



10/3/25

On this week's episode of Chosen and Cherished, we talked about how the fact that God is in charge is actually a wonderful thing for us, even when our lives feel like they're in chaos. If you'd like to listen to the podcast, here's the link! <https://summitpoint.org/chosen-and-cherished/>

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Genesis 2:1-7

On the first day, God spoke light into existence. And the light obeyed.

On the second day, God put an expanse of water above the earth and separated it from the water below. And the water obeyed.

On the third day, God told the water to make room for land, and He spoke vegetation into existence. And they obeyed.

On the fourth day, God spoke the greater and lesser lights into existence, that they would rule the day and night, to serve as signs for seasons and times. And they obeyed.

On the 5th day, God spoke the creatures of sea and skies into existence, each according to their kind. And they obeyed.

On the sixth day, God spoke livestock, creeping things, and beasts of the earth into existence, according to their kind. And they obeyed.

*And then God finished His masterpiece when He said, "Let US make man in our image."
Everything He did on the previous days led up to this moment when He made image bearers of Himself... body, soul, and spirit.*

This is a huge lesson for me... Trust His process. He has everything in perfect order. If I had been there, observing His work but not knowing exactly how He was doing it, I probably would have been saying, "Why are You doing it that way? Just make Your image bearers! What's taking You so long?" I mean, it only took Him 6 days, but 6 days can seem like forever when I'm waiting for something.

My daughter was in NICU for only 4 days when she was born, but those 4 days seemed like an eternity... and the doctors didn't tell me until the 4th day that we could take her home.

How often is God paving the way to fulfill His plan to completion, and I think He's doing nothing??? God is always at work, and He's so good that He doesn't let me thwart His plan with my complaints and impatience.

In His plan, God paved the way to make man in His image. He completed the work of making the heavens and the earth and all that is in it. And when His work was complete and He called His masterpiece VERY GOOD, He rested. He didn't rest because He was tired. He rested to show that His work was complete. He rested and blessed His day of rest.

He called the day holy. He consecrated the 7th day as holy. How good is my God? He blesses me with rest. He calls me to work wholeheartedly for Him and His glory, and He calls me to rest.

Resting in the Lord is a way I can worship Him as an act of trust. Resting is showing the Lord that I trust He still has everything in His hands. God has built me for needing rest. Even the need for sleep is evidence that I can't be in control of my life. My biggest responsibility to the Lord is to honor Him as Creator and trust His design. HE holds the universe together by the word of His power. He doesn't need me to keep everything going. I can rest.

God's plan shows me that I need to rest in Him. It also shows me that resting is not for every day. He doesn't want me to be lazy. Working for Him is also so important and fulfilling. As His image bearer, I'm called to follow His example of both work and rest... as an act of trust. Trust that He will provide me with what I need to fulfill His purpose for me. Trust that I can rest because it is HIS purpose, HIS plan. He's in charge... and He's good.

Yes, I am an image bearer of God... not an image creator, an image bearer. How did He create me as His image bearer?

"These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens." Lord God in Hebrew is Yahweh Elohim. Genesis 2:4 is the first time God uses His personal name, Yahweh. It means, "I AM." His personal name is I AM. Whatever happens in my life, I know that my God who is personally invested in my life is I AM. He's here right now, because He IS. Elohim means "all powerful one." So... the LORD who wants me to know Him personally is so powerful that He creates His story... History... in His perfect order. He has all the wisdom to know how to accomplish His purpose. He has all power to accomplish His purpose. And He is personally invested in

accomplishing His purpose.

First, God created the heavens and the earth. Then He created vegetation. Rain did not come until years later... but God still provided so that the vegetation could grow. He caused a mist to cover the whole face of the earth... nothing excluded... to keep the plants watered. God was protecting the plants and trees because He had not made man to work the ground... to cultivate and serve the land. He doesn't NEED man, He gives man the privilege of purpose.

The Hebrew word for work means "cultivate and serve." Wow! From the beginning we were made to serve... as God models it for us through Jesus Christ. And He made man to be a cultivator of the land as He is a cultivator of my heart!!! How cool is that!!!

Then YAHWEH Elohim, in all His power and personal design, formed man from the dust of the ground. Why form man from the dust? Paul tells me in 2 Corinthians 4:7, "But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us." I am an image bearer of God, but I am not and will never be God. But God did something else to form man that made us distinct from the rest of His creation... He breathed His own breath of life into man... and that's when Adam, whose name means "man", came to life. The word for breath is the same word for "Spirit."

God made the other living creatures with body and soul. God made man body, soul, and spirit. We are image bearers of God. We are created to cultivate and serve as those who point to Him as one who cultivates and, yes, serves. But let me never forget that He is still in charge... even when He serves me... as a parent who has authority over his child takes care of that child's needs, personally with love.

O Lord, let me never forget that You are fulfilling Your purpose in perfect order and wisdom. You have all power. You are personally invested in my life.

I am dust. I am Your image bearer, created to glorify You. Isaiah 43:21 say that You formed me for Your glory, that I might declare Your praise. O Lord, You breathed life into me so my breath could be for Your praise... as You give me Your perfect purpose to bear Your image with honor. I pray that I will bear Your image well as the Spirit who gives me breath dwells in me and leads me. Let this jar of clay point to Your surpassing power. All Your creation obeyed You... except for man (as I will see in chapter 3). Let my heart be Yours. Let me serve You in absolute surrender and obedience. Amen.