

K.E.Y. Bible Study (2012–2013–Year V)

K.E.Y Bible Study is a systematic study of Scripture that equips participants to become acquainted with the major truths of the Bible over a five-year period. Each lesson is self-contained, so, you can join the study at any time during the five years.

Purpose: To teach the most significant events, passages, and doctrines of the Bible in a manner and using methods that encourage and empower the student to:
Keeper the Faith We Have Received
Be **E**quipped to Serve the Body of Christ
Become **Y**oked in Ministry with Other Believers

Session 2 August 29, 2012

"God's Greatest Compliment to You" Genesis 1:27

So God created man in his own image, in the image of
God he created him; male and female he created them.
Genesis 1:27

Why is Genesis 1:27 a K.E.Y. verse in the Bible?

It gives insight into the generous character of God and the potential of humanity. Properly understood, this verse provides the foundation for racial and societal reconciliation and teaches us about what God intends for us to experience and express when we live under His dominion.

Who?

God, the Creator, is the central character. Man is a passive character in this passage; God does the acting.

When: ?

This is the sixth day or sixth act of creation. From the text itself, there is not adequate evidence to provide a definitive answer to whether or not these were 24-hour days or were intended to be periods of time. The Bible's emphasis is on revealing the nature and character of God. As a result, other information is occasionally brief and from our perspective vague.

Where?

The exact location of the Garden of Eden is unknown today. Of the four rivers mentioned in the Genesis creation account, only the Euphrates has the same name today. It could have been located in three regions: Turkey, Kuwait, or Israel.

Context :

The context makes the creation of humanity the crowning point of creation. Man is not an afterthought but the ultimate creation. In other non-Christian creation accounts, humanity is often created to perform a function for the gods, which is a utilitarian view of humanity. The Judeo-Christian view teaches that people are of worth and value though not to be worshipped.

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Word Study

- **"Let us make man" (v. 26)** - a very personal way of describing man's creation. It is different from the other days of creation. The plural form "us" does not prove the Trinity, but it certainly allows for it. The early Old Testament does not describe the Trinity; it cannot be comprehended until Jesus.
- **"in our image" (v. 26)** - Man's image is different when compared to the other dimensions of creation, but it is not totally unique in that man shares the likeness of the Creator. *"It is important not to lose sight of the fact that behind the portrayal of the creation of man in this narrative lies the purpose of the author of Genesis and the Pentateuch. The reader is given certain facts that are to serve as the starting point for the larger purposes of the author within the Pentateuch. Man is a creature. But man is a special creature. He is made in the image and likeness of God."* (The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Genesis 1.)
- **"rule" (v. 26)** - literally means "trample" but not in the sense that we step on creation. It means rather, "under the authority of."
- **Verse 27** - This is a poetic summary of the preceding verse. The rhythm and the beauty of the verse make it easy to memorize and to understand.
- **"God" (v. 27)** - the One who performs all the action in this verse.
- **"created" (v. 27)** - This Hebrew word is used only when God is the subject. Other words are used to describe a person creating.
- **"man" (v. 27)** - can also be translated "Adam."
- **"in his own image" (v. 27)** - Notice that the pronoun is singular in form as opposed to the plural form in verse 26. This adds to the mystery of God being singular in form but plural in dimension. Image and likeness are interchangeable. Likeness suggests that we are in God's model in that we can make moral and spiritual choices, and we are capable of being in relationship.
- **"in the image of God he created him" (v. 27)** - This is repeated for emphasis.
- **"male and female he created them" (v. 27)** - The Hebrew words for male and female express human sexuality more than the words usually translated as "man and woman." Note that God's creation of humanity "in his image" is repeated three times. This emphasizes that God is the ultimate Creator and our worth is related to being made in the image of God.

Which of the six areas of spiritual competencies is emphasized in this K.E.Y. verse?

- This verse is about the nature of God and the nature of humanity. God is the Creator of man. In creating humanity, His image is an act of generosity.
- Humanity's worth is directly related to being in the image of God.

What am I to know as a result of having read and studied this K.E.Y. verse?

- God is my Creator.
- All persons are of worth because of who created them and in whose image they were created.

What am I to be or become as a result of having studied this K.E.Y. verse?

- Be in relationship with God.
- Be in relationship with others who are also made in God's image.

What am I to do in order to apply this K.E.Y. verse in my private and public life?

- Live to reflect the nature of God.

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- Love people because they are created in the image of God. This explains the background of Matthew 24 and 25 when Jesus calls us to minister to the least of these.