

**CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL OF KNOWING AND SERVING GOD**

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TEACHING ON BASIC DOCTRINES

UNIT 1

“THE WAY OF LIFE”

By Zacharias Tanee Fomum

LESSON 1: GOD'S ORIGINAL CREATION

Dear student,

We are happy for the interest that this course has raised in your heart.

The goal of the teaching on the basic doctrines of the Christian life is to help you find the LORD Jesus, know HIM, love HIM and serve HIM.

These are teachings found in the 14 books of a series called “**The Christian Way**”, by Pr. Zacharias TANEE FOMUM. The first unit constitutes seven lessons elaborated from the book entitled “**The Way of Life**”.

As you begin this course, we encourage you to go till the end. We recommend that you should have a Bible (in case you don't have), to continuously read it and verify the Biblical truth of what you are being taught. If you don't do it, this course might be of mild usefulness to you. Our quotations are made from the NIV version of the Bible.

Our prayer is that at the end of these lessons, you should enter into a living personal relationship with Jesus, and so, begin to really live.

May God bless you very richly!

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INTRODUCTION

The Bible says: “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

God’s original purpose was that there might be only one creation, His perfect creation. In this lesson, we are going to examine this creation from its origin: the reason for which an invisible God created a visible world; why God, who is Spirit, created a material world; and particularly why God did create man.

This first lesson is based on the introductory paragraphs of The Way of Life and Chapters 1 and 2 of Genesis.

I. WHY DID GOD CREATE THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH?

1.1. God’s glory

God created the heavens and the earth to manifest His glory.

From the beginning, the invisible God created a visible world to manifest His glory. A careful reading of the Word of God, the Bible, brings out this main thought on God’s action concerning the creation of the heavens and the earth.

- In Genesis 1: 26, God planned to create man in His image and likeness to dominate. The dominion of man was to be a reflection of God’s glory;

- In Numbers 14: 21, God swears that His glory will fill the whole earth, despite the denial of some to co-operate with that, like these Israelites faced with the giants of the Promised Land, whom God wanted them to conquer to manifest His glory.
- In Judges 7: 2 – 7, God reduced Gideon’s army from 32 000 soldiers to 300, so that the victory over the Midianites should be for His glory.
- Psalms 19 begins with a proclamation: The heavens declare the glory of God...,
- In Matthew 6: 10, the Lord’s prayer ask that the Kingdom and the Will of the Father be done on earth as it is in heaven, so that God’s glory will be manifested on earth as it is in heaven;
- Ephesians 1: 4 – 6 summarizes that God does all for the praise of His glory and according to Ephesians 3: 8 – 10, the Church has as mission the manifestation of the manifold wisdom of God.

We can then conclude with Isaiah 11: 9 and Habakkuk 2: 13 – 14, that God is fulfilling His plan according to which the earth will be filled with the Knowledge of the LORD and His glory as the waters cover the sea.

1.2. God at work for His glory

The first table of creation, from Genesis 1: 1 to Genesis 2: 3 present God in action to create a world that could reflect His glory.

- Genesis 1: 2 talks of God’s Spirit hovering over the waters;

- Verses 3 to 25 of Genesis 1 show God’s Word at work in the process of creation. It comes out of God and creates everything.
- Genesis 1: 26 presents the Divine Beings (Father, Son, Spirit), concerting about the creation of man.
- Verses 4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25 of Genesis 1 show God evaluating His work: Six times He found that what He had accomplished was “good”;
- At the end, in Genesis 1: 31, He makes an overall evaluation with the following verdict: “God saw all that He had made, and it was very good”, (Genesis 1: 31).

If God pronounces such verdict on something, it means that it is really good, in all domains. Man and the rest of creation fully participated in the praise of God’s glory from the beginning.

This evaluation from God on His Work also teaches us a fundamental thing: the need to evaluate the work that one does for God as it is being executed. Not doing so is pretending to be better than God and being able to do better than God.

II. WHY DID GOD CREATE MAN?

In Genesis 1: 26, God plans to create man in His image and likeness to dominate. Man’s dominion had to be a reflection of God’s glory.

Man was created to be God’s partner in His enterprise of manifestation of His glory. Man was God’s special creation, to participate in a special way to God’s purpose.

For this, God assigned to Him four principal goals.

2.1. Communion with God:

Man was created to have a personal relationship with God, and to have communion with God. For man to be qualified for this task, God created him in a special way:

- He created him in His image, according to His likeness. The Bible says: “Then God said: Let us make man in our image, in our likeness...” (Genesis 1: 26)
- He placed in him something from God. The Bible says: “The Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living being” (Genesis 2 : 7)

The image of God, the likeness of God, the breath of God rendered man able to know God’s thoughts, God’s will, God’s feelings; to accept them and to live them to satisfy God’s heart. This is communion.

2.2. Dominion

Secondly, man was created to dominate over the rest of creation.

- Dominion is mentioned when man’s creation was still as a project in God’s mind. The Bible says: “Then God said Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule” (Genesis 1: 26);
- Dominion is cited among the things that God enumerates in the work of the mission which HE handed to man just after creating him. It is written: “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” (Genesis 1: 28). This is the summary of man’s mission.

God’s original mind was to bring man to exercise an unlimited dominion over all living beings as an overflow of his communion with God. Man, submissive to God, had to exercise authority.

2.3. Subdue the earth:

Thirdly, man was called to subdue the earth:

- Subduing the earth is listed among the things that God expects from man in Genesis 1: 28: “God blessed them and said be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.....”

The command to cultivate the garden which God had just planted and to keep it, is subduing the earth. To subdue the earth, man had to work hard. God has never desired to see man idle or lazy. He has always been and will always be against idleness and laziness.

2.4. Obedience

Fourthly, man had to obey God

The special relationship between God and man could only exist and continue on the basis of man’s voluntary obedience to God. Man had the liberty to accept or refuse God’s mind, God’s will and God’s feelings.

In obeying, man had to grow in communion with God and advance in the process of subduing the earth and of dominion over the rest of creation. So, wherever one’s look could reach we have to see men, women and children as God’s image,

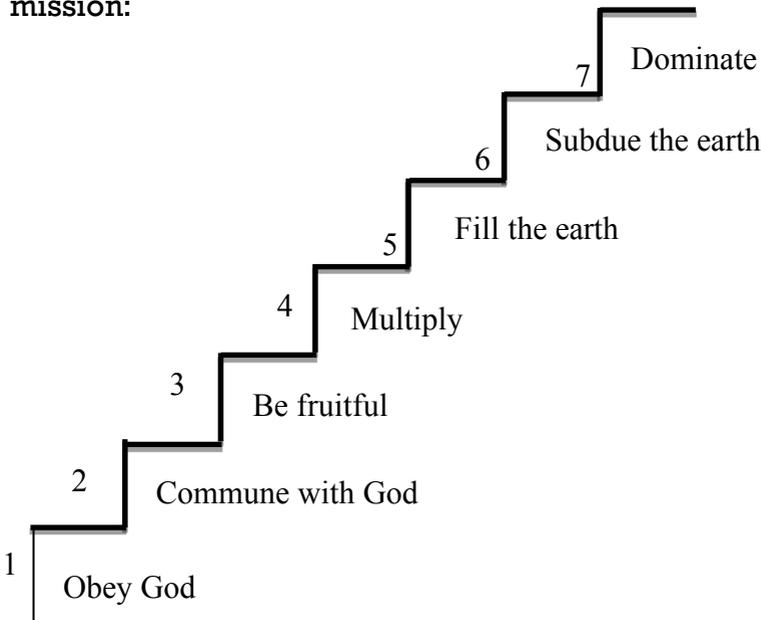
exercising God's authority from an overflow of a communion and intimacy with God, until the knowledge of the LORD and His glory fill the earth as the waters cover the sea.

On the contrary, man's disobedience would cause man to lose his communion with God and consequently his power over the rest of creation.

III. GOD AND MAN AT WORK *(Read Genesis 1 and 2)*

On His last day of work, God created man with a divine potential and confided to him a mission.

When God thought of creating man, He had already a mission to confide to him on earth. When he is placed in the Garden of Eden, man has in his hand the following work in the mission:



1. Subdue the earth

The Bible says: “Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden and there He put the man He had made.” (Genesis 2: 8), then: “The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.” (Genesis 2: 15).

We see God initiating man to agriculture by working the garden and keeping it. The process of subduing the earth is launched.

2. Dominion

The Bible says in Genesis 2: 19 – 20: “Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field...”

This goes beyond the first thing in mind which is about rearing. Naming others is a sign of authority. Dominion over the rest of creation was going on.

3. Multiplication

The Bible says: “The LORD God said, “It is not good for man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him” and “So the man gave names to all the livestock, the bird of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam, no suitable helper was found”, “Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib He had taken out of the man, and He brought her to the man. The man said “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she

shall be called woman for she was taken out of man” (Genesis 2: 18 – 23), and “... man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh”. (Genesis 2: 24).

These passages bring out the fact that man was created first then the woman followed. She came in when the man was already in the service of God; the same way as man came in when the LORD God was already working.

The arrival of this suitable helper besides man opened the way to fruitfulness, to multiplication and to the fact of filling the earth. Adam finally had someone with whom he would share what he did with God and what he discovered in God’s creation.

The accomplishment of God’s expectations from man had begun. The mission confided by God to man on earth was being executed.

IV. AFTER ADAM AND EDEN?

Since then, God has not stopped creating men on earth with a divine potential and a mission to accomplish for His glory.

1. God’s call

Every time that God intervened before the birth of a person or during his livelihood, it has always been to reveal that person’s mission with regards to his eternal purpose.

- Noah had to build an ark and save the human race from destruction by flood (Genesis 6 : 7-9);

- Noah and his children had to be fruitful, multiply and fill the earth after the flood (Genesis 9 : 7);
- Abraham had to allow God to bless the whole humanity
- Isaac had to be born for God to accomplish His promise made to Abraham (Genesis 17:19 and 21, 18:18-19);
- Moses had to go and free God's people from the slavery of Pharaoh in Egypt (Exodus 3: 7 – 10);
- Samson had to be born to start the deliverance of Israel from the dominion of the Philistines (Judges 13:7);
- Josiah had to be born to destroy Israel's idolatry (1 Kings 13 : 1 – 2);
- Jeremiah was set aside as prophet to the nations before birth (Jeremiah 1 : 4 – 5)
- Cyrus had to command the reconstruction of the temple (Isaiah 44 : 28);
- Jesus had to be born to save men from their sins (Matthew 1 : 20 – 21) and reign eternally (Luke 1: 30 – 33);
- John had to prepare the people for the coming of the Messiah (Luke 1: 13 – 17);
- Paul was set aside from his mother's womb to announce the Son of man to Gentiles (Galatians 1 : 15 – 16);

2. Conclusion

That which follows is not a privilege for some people but God's provision to each person. Every human being created by God is destined to participate to the praise of His glory in a mission determined in advance by God; as proclaimed by Psalms 139 : 13 – 16, Ephesians 2: 10. It is the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3: 12 – 14).

Everybody is called to seek and find his contribution for the manifestation of God's glory on earth, a mission to be accomplished from the overflow of an intimacy and communion with God.

It is also wise and honest for everyone to evaluate his mission as it is being executed, so as to say as the Master in John 17: 4: "I have brought You glory on earth by completing the work You gave me to do".

WHAT SHOULD WE RETAIN?

This first lesson has shown us God at work to manifest His glory, at the first place alone, then with man as partner.

From Eden, God created men to participate in His purpose of filling the earth with His glory as the waters cover the sea.

**SCHOOL OF KNOWING AND SERVING GOD
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QUESTIONNAIRE ON « THE WAY OF LIFE »

Student's name and surname (in capital letters)

Date of birth

P.O. Box or postal code:

Telephone:
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Email address:
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City:
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Country:
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Profession:
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Marital Status:

Student's number:
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Student's mark:

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Lesson 1: (GOD'S PERFECT CREATION)

**QUESTION 1 OF UNIT I:
(GOD'S PERFECT CREATION)**

Section 1: Read Genesis 1 and 2

1. Name two things which shows from the passage of Genesis 1 that God is pursuing a goal through creation.....

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2. What is this goal

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3. Name things that show in the narration of the Bible that God is still pursuing a goal.....

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4. According to the narration of Genesis 1, how did God see creation at the beginning?

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5. How did come about such a verdict?

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6. Did God’s verdict on creation from the beginning included man?

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Section 2

7. Why did God create man?

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8. How did God create man?

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9. Give four goals for which God created man

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10. Summarize these four goals by supporting your answer with Bible verses.

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11. Was man free to choose?

12. From Genesis 1: 28, what was God expecting from man?

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13. What made man able to do God's work?

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14. What was Adam doing before the creation of the woman?

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Section 3

15. Name four things which show that God was involved in the man's work

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16. What portion of the work in the mission was Adam already involved in?

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Section 4

17. God is still creating men on earth with specific missions to contribute to the praise of His glory. TRUE OR FALSE:

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18. If yes name three examples supported with Bible passages

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19. Name the things that God is expecting from you:

a) In your relationship with Him:

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b) At home and family:

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c) At the social and economic level:

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d) At the religious level:

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20. Have you discovered the mission of your life on earth?

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21. If yes, what does it involve?

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22. If no, what are you going to do about it?

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23. Do you usually evaluate your work as God did throughout creation in Genesis 1?
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24. Do you need help to change about this?
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25. Do you have anything to say about this lesson, this course, or about yourself?
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