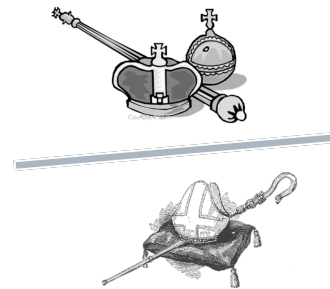


## Session Five

# MAN – JOINT HEIRS OF GOD’S KINGDOM

In the last session, we saw that God created man for both kingly and priestly duties to represent God, who is invisible in His visible and physical world.

- As a **king**, man would exercise God’s kingdom authority
- As a **priest**, man would represent God and His will in creation and reflect creation’s praise back to God



Moses, having now laid this foundation of God’s purpose for Man, builds on this with further details.

### A. Man was Created for Work, Not Merely Fellowship

Man was created for work (Gen 1:26<sup>1</sup>; 2:15<sup>2</sup>). God placed man in the Garden to rule over and order creation. The Garden, among other things, was to be a microcosm(model) of what God anticipated the whole earth to be like.

God created man for intimate relationship, but not because He was lonely. Man was to work with God as a son, not a servant. Not for mere fellowship, but as joint heirs of God’s kingdom.

### B. Between Man’s Calling and His Crowning

Man was created **perfect**, but not yet **complete**

*... You have made them **a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor.***

*You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet (Ps 8:5-6)*

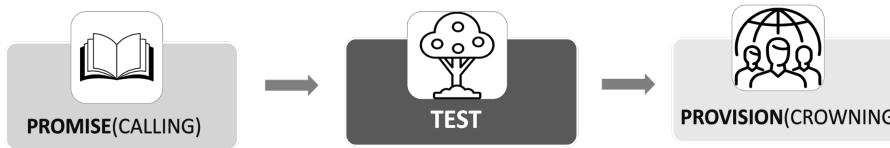
Between Man’s creation and his glorification, his perfection and his completion, or between his calling and his crowning, lay what can only be described as **‘the Test’**.

<sup>1</sup> Gen 1:26 Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

<sup>2</sup> Gen 2:15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

## C. The Kingdom Principle: Promise, Test, Provision

In Genesis 1:28 Adam is commissioned to rule the earth, but before this he is placed in the Garden of Eden.



Adam was tested with a small part of creation (the Garden) before being entrusted with the whole earth.

### 1. The Nature of the Test

- Adam had to show that he loved God with all his heart, soul, mind and strength, which were the pre-requisites of participating in God's royal family and reigning as a joint heir of His kingdom.
- Adam was to demonstrate this by working with God in humble submission in the Garden of Eden.

### 2. The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil

- *"Jesus did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but humbled Himself"* Php 2:6  
Sadly, Adam and Eve did think equality with God was something to be grasped.
- In their disobedience of eating the fruit from this tree, that God had forbidden them to eat from, they:
  - Revealed a love for self, more than a love for God
  - A desire to work independently from God, rather than being dependent on God
  - Rather than reflecting God's image into His world, they preferred to reflect their own image into what they considered to be their world

## D. The Lesson for the Children of Israel

What lesson, in God's School of Mission, does this teach the Children of Israel?

Adam and Eve were called to live a life on mission with God. They were given the commission (promise) but failed to enter into the provision.



The Children of Israel were also given a commission – the covenant God gave to their forefathers (Ge 12:2-3). It was a blessing to them and through them to all the nations of the world.

## **Conclusion**

*“Abraham and his offspring received the PROMISE that he would be heir of the world” (Ro 4:13).*

Did Abraham, and his offspring, inherit what Adam failed to inherit?

That we will find out in a future session!