

# Blockbuster!

“In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God He made him; male and female He created them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created.”  
Gen 5:1, 2

Mankind is unique in all the creation. First of all, only mankind was made in the image of God, and second, the process in which man was developed was unlike that of any other living creature.

For the first part, just as God is a triune being – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – man was also originally triune – body, soul and spirit. That ‘composition’ is specified in Gen 2:7 – “And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground (there’s the body) and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life (there’s the spirit) and man became a living soul (which at any moment is navigated by either of the first two parts).

And this composition was not only unique but it was new. We know this by studying the words

used in the first several chapters of Genesis. You see, God both created and/or made the various entities found in these chapters. The word for “created” is pronounced ‘bara’ and means made from nothing, something brand new, whereas the word for “made” is pronounced ‘asah’ and means not new but re-made or made from pre-existing materials.

In the beginning of the Bible, we find the following things were “created”:

- Heaven and earth
- Sea life and birds
- Mankind

And the following were “made”:

- Sky
- Sun, moon and stars
- Land animals
- Mankind

You notice that man is in both lists. Adam was made from the dust of the earth which leads to the conclusion that his created part was his ‘spirit-man’, that is, his spirit and soul.

Of course, at some point, God created all things – seen and unseen. In other scriptures, we are told that He created the angels and the “heavenly host” including Lucifer. Psa 148:5 and Eze 28:13

But man is the only living creature to be both ‘bara’ and ‘asah’, “created” and “made”. (He is also said to be “formed” and “built” but that’s another lesson.)

And this uniqueness begs the questions, “Why? For what purpose?”

Now, his ‘asah’ part, if I can put it that way, identified him with the physical realm – he was made from the dust of the earth. And, his ‘bara’ part identified him with the spiritual realm. So man was set up as one who could identify with two realms – the seen and unseen so to speak. Therefore he was/is a perfect ‘visual aide’ – uniquely positioned in all creation.

And he was placed on earth for a grand purpose – for a cosmic purpose. Isaiah said, “For thus says the Lord who created the heavens, God Himself who formed the earth and made it; He has set it up (established it), He did not create it in vain (to be a desolation), He formed it to be inhabited (or literally, to sit as a judge).” Isa 45:18

In that last part, the implied meaning of the Hebrew word is indeed ‘inhabited’ and is an appropriate counterpoint to the word ‘vain’, but I suggest that the

literal meaning also applies and perhaps more so. That is, that the earth was ‘set up’ or ‘staged’ to be a place of judgment which implies a place where truth is revealed. It also implies an audience to the judgment or truth displayed.

As a part of his divine purpose, mankind is the ‘lead player’, if you would, in this situation for it is man who has been and is being used to show the cosmos the creative genius of God, His desire for intimate relationship, the value of obedience to Him, the consequences of sin, the deceptive, destructive nature of the fallen Satan, as well as God’s mercy, justice and ultimately His gracious sacrifice and redemption.

What an amazing ‘production’! – a cosmic court room so to speak where the glorious truth of Who God is, His very nature, is displayed – the Way, the Truth and the Life revealed – for all to see.

All? Yes, literally all of creation.

Paul wrote, “For I think that God has set us forth, the apostles, last, as it were appointed to death; for we are made a spectacle (figuratively, a ‘theater’) unto the cosmos, and to angels and to men.” 1 Cor 4:9 and...

“And without controversy, great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached to the gentiles, believed on in the world, received up

into glory.” 1 Tim 3:16 Note, in these verses, the audience – the cosmos and angels as well as men. Also note the specific reference to the “flesh” and the “spirit” – the ‘asah’ and ‘bara’ elements which Christ, the God-man, took on to be just like us, more specifically, like the first Adam.

Even the apostle Peter spoke of the Gospel – the truth revealed – as, “things the angels desire to look into.” (or literally, to stoop or bend down to see.) 1 Pet 1:12

And so, along with Paul and most pre-eminently Christ, we as believers are created uniquely for God’s pre-ordained plan, His wonderful production, which has led to our redemption, but beyond that, He made us ALL important parts of a cosmic courtroom or perhaps ‘classroom’ to demonstrate His justice, His mercy and grace, and certainly His infinite love for all His creation.

You mean the host of heaven needs to see this lesson, that we are part of a reconciliation ‘lesson’ that even they must know and accept? That seems to be the case for again, Paul writing of Jesus, said, “For it pleased *the*

*Father that* in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.” 1 Col 1:19, 20

So those of you who aren’t Christian ‘celebrities’, you’re not in the limelight of man, you who wonder if you have any purpose or plan for your life, open your heart and eyes to see your audience – it’s huge for the cosmos is learning as they see how gracious and merciful God is to you and they cheer when you respond.

Each of our lives, no matter the stumbling, no matter the continuous need for cleansing and forgiveness, no matter the mountains of difficulties, discouragements, pain and failure – each of us plays a starring role in this drama-lesson. It’s God’s production – nothing is accidental, nothing surprises Him. Just hold on to your faith – He’s made you a ‘star’ in His Blockbuster and a crown of glory is your reward!