



prayer *life!*

Weekly Prayer Focus

March 15, 2015

What Hath God Wrought?

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. —Genesis 1: 26-27

In this brief verse lies the seed of every event in history. It contains mysteries unsearchable. The creation account in Genesis 1 moves step by step at a steady pace until this verse then pauses, followed by this interlude, a conference within the Godhead, planning the highpoint of creation. Man. In Adam, God created every person, male and female, who ever walked this earth, in His image and as one race. What exactly does that mean?

It means all of history from beginning to end. In this brief but momentous divine conference, God determined to do whatever necessary to ensure that the creation of man in His image would work for good. Our race's noblest aspirations, our deepest perversions, our acceptance of dominion over the earth, our rejection of God's rule over us, all are under His superintendence, working according to His sovereign plan. To the praise of His glory.

O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! (Psalm 8:1). David marvels at God, not just for the greatness of His creation, but for the way He made Man and the fact that He made us to rule over all creation. Everywhere we look, we see man, taking responsibility to care for the earth or explore new frontiers.

Through century after century, small wooden boats sailed the high seas, dwarfed by waves, mapping every square mile of earth's watery surface, in an effort to make the whole world their own. And now it is. Explorers and pioneers fanned out across vast continents, climbing peaks, traversing deserts, exploring every valley and cave. Now that we've made the whole earth our back yard, the seemingly infinite reaches of space beckon. Something in our race strives to subdue whatever we encounter. Something God put into us.

Our quest to understand has opened the world's mysteries to us. Diseases that once ravaged our race are now cured by a series of shots. The dreadful shock of lightening yielded to human curiosity the power that lights our homes and sends communications such as this one across the miles. Human bodies are being repaired and life extended through innovations of science, as man—the pinnacle of God's creation—takes hold of the world God has given and brings it under his control. But ...

Lurking animosities in every heart have hated and destroyed our fellow man from the start. Our first brother, Cain, lured Able to a private place and struck him dead out of jealousy. Wars and rumors of wars have defined human history ever since, until the last century's conflicts on an industrial scale wiped hundreds of thousands off the face of the earth. Medical science, intended to heal, brings death before birth, again on an industrial scale. Our propensity for violence swells as our knowledge increases our capacity to destroy. The opening decade and a half of this century brings the urgent question to a shrill cry. What power can possibly bring man's destructive spirit under control? Hopeful answers sound increasingly trite and naïve.

Our most recent moral achievement as a race was to put an end to slavery and racial hatred in the leading civilized societies. But stripping away that centuries-old evil has done nothing to free the spirit of humanity from our true enslavement. Each man and woman—every manifestation of the pinnacle of God's creation—is hopelessly enslaved by sin. All man's highest achievements, the most tender tales of human love and most inspiring stories of human exploits, are powerless to tame the human heart, which is inflamed with defiance against our Creator.

But in that short summary of the original divine planning session, lies God's deep design of redemption. All the evil in all of history, which God has allowed to unfold and ravage His perfect world, He has redeemed and is directing to its climax, when Christ—the Word who first spoke the world into being—returns and reigns on earth, finally bringing all man's evil to an end.

All of this, God accomplished in the unfolding of that original plan. The eternal Word became flesh—a man, one of us—and paid for all human sin on the cross, conquering death by rising from His grave. And then

Christ extends His kingdom by using men—the redeemed ones of His Church—Us—to accomplish the work of His kingdom. It boggles the mind. But it's true.

The first words Samuel Morse transmitted across an electric wire on the Baltimore-Washington line read, "What hath God wrought?" (Numbers 23:23). Indeed! What has God wrought? His highest creation became a monster that threatens to destroy the earth and unravel the divine order. But from that fallen beast, God created a people for Himself, whom He will use to put right what man has destroyed and He has redeemed.

And we accomplish the work He called us to do by laying hold of His power through prayer.

Prayer for Northpoint: Ask God to make Himself known to and through our church this Easter season.

Prayer for the United States: Pray for revival to spread through the Church in America, in every race, social class, denomination, and industry, so that God delivers us from dead orthodoxy to a living faith in the living God.

Prayer for the World: Pray for God's love and sustaining grace to be real to Christians undergoing persecution—even unto death. Pray for hope, strength, and comfort to be more real to them than anything else.

Prayer Supporting Ministry:

- *Grief Share:* Ask God to turn the hearts of those who are hurting to Him to find hope and healing.
- *Carranza:* God has a people in northern Mexico that He is reaching with His love. Pray for our work there.
- *Good Friday and Easter:* Pray for our church and every church to minister the Gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit. Pray that unbelievers will turn to faith in Christ, and believers will receive His power from on high.

Go to God ...

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. –Matthew 7:7-8

Prayer Record

Date	Request	Date	Answer