

The Glorious Church

God's Plan and God's Rest

God's Purpose in Creating Man

- **Gen. 1:26-27** – And God said, **Let Us make man in Our image**, according to Our likeness; and **let them have dominion** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and **over all the earth** and **over every creeping thing** that creeps upon the earth. And God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.
 - God desired a man who would **rule upon this earth**; then He would be satisfied.
 - God wanted a man **like Himself**. Man **alone** was created in **God's image**.
- God's purpose is to gain a group of people who are like His Son.
 - **Rom. 8:29** – Because those whom He foreknew, He also **predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son**, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;
 - God desires to have **many sons**, and God desires all these sons to be like that one Son of His.
- It is **by man** that God's plan is fulfilled, and **through man** His own need is met.
 - God requires that **man should rule**.
 - God created man that **man may rule in the place of Satan**.
- "All the earth" is the **domain** of man's rule.
 - God emphasized that man should "replenish the earth" and "subdue it".
- The earth was not waste and void at the creation, but later became waste and void.
 - The earth is the **center of all problems**.
 - The **realm of Satan's work** is not heaven, but earth.
 - God wanted man to **restore the earth from Satan's hand**.
- God wants to use man to deal with His enemy, and He created man for this purpose.
 - He wants His creature *man* to deal with His fallen creature *Satan* in order to **bring the earth back to God**.
- We must distinguish the difference between the **work of saving souls** and the **work of God**.
 - Many times the work of saving souls is not necessarily the work of God.

- Saving souls solves the **problem of man**, but the work of God requires that **man exercise authority to have dominion over all things created by Him**.
- God needs men whom He can trust and who will not fail Him. This is God's work, and this is what God desires to obtain.
- If all our work is just preaching the gospel and saving souls, we are not causing Satan to suffer **fatal loss**.
 - If man has not **restored the earth** from the hand of Satan, he has not yet achieved **God's purpose** in creating him.
 - Saving souls solves man's need, but **dealing with Satan satisfies God's need**.
 - Preaching the gospel demands that we pay a price, but **a much greater price must be paid to deal with Satan**.
 - If we are to be men whom God will use to **overthrow all of Satan's work** and authority, we must **obey the Lord completely and absolutely!**
 - When dealing with Satan, we cannot leave one bit of ground for ourselves.

(The Glorious Church – Chapter 1)