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God as creative spirit

Gen. 1:1-2 – “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.” What are some things this verse tell us? *tehom* or *tohu va bohu* – “water” – chaos; potential; what lurks but has not yet been revealed

This tells us about the character of God. He is mobile and he is a problem solver. What are the things you think of when you wake up in the morning? God puts things in order, good order. Have you ever considered God as one who is creating order?

Gen. 1:31 – “And God saw every thing that he had made, and behold, it was good.” What does this mean?

God shapes chaos for a positive outcome. Have you ever fixed, repaired, or made new an item? Or relationship? How did it feel?

The spirit of man in the highest place

Man is to subdue the earth and be sovereign over fish, fowl, and every living thing. When God formed man, He was foreshadowing the image of the incarnate Christ. Have you ever thought of Adam (man) being the model for Jesus?

The world attempts to place nature over, or on par with, man. Hence the term “mother nature” is used. What does this philosophy do to the image of God and man? What do humans have that is real and vital to occupy themselves with?

The real and its representation

“We cannot help but see the world through a story. ...we see the world through a structure that, when portrayed in drama or verbalized, is a story.” We understand words and images that emit an underlying meaning and emotion.

What do you envision if you hear the words “dark knight”, or “dragon”, or “rabbit”? What are your feelings when you hear the word “father”? For some, this could be a loving nurturing figure. For others a neglected, abused, or abandonment figure. Why is the father an instrumental figure in the God structure story? Does Satan know this?

Matthew 13:3-23 – Jesus said: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop – a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. He who has ears, let him hear.” What symbolism do you see in the words here?

Matthew 23:2-5 - Jesus said: “The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat. So you must obey them and do everything they tell you. But do not do what they preach. They tie up heavy loads and put them on men’s shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them. Everything they do is done for men to see...” Their actions are akin to taking the Lord’s name in vain which is not speaking profanely as is commonly presumed, but rather claiming allegiance to and understanding of the divine order while in fact pursuing only self-serving goals. Do you see this around you? Much of what we read in Revelation is the collapse of society into “hedonism and force or compulsion” which is eternally emblematic of the end of times. Do you see the signs around you today? What are some examples?

Eve from Adam

Eve is extracted from Adam. This is a reversal of what we might expect since woman gives birth to man. Have you ever thought of this? What is God telling us from His creation of Eve from Adam?

Gen. 2:21-22 – “And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought here unto the man.” God made Eve feminine. Why did He make Eve so different from Adam and not just a replicated Adam?

Ezer Kenegdo – Hebrew for “helpmeet”

“Ezer” appears throughout the biblical texts. It means “potent assistance” as in Psalms 33:20: “Our soul waiteth for the Lord; He is our help (ezer) and our shield.” An “ezer role” is a source of strength and aid, rescue, and strategic advantage. “Kenegdo” is a descriptor of “ezer” and connotes something like “striving with” or “aiding against”.

Why did God create Eve from Adam’s rib and not from his leg, foot, or head?

From the head would imply superiority, from the leg or foot or lower body part would imply inferiority. From the mid-section of Adam’s body implies equality. Have you ever thought of this?

In God’s image

What does being made in God’s image mean to you?

Throughout history there has been conflict between man over the existence of a god or in some cases gods. Each society battling the other over mythical beliefs willing to kill or be killed for the domination of their belief. Why?

We are called on to make things right in this world. That is what makes us human and that is what makes us made in the image of God. God began creation by making it right, turning chaos into order. It is our nature, it is God’s nature.