The Making of Man

**Read:** Genesis 1:26-31

**Introduction:** Let Us! Who is the US of creation? God was speaking of himself in plural number such as members of the royal family do. If you have ever heard the Queen of England speak, she never says, “I” and “me” but always, “we” and “us.” Certainly it can be said of God that he is royal. He is described in Isaiah as the King of the nation of Israel (Isaiah 44:6). When the children of Israel desired a king, God told Samuel that they had not rejected him but “Me, that I should not reign over them.” (1 Samuel 8:7). The implication is that God was acting as their King. So certainly God could use “we” in this sense if He wanted to. However, the word for God in Hebrew is “elohim” which in and of itself has a plural ending, but is singular in under-standing. Additionally, we see in Genesis 1:2 talks about God creating, with His Spirit moving upon the face of the deep. It seems that there is more than one divine person working in the creation. When we look at John 1:1, it is confirmed. In John 1:1-3 we read, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.” Here, we see that the “Word” was instrumental in the creation–that all things were made by him. That would certainly include the creation of man. We see in verse 14 that the word became flesh and dwelt among us. Who is the “Word?” He is the only begotten of the Father. So we find in-volved in creation all three personalities, the Spirit of God, the Son of God, and God the Father. This is the “us” of Genesis 1:26. God the Father was speaking of both the Spirit and the one who would become the Son.

**I. Image of God** refers to appearance. Does this mean that God has designed our physical body to look like His? The Hebrew literally could be translated “a representative figure.” It most likely refers to the idea of the Trinitarian aspect in that just as God has three parts: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; so man has three parts body, soul, and spirit.

**II. Likeness of God** refers to behavior. The Hebrew here means “similar in manner.” God has designed us to behave in the manner that He behaves. Before the fall Adam and Eve met with God daily and they were pleasing to Him in the way that they behaved. The first sin was when they behaved in a different way than He wanted them to do.

**III. Dominion over All but God** did not happen because we evolved into the smartest of animals. God appointed Adam and Eve to the dominate position in creation immediately after He created them.

**IV. Be Fruitful:** This command is not necessarily referring to bearing of children but rather to growth in spiritual maturity & understanding.

**V. Multiply:** refers to increase in abundance & authority. There is also the idea of having children.

**VI. Replenish:** involves being full or to be filled, to accomplish an end, satisfy, take a full hand. Again we see the idea of propagating children in this word as well.

**VII. Subdue the Earth** refers to conquering, subjugating, and bringing into bondage the earth. Nowhere in this chapter do we read that the earth is our mother. No place are we told to recycle and save the planet. God gave the earth to man for our benefit and He has determined its end. He is the stone cut out of the mountain that strikes the feet of iron and clay for the final destruction of this old earth. Read the Bible and you will find no mention of global warming or an ice age that destroys this planet. God Himself will bring it to an end!

**VIII. Eat of Earth:** according to the 29th & 30th verses both man and animals originally ate only vegetables. It was after the fall that animals became carnivores. Most likely man didn’t begin to eat meat until after the flood. This (combined with a greenhouse environment on earth) probably contributed to the longer lives prior to the flood.

**Conclude:** This is the man that God made along with some of the responsibilities that He gave him. There is a final event done by God in the last verse of chapter 1. God does a self-evaluation. He steps back, looks at all that He has done in six days and determines that it was very good. We will do likewise at the end of our life.