

## The Search for Order

### Introduction

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In this second study we look at the place given to human beings within God's world. Created 'in His image', human beings are to be His representative rulers in the world. As such, we are to search out and live in the light of the order which God has built into His world. God thus gives wonderful freedom to human beings, - freedom to choose, to build, to order and to analyse and to define - but that freedom is not absolute – it is limited and shaped by God's Word. We are permitted to '*name the animals*' but we are not permitted to *know* (i.e. claim the right to define) 'good and evil', right and wrong. Only God can do that. Human wisdom begins with taking God at His Word and continues as we fulfil God's good purpose for our lives in the light of His Word. As we shall see in the next study, the essence of human sin and folly was to desire to become wise in a way other than by trusting and obeying God's Word.

### Study Questions

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These questions help you to see clearly what the text is saying.

**Read:** Genesis 1vs26-31; Psalm 8vs1-7

- Note:**
- a. The words *image* and *rule*.
  - b. The use of singular and plural in Genesis 1vs27.
  - c. The link between the word *blessing* and the fulfilment of God's purpose for humankind.
  - d. The use of royal imagery in Psalm 8vs5-6.

**Answer** the following questions:

1. What is Humankind's role within God's Creation?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. By whom is this role assigned?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What does God do to ensure that His purpose for humanity is fulfilled?

**Read:** Genesis 2vs1-25

- Note:**
- a. The words *blessing* and *rest*.
  - b. The relationship between of God and the man to the garden.
  - c. The location of the tree of Life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
  - d. The relationship between the man and the woman.

**Answer** the following questions:

1. Why is the Seventh day special?
2. What word links this day with God's purpose for His creation?
3. What you say is God's purpose for His world?
4. What task do human beings have within God's world?
5. What freedom do they have? In what way and why is that freedom limited?

## Think it Through

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1. From what you have learnt, what do you think it means to be a wise person?