

Bethany School

Towards a Christian Curriculum

Topic Theme - People

Introduction

- God made man in His own **image** according to His **likeness** (Genesis 1:26-31)
- The pursuit of **righteousness, justice** and **peace** (Isaiah 9)
- God's **creation mandate** to mankind to populate, keep, order and exercise wise dominion over the earth for our benefit and to the glory of God.
- The universal nature of **society** (farmer, metalworker, musician, Genesis 4:20-22), the structures of the biblical society - **family** (Genesis 5), **community** (Genesis 10:5), **work** (Genesis 2:15), **worship**, **government** (Abraham-Genesis 15ff).
- The principles of **creation** (God's original and eternal intentions for His creation), fall (the way sin, God's curse and the judgement of the great flood have affected God's 'good' creation) and **redemption** (the redeeming effects of Christ's death and resurrection on 'all things' and the role of Christians in extending Christ's kingdom in our world today) used to examine the Topic Theme.

Context

The Genesis account. God made man in His own **image**, according to His *likeness*, a special creation with a never-dying soul (Gen 1: 26-31). Men and women were made for His pleasure (Rev 4: 11) and glory (Eph 1: 6) and for fellowship with Him (Gen 3: 8-9). Humans are unique, and completely different from any other part of God's creation (created 'after their *kind*') because they are capable of rational thought (Gen 2: 19-20), making moral choices (Gen 2: 16-17) and of knowing good from evil (Gen3: 22). God commanded that man should replenish the earth and gave instructions for the ordering of society (Gen 1: 28, Gen 2: 15-17). Man has a responsibility to take care of God's world (Gen 2: 15) by subduing it and exercising wise dominion. God sovereignly governs all aspects of life on earth and has given laws, principles, and commandments through His dealings with His ancient people, Christ's work of redemption, His infallible word and the work of the Holy Spirit, which the church today has a responsibility to interpret and model.

Topic Aims

During the term the children should:

- ◆ appreciate that human life is sacred and has a spiritual dimension. (1Thess 5: 23)
- ◆ understand that God knows each individual person and has a purpose for them from eternity. (Gen 5: 22-23, Hos 12: 3, Jer 1: 5, Ps139: 16)
- ◆ know that God loves and values each individual human being without any partiality. (John 3: 16)
- ◆ understand that Family, Community and Work are the God-given institutions for the ordering of society. (Gen 1: 28)
- ◆ recognise where obedience to godly ways brings blessing and when disobedience is folly.
- ◆ explore aspects of human culture to discover the wonder and beauty of man-made environments, systems, artefacts, language and ideas.

- ◆ attempt to set a good example by the way they live and work in their families and the school community.(Phil 3: 17)

Special Creation or Merely Mammals

Making – Forming – Building – Calling

(‘asah) (yatsar) (banah) (bara)

Making (‘asah) – general word to describe anything made.

Forming (yatsar) – denotes artistry, imaginativeness, intimacy with material and subject, moulding and fashioning with dedication.

Building (banah) – with specific care, deliberately using architectural principles.

Calling (bara) –the perfect expression of an idea. Without constraint, not limited by medium or materials. Peculiar to God.

Food for thought

- The eternity of matter. Matter in some form or other (mass, energy, space) has always existed. Science starts with matter, theology starts with Spirit.
- Organic emerging from inorganic. Life from non-life. Rather than the gulf between organic and inorganic, between life and non-life being bridged only by the supernatural, miraculous, creative word of God.
- Human existence as a continuation of animal existence. Mankind as a precipitate of the animal kingdom through an unbroken genetic chain by the random mutation of genes. In the Bible, by contrast, there is a deliberate and great pause between mankind and all that has gone before. God deliberates and takes counsel and then says, not, ‘Let the earth bring forth!’ but, ‘Let us make man in our image’.
- New life in Christ (Ephesians 2: 1-10) The new man has a whole range of new powers: things he can do which he could never do before. There are continuities with the old man: he has the same physical body, he has the same temperament, the same IQ, the same introspectiveness or the old extrovertness. Yet there is so much that is new. As a new creation we can believe, repent, love God, love the people of God, loathe sin, struggle against sin, see beauty in Christ, hunger and thirst for God, have patience under the mighty hand of God, have concerns for the souls of the lost.
- ‘whoever touches you touches the apple of his eye’ (Zechariah 2: 8)

