



SOUTH JACKSON BEACON

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No.2

Our Place in God's Creation ***John Telgren***

When God fashioned the world, he created something initially that was *tohu va bohu*. which is traditionally translated, "formless and void," but could also be translated "chaotic emptiness." I am not exactly sure what a creation would look like that is a formless chaos. Part of my problem is when I try to understand this through a 21st century scientific lens. The point is not to give a modern scientific explanation, which would have been unintelligible to ancient ears, but to show the obvious point that without God's activity, there is no form, order, or purpose. God the creator is the one who orders all things.

The highly stylized and almost poetic accounting of God's act of separating, ordering, and assigning functions, demonstrates that God is the ultimate designer. God brought order to the primordial chaotic emptiness. God created the firmament and placed the stars, sun, and moon in it. He said it was to be for "signs, season, and years." The greater and lesser lights were to "govern" or "have dominion" over the day and night and separate the light from the darkness.

When God created man, he instructs that man is also to have dominion. But man's dominion is to be over the sea, the things that fly in the sky, and the things that roam on the earth. As the functionaries in the firmament bring order, beauty, and goodness there, so man, God's functionary on the earth, is to bring order, beauty, and goodness on the earth by exercising dominion over the earth.

Some have pulled an ecological message out of this, pointing out that we need to be caretakers of the earth's resources and its wildlife. In exploiting the earth's resources, we need to do so responsibly and with care. While there seems to be some of this inherent in man's "governance," it doesn't seem to be the main thrust of what "dominion"

means for man in Genesis. The next chapter and the remainder of the Bible is focused on man, not the environment. The next chapter shows how God instituted the very first social institution, which is marriage and family. It seems that governing, or exercising dominion, is mainly about maintaining social order rather than ecological maintenance. Whether it is marriage, family, governance, social contracts, exchange of goods, etc., there is a design for governance from the designer. When that design is honored, things tend to work well to his glory. When that design is ignored, what follows is disorder, ugliness, violence, and death. We see this happen in Genesis 2-4, when sin with its pride brought evil, violence, and chaos to intrude into the created order.

When I look up and consider the sun, moon, and stars, I will be reminded of these things. The sun faithfully governs the day as the moon does the nights. The stars twinkle in the heavens and give guidance to travelers. The seasons faithfully come and go. These functionaries in the heavens provide order, beauty, and goodness as they faithfully perform their governing functions to the glory of God.

So, the question to ask is, "How do we, as God's functionary on the earth, perform our governing function?" Unlike the sun, which gives its light in the heavens, we give a different kind of light. Our light is not for seasons, years, day and night, but for a different kind of order and beauty. Our light illuminates the beauty of righteousness, virtue, holiness, and love. These things are designed by God to be part of the foundation for our marriages, our families, and our social institutions. As the heavens submit to God's design for their governance and bring goodness and beauty to the heavens, so we, when we submit to God's design in our governance here on earth, bring goodness and beauty to the earth that God has created for his glory.

We are the light of the world because we are created in the image of God, redeemed by the blood of Christ, and reformed by the Spirit through his word. True beauty, goodness, and holiness comes from submission to God's boundaries, order, and design as we serve our designated purpose.. When this is happening, then, as the text says, God sees that it is "very good."

Congregational News & Notes

Prayer Requested

Members

Harold Davis, Mary Bolen
Ron and Nadine McDonald,
Sandra Jordan, Fredie Stewart,
Cindy Kidder, Garmelia Ellis,
Roberta Donaldson, Lisa Dukes,
Doug Crouse, Norma Cogdell
Margie Montgomery, Sue Harris,
John & Gwen Smith,
Betty Mosely, Teriyaki Anderson
James Morris, Freeman Kidder,
Andy Vaughn, Pearl Johnson,
Ken & Paula Wadley,
Diana McConnell,
Clara Williams
Charles & Ruby Malone

Friends & Family

Horace Yearwood,
Beverly Martindale,
Gladys Gowan, Diane Hubbard,
Jeffrey Smith, Betty Turner,
Shirley Bolin, Brandi Rogers,
Jeanette Manley, Wayne Warren
Kenton Lancaster,
Bettye Kennon, Marilyn Ferrell

Sunday Sermon's

AM - The Key to a Joyful,
Productive Life
Romans 12:12

PM - What Shall I Do with Jesus
Matthew 27:11-22

Happenings

South Jackson

January 16

Men's Business Meeting

Cards to Send

Lisa Dukes
36 Brookfield Drive
Oakfield, TN 38362

Alice Farough
65 Dixie Lane
Jackson, TN 38301

Clara Williams
236 Mifflin Road
Jackson, TN 38301

Pantry Item

Cake Mix & Icing

Weekly Record

6 AM	0
Bible Class	32/14
AM Worship	48/20
PM Worship	26/16
Wed Bible Study	36/8
Contribution	2745

Those Privileged to Serve

Jan 9 - AM WORSHIP

6 AM. - M. Wages, J. Smith

Lead Singing: John Smith

Read Scripture:

Jonathan Orr

Opening Prayer:

Freeman Kidder

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Carleton Kidder

Communion: Joe Venable

Contribution:

Freddie Callis

Jan 16 - AM WORSHIP

6 AM. - R. Pack, P. Hatcher

Lead Singing: John Smith

Read Scripture:

Charlie Richardson

Opening Prayer:

Joe Venable

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Paul Hatcher

Communion: Carleton Kidder

Contribution:

Jonathan Orr

PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher

Opening Prayer:

Marion Thomas

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Mike Wages

Communion: Joe Venable

PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Matt Williams

Opening Prayer:

Paul Hatcher

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Marion Thomas

Communion: Ray Pack

Jan 12 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher

Opening Prayer:

Mike Wages

Devotional: Marion Thomas

Jan 19 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Marion Thomas

Opening Prayer:

Mike Wages

Devotional: Ray Pack

South Jackson Church of Christ

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Medon, TN

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Minister: Ray Pack

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(731) 437-9501

Service Times

Early Worship	6:00 AM
Sunday Bible Class	9:30 AM
Sunday AM Worship	10:30 AM
Sunday PM Worship	5:00 PM
Midweek Bible Study	6:30 PM