews. So to say He would build His temple would not have seemed out of place. In Acts 21:28 we see the Jews saw it was so sacred that they threw Paul out intending to kill him, because he had polluted it by bringing in Gentiles. Yet, it is clear later that we – the Body of Christ have become a new and living temple – we are the temple of the Holy Spirit
      - b. He could have said He would build His sunagoge, pronounced soon-ag-o-gay' – or synagogue a critical place of assembly. Jesus first public message was in the synagogue in Nazareth. All

throughout the New Testament we can find instances where discussions, debates and deliberations took place in the synagogue. There were many synagogues scattered throughout the land identified by various sects – so if Jesus had said He would build His synagogue it would not have been implausible

- ii. Jesus said He would build His ekklesia – an entity known in the first century as an arm of the Roman government.
  1. Scripture does not record Jesus needing to explain what an ekklesia was – because it was well known in that day.
  2. Jesus simply said He would build His version of this called-out assembly
  3. It is important that we remember that the ekklesia had authority and power given to it by the Roman government – likewise the ekklesia Jesus is building has authority and power given to it by the Kingdom of Heaven
  
- iii. This is where we discover a critical truth. The authority and power given to the Lord's ekklesia is a reflection of the original intent God gave man in the Garden
  1. In the Garden man was given dominion, and he was commanded to be fruitful – to multiply and replenish the earth – and subdue it. As long as man obeyed God – nothing would be able to stop him – this is like

Jesus saying at Caesarea Philippi that the gates of Hades would not prevail

2. In the garden man was told to multiply and replenish the earth – or as Jesus said He would give the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven where we know divine strategies can be accessed.
3. Finally, God commanded man to subdue the earth – and at Caesarea Philippi the ekklesia was given authority to legislate in behalf of the Kingdom of Heaven through binding and loosing
4. In the Garden, man simply had to obey God. In Caesarea Philippi this authority was based on having the revelation that Jesus is the Christ – Son of the Living God

**b. Discover Dominion**

- i. **Genesis 1:26-28 NKJV 26** 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." 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "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."

1. Notice that man was not given dominion over other men – He was given dominion over God's creation
  - a. **Psalms 8:4-9 NKJV 4** What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him? 5 For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor. 6 You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet, **[with dominion – God establishes what is within the perimeters of your domain]** 7 All sheep and oxen-Even the beasts of the field, 8 The birds of the air, And the fish of the sea That pass through the paths of the seas. 9 O LORD, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth!
  
2. See how this is presented in Hebrews
  - a. **Hebrews 2:6-8 NKJV 6** But one testified in a certain place, saying: "What is man that You are mindful of him, Or the son of man that You take care of him? 7 You have made him a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, And set him over the works of Your hands. 8 You have put all things in subjection under his feet." For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him.
    - i. This begins very similarly to the OT text – but then there is a shift in Hebrews

- ii. To see this shift you must read the Hebrews 2:9. Our eyes are now on Jesus
  - b. **Hebrews 2:9 NKJV 9** But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.
3. Throughout the remaining verses in Hebrews chapter 2 we can see the Father's eternal intent unfolding In Christ.
4. **READ HEBREWS 2:10-18** and take note of the following phrases (these are drawn from the New King James Version of the Bible)
  - a. **Hebrews 2:10-18 NKJV 10** ... in bringing many sons to glory...
  - b. **Vs11** For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one...
  - c. **Vs 14** Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,
  - d. **Vs 16** ... He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham.

**c. Dominion was God's intent for us – and it was restored in its proper order in Christ Jesus**

i. Man was commanded to be fruitful – or full of fruit

1. Jesus spoke often of God's pleasure in us bearing much fruit
2. But don't lose sight of the fact that fruit is only possible when the seed that is within is planted accurately
3. It is a seed planted by the preaching of the Word of God
4. **1Peter 1:18-25 NKJV** 18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. 20 He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you 21 who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. 22 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, 23 **having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible,** through the word of God which lives and abides forever, 24 because "All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away,

- a. Remember that grass and its blooms are an outward manifestation of what the seed produced – but in time that outward manifestation will die
  - b. Think of all the apostles – think of the early Fathers in the faith – think of the reformers – think of some of the saints you personally knew who have gone
5. They each were as grass and their ministry work as blooms. Both flourish but at some point the grass and the blooms died.
6. **Vs 25** But the word of the LORD endures forever. "Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you".
- d. List three things that would suggest the fruit of your work (example: Leading someone to the Lord)
- i. \_\_\_\_\_
  - ii. \_\_\_\_\_
  - iii. \_\_\_\_\_



## **4. Part 4 The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Ekklesia One Word with One Result**

**WATCH VIDEO: Part 4 One Word with One Result**

**YouTube Link: <https://youtu.be/F-4hIFudL4>**

a. The way we have read scriptures has inadvertently limited our understanding of what is or is not applicable for us today. We have developed an Old Testament vs. New Testament – law vs grace – Jew vs. Gentile and sacred vs. secular mindset. Scripture is often cut and pasted in such a way as to justify or nullify belief systems

Categorization of books as Pentateuch – major prophets – minor prophets – synoptic gospels – Pauline epistles – eschatological writing has undergirded religious thought patterns that have divisions in the Body of Christ

i. The fact is that these divisions play a role in our ability to comprehend the scriptures – but in reality, we must never forget that there is only one theme present throughout the entire word of God – the Kingdom of God

1. There is only one person all scripture ultimately reveals – Jesus Christ
2. There is only one desire of the Father – to rule the earth through His ultimate creation – man

ii. Scripture sets the tone for all eternity

1. Genesis 1:1 declares that “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth – signifying an eternal link between these two dimensions
2. Scripture closes in Revelation 22:21 with “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen”
  - a. Don't miss the inference here – the closing reminder is that grace is with us – man

**iii. In between the opening declaration in Genesis 1:1 and the closing exhortation in Revelation 22:21, we see God creating man – an earth dweller with the authority to act in His stead**

1. We read of the purpose for man and the divine marching orders he was given from the onset – to be fruitful – to multiply and replenish the earth – and subdue it and to have dominion
2. We read the impact of man's falling away from his creator – but also see the creator having a clear resolve to restore man from this fallen state
3. We see a process of setting the stage for the creator Himself to come in the form of what He created in the person of Jesus Christ
  - a. **John 1:1-4 NKJV** 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and

without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

#### iv. KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

1. We see Jesus – the living Word declaring the Kingdom and demonstrating its reality in the earth
2. We read of Jesus declaring that He would build an ekklesia – a called out people – known as His body – that hades gates would not have power to resist – His people would have dominion
3. We read of a called-out people – referred to as His bride/ekklesia – who would be given the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. This called-out people is also an army of believers – with the authority to bind and loose on earth for the Kingdom of Heaven
4. Even though man sinned in the Garden, God never veered from His original intent that through the death – burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ – man would be reconciled back to the Father
  - a. Simultaneously man would be empowered to live out the 'as He is so are we in the world'

- b. The greater works He declared man would do, became activated as He returned to the Father, and as the Holy Spirit would come to us

**v. This backdrop is all critical for us to see where you and I are today**

- b. We have been unpacking the original intent for man found in Genesis 1:26-28

- i. **Genesis 1:26-28 NKJV 26** 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." 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "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."

- 1. In our last session we explored the dominion given to man
- 2. A key take-away is that through Jesus Christ we have been crowned him with glory and honor.

- a. Our dominion is through Jesus Christ alone

- b. God establishes what is the perimeters of our domain

- ii. Then came the command – first to be full of fruit

1. I remind you that Jesus said our fruit should remain
    - a. **John 15:16 NKJV** 16 "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.
  2. The only way that would be possible is that the incorruptible seed that is in us be released through the Word of God.
  3. The seed must be planted in the hearts of more men and women in order to produce more fruit to do the same
- iii. The command to replenish has a two-fold meaning
- a. First it suggests replacing what has been depleted.
    - i. Something was there but now it is gone – so it becomes necessary to put a new one back in its place
  - b. Second it means to fill
    - i. Not only will you replace that which has been depleted – but you will have so much that it puts pressure on the place of storage
    - ii. You fill it so that more space is needed to contain it

1. **Numbers 14:21 KJV 21** But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD.
2. **Psalms 72:19 KJV 19** And blessed be his glorious name for ever: and let the whole earth be filled with his glory; Amen, and Amen.
2. Throughout His life and even after His resurrection Jesus gave His followers key 'replenish and fill' commands
  - a. **Luke 14:23 [in the parable of the Great Supper]** Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel [them] to come in, that my house may be filled.
  - b. **Matthew 28:19-20** NKJV 19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.
  - c. **Acts 1:8 NKJV 8** "... you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."
3. Mark summarizes what took place next

- a. **Mark 16:19-20 NKJV 19** So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God.
    - i. This ushered in the season where 'greater works through us' would become possible
    - ii. We do greater works – because we believe, and He goes to the Father
  - b. **Vs 20** And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.
    - i. All territory becomes fertile ground for the Kingdom
    - ii. The evidence of the Lord's presence was the tangible signs that confirmed the Word
4. This is where we need to be today
- a. We must preach the word – the Gospel of the Kingdom in Jesus Christ
  - b. But we also must expect the confirmation of the Word with signs and wonders
    - i. Many doctrinal and theological disputes would be settled with the evidence of the Kingdom being manifest

**DISCUSS: CAN WE DEMONSTRATE THE POWER OF THE KINGDOM TODAY? WHY OR WHY NOT?**

- c. Are we different from the first century believers?
  - i. The early apostles wrestled with belief systems and personal issues. They did not wrestle with their resolve that the Gospel they preached would be accompanied by tangible signs and wonders
    - 1. Peter had a hard time dealing with Gentiles to the point Paul had to confront him to his face – but yet he walked in such apostolic authority that people clamored to get within shadow distance from him to be healed
      - a. See Galatians 2:11-14 and Acts 5:12 -15
    - 2. Paul had a thorn in his side – theologians would rather argue about what the thorn was – but miss the point that handkerchiefs were carried from him to people who needed healing
      - a. See 2Corinthians 12:6-7 and Acts 19:11-12
    - 3. Stephen carried no title but walked in an authority of the Word of God that resulted in many being healed – he was simply described as being full of the Holy Ghost
      - a. Acts 6:5 and Acts 6:8

d. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO YOU NOW?

- i. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday – today and forever



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- ii. The Holy Spirit that filled the room on the Day of Pentecost empowered all that were present – He is the same Holy Spirit that resides in us today
  - 1. If what we are preaching is not confirmed by signs and wonders, what does that suggest about us?
    - a. We need to lay before the Lord to find out why we are absent the 'greater works' – if we say we believe knowing He has gone to the Father
    - b. Can we lay aside our theological presuppositions to know Christ and be known of Him

### **My Notes and Commitments Before Our Next Gathering**


## 5. Part 5 The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Ekklesia – The Earth Entrusted To Man

**Watch Video: Part 5 The Earth Entrusted To Man**

**Video Link: <https://youtu.be/8ZdsZOzTAnY>**

- a. The language Jesus used at Caesarea Philippi aligns with what God commanded in the Garden. The words were different – but the concepts were very similar. In the Garden – man was created in the image and likeness of God. Man was given dominion and the authority to manage the earth in behalf of God. At Caesarea Philippi, fallen man was on the verge of being restored his rightful place to walk in dominion. In the Garden man was in the image and likeness of God – whereas at Caesarea Philippi there had to be a revelation of Jesus as the Christ – Son of the living God
- i. Why? Because Christ became the last Adam. Everything we do going forward would have to be in Christ (1Corinthians 15:45)
  - ii. The Adam nature had lost its authority – but in Christ it was completely restored
  - iii. The spirit world knew that Adam had forfeited his right to rule on the earth, and at the time of Caesarea Philippi they had not grasp that Christ was coming back on them with a divine vengeance. The demonic realm seemed to believe that to get rid of Jesus the man would eliminate any threat to its kingdom – they fell into the divine plan of God
1. **1Corinthians 2:6-8 NKJV 6** However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this

age, who are coming to nothing. 7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, 8 which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

- a. **Colossians 1:19-23 NKJV 19 [satan fell into the trap]** For it pleased the Father that in Him **[Jesus Christ the man that]** all the fullness should dwell, 20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

**The devil thought the cross would be a place of conclusion, but God made it a place of reconciliation**

- b. **Vs 21** And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled 22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight-- 23 if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, ...
- c. **Colossians 1:26-27 NKJV 26** ... the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. 27 To them God willed to make known

what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

2. The death of Jesus Christ on the cross destroyed His flesh temporarily
  - a. But the power of God raised Him from the dead to become the firstborn among many brethren
  - b. And the anointing that was in Jesus the man is now in us
- iv. Go back to Colossians 1:19
  1. Paul said that it pleased God that in Him all the fulness should dwell and we will see that later Paul connected this reality to us
  2. **Colossians 2:9-10 NKJV 9** For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; 10 and [we] are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.
  3. Now we can see exactly who we are in Christ
    - a. **Romans 8:11** But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.
    - b. **Ephesians 2:5** Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ. (by grace ye are saved;)

- c. **1Peter 3:18** ¶ For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:
- 4. This takes Paul's declaration in his letter to the Philippians to another level
  - a. **Philippians 4:13 NKJV 13** I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
- 5. I trust you can now see the importance of having the revelation that Jesus is the Christ – Son of the Living God
  - b. To be fruitful – to multiply and replenish began a process of filling the earth with men who were walking in sync with his creator
    - i. Sin broke man's relationship with God - Jesus Christ restored that relationship
- c. **Understanding What It Means To Subdue**
  - i. Understand the earth man was placed in
    - 1. **Genesis 1:2-3 NKJV 2** The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was

hovering over the face of the waters. 3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

- ii. The Genesis account opens with the reality that God had created the heavens and the earth.
  1. The next verse shifted to the condition of the earth – a condition that I believe was a distortion of what God had originally created
  2. God hovered over the planted – and in my own terms. This suggests was inspecting the damage that had been done to the earth it by other forces that existed before man was created
    - a. Remember the second question God asked man after he fell was “Who told you that you were naked?”
    - b. This question implies that man had believed someone else's definition of who he was
      - i. CONSIDER: Isaiah 14:12-14 and Ezekiel 28:11-19**
    - c. Implicit in all of this is that that ‘someone’ existed prior to the earth becoming void and without form
- iii. Back to Genesis 1:2 God's first response was to the void and dark earth was to command light
  1. Not the sun or moon – but a light that emanated from His being – let there be a revealing of Himself

- a. **1John 1:5 NKJV 5** ... God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.
  - b. **2Corinthians 4:6 NKJV 6** For it is God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.
2. With that command – everything and everyone throughout the void and dark earth realize the presence of the Living God
- iv. There is an interesting passage in Genesis 1 that we need not skip over
    1. **Genesis 1:4 NKJV 4** And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness.
    2. **CONSIDER** Scripture says that God is light.
      - a. In Genesis 1:4 we see here that He saw the light
      - b. Could this be that what He saw was the effect His presence had on the void and dark atmosphere?
      - c. Scripture states He divided the light from the darkness
      - d. This suggests there was a co-existence of light and darkness prior to this division
- v. **John 1:1-5 NKJV 1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was

made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

d. Genesis goes on to show God creating the firmament, the sun, moon and stars, plant life, animals, fish and the like – then came the declaration of His divine plan to manage the earth

i. **Genesis 1:26-28 NKJV 26** 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." 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "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."

ii. God created a man – in His image and likeness – for the sole purpose of managing the earth as His vice-regents

1. He gave them dominion
2. They were given rulership and a command to be fruitful – to multiply and replenish the earth, and this last part is critical for us, which is to subdue it

iii. Man was given a territory from which to operate – The Garden of Eden

1. Everything man would do would be within the boundaries of the Garden – he was to dress and guard the Garden

**This the final video in this 7-week series. This should be the end of your sixth week of gathering.**

**You have at least one more gathering to go**

- **In your next and final gathering, come prepared to share what you believe the Lord has shown you.**
- **What actions will you be taking as a result of what you have studied?**
- **Who will you be intentional about remaining in contact with while you are not gathering?**
- **Has your group determined when you will gather again to do a new study?**

