What on Earth is God Doing?

Bruce Baker, Pastor
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Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”
So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.
Genesis 1:28

- God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”
The Image of God

- No formal definition given
- Gen 1:26, 27 not “in” but “as”
  
  *Doesn’t describe what man is like but what he is to be and do.*

- Gen 1:26b, 28 Let them “rule” and “subdue”

- Man is God’s Steward of the Earth!
Psalm 8:4-5

[W]hat is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.
Psalm 8:6-8

✦ You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet: all flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.
God’s Steward

✧ God’s original plan was to have the earth ruled by man in his stead.

✧ *There is no evidence this plan has ever changed!*
Creation of the World
Genesis 1-2

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.

Gen 1:31
Results of the Fall

- Death
- Sinful Nature
- Worship and serve the creature rather than the Creator
- No longer act as God intended!
The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. So if you worship me, it will all be yours.”
Descriptions of Satan

- “The god of this age” 2 Cor 4:4
- “…the whole world is under the control of the evil one.” 1 John 5:19
- “The ruler of the kingdom of the air” Eph 2:2
Drug Lord

- Controls the block
- Has no right to the block--holds no title
- No one with enough power to tell him no
- Holds functional control over this world system!
The Fall of Man
Genesis 3

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

Gen 3:6
The Fall of Man
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Gen 3:6

The Earth Filled with Violence
Genesis 4-7

Now the earth was corrupt in God’s sight and was full of violence.

Gen 6:11
Genesis 7:21-22

- Every living thing that moved on the earth perished—birds, livestock, wild animals, all the creatures that swarm over the earth, and all mankind. Everything on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils died.
Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out; men and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds of the air were wiped from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark.
The Flood

Genesis 7-8

Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out; men and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds of the air were wiped from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark.

Gen 7:23
Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out:
men and animals and the creatures that move along the
ground and the birds of the air were wiped from the earth.
Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark.
Gen 7:23

So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth,
and they stopped building the city. That is why it was called
Babel—because there the LORD confused the language of
the whole world.
Gen 11:8-9

I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you. I will
make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will
bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will
curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through
you.
Gen 12:2-3
Then the LORD said to him, “Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years. But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions.
So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth and they stopped building the city. That is why it was called Babel—because there the LORD confused the language of the whole world.

Gen 11:8-9

Abrahamic Covenant
Genesis 15

“Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you.

“I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

Gen 12:2-3
Exodus 19:16-17

- On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, with a thick cloud over the mountain, and a very loud trumpet blast. Everyone in the camp trembled. Then Moses led the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain.
Mount Sinai was covered with smoke, because the LORD descended on it in fire. The smoke billowed up from it like smoke from a furnace, the whole mountain trembled violently, and the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder. Then Moses spoke and the voice of God answered him.
Then the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. Moses could not enter the Tent of Meeting because the cloud had settled upon it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.
When the priests withdrew from the Holy Place, the cloud filled the temple of the LORD. And the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled his temple.
Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.

Exodus 19:5-6
Obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of you will be my treasured possession. Although the earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.

2 Samuel 7

Davidic Covenant

I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

2 Sam 7:12-13
The Glory Departs

✧ Ezek 8: The vision begins
✧ Tour of the Temple
✧ The Glory moves from the ark to the threshold of the temple
Ezekiel 10:4-5

✧ Then the glory of the L ORD rose from above the cherubim and moved to the threshold of the temple. The cloud filled the temple, and the court was full of the radiance of the glory of the L ORD. The sound of the wings of the cherubim could be heard as far away as the outer court, like the voice of God Almighty when he speaks.
The Glory Departs

- Ezek 8: The vision begins
- Tour of the Temple
- The Glory moves from the ark to the threshold of the temple
- To the gate of the city
- To the mountain east of the city
The glory of the LORD went up from within the city and stopped above the mountain east of it.

Ezek 11:23
Ezekiel 21:25-26

“‘O profane and wicked prince of Israel, whose day has come, whose time of punishment has reached its climax, this is what the Sovereign Lord says: Take off the turban, remove the crown. It will not be as it was: The lowly will be exalted and the exalted will be brought low.
A ruin! A ruin! I will make it a ruin! *It will not be restored until he comes to whom it rightfully belongs; to him I will give it.*
Times of the Gentiles
Amos 9:11-12

“In that day I will restore David’s fallen tent. I will repair its broken places, restore its ruins, and build it as it used to be, so that they may possess the remnant of Edom and all the nations that bear my name,” declares the LORD, who will do these things.
Amos 9:13

“‘The days are coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘when the reaper will be overtaken by the plowman and the planter by the one treading grapes. New wine will drip from the mountains and flow from all the hills.’
Amos 9:14

- I will bring back my exiled people Israel; they will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them. They will plant vineyards and drink their wine; they will make gardens and eat their fruit. I will plant Israel in their own land, never again to be uprooted from the land I have given them,” says the LORD your God.
The Times of the Gentiles

Decree to Rebuild Jerusalem

“...and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.”

Luke 21:24
Wedding Feast Parable

✦ Wedding Feast = Promised Kingdom
✦ King = The LORD
✦ Those who have been invited = Jews
✦ 2 offers, one more expansive than the other
✦ Rejection of both offers resulting in the destruction of the city
✦ Those not invited = Gentiles
From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”

Matt 4:17
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Matt 4:17

1st Rejection of the Kingdom
Matthew 12

But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, “It is only by Beelzebub, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons.”

Matt 12:24

2nd Offer of the Kingdom
The Book of Acts

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus.

Acts 3:19-20
Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus.

Acts 3:19-20
Repet, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus.

Acts 3:19-20

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our “God is a consuming fire.”

Heb 12:28-29
For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

1 Thess 4:16-17
Deed to the Earth
The Beginning of the Time of Trouble

Revelation 4-18

How awful that day will be! None will be like it. It will be a time of trouble for Jacob, but he will be saved out of it.

Jer 30:7
The Rapture of the Church
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

1 Thess 4:16-17

The Return of Christ/Establishment of the Millennial Kingdom
Revelation 19

The LORD will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one LORD, and his name the only name.

Zech 14:9

The Beginning of the Time of Trouble
Revelation 4-18

How awful that day will be! None will be like it. It will be a time of trouble for Jacob, but he will be saved out of it.

Jer 30:7
When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore.

Rev 20:7-8
Satan is Released/ Worldwide Rebellion
Revelation 20

When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore.

Rev 20:7-8

New Heaven/Earth
Revelation 21-22

Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

1 Cor 15:24-25
We Are Expatriates!

- Phil 1:27
- Unique Word
- Live as a Citizen
Questions?