

Our Origin and Destiny

#0590

Study Given by W.D. Frazee

Suppose you should awake one morning and find yourself on a great ship out in the middle of the ocean. You don't know how you got there. Sometime during the night while you were asleep, you've been transported there. And there you are, out of sight of land. You're on this ship, moving along through the waters.

I suppose that there are at least two questions that would be in your mind. How did I get here, anyway? Where did this ship start from? And where is it headed for? What's its port? Where is it going?

You and I are passengers on the ship, earth. And somewhere along as we grow up, we awake to the consciousness that we must have come *from* somewhere, and we hope we're headed for somewhere.

I'm so glad there's a book that has that information in it. Aren't you glad? And the first page of the first book starts us off with the answer to the first question.

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth"
Genesis 1:1.

So, this world is not here by chance. Somebody made it. And the One that made it is the general manager of the universe. I wonder why He made it. Let's turn to the eighth Psalm beginning with the third verse. We'll see why He made it, and that helps us to find out why *we're* here and how we fit in:

"When I consider Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers,
the moon and the stars, which Thou hast ordained; What
is man, that Thou art mindful of him? and the son of man,
that Thou visitest him? For Thou hast made him a little
lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory
and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the
works of Thy hands; Thou hast put all things under his
feet" Psalm 8:3-6.

And then, he lists the sheep, the oxen, the beasts, the fowls, the fish, everything in this world. And man, he says, was made to have what? Dominion, to run this planet. So, we have not only our origin but the purpose of our creation stated.

Let's go back to the first chapter of Genesis and see how clear the record is on this point. After reciting the various things that were made on the different days, Moses brings us in the 26th verse to the creation of man:

“And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness: and let them have dominion...” Genesis 1:26.

What does “dominion” mean? Rule. A king has dominion. Adam was the king of this world.

“And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, after Our Likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth” Genesis 1:26.

Yes, man made in the image of God was given charge of this planet. Now, this story, a true story of how this world started and man’s place in it, is peculiar to the religion of the Bible. All false religions have either utter ignorance on this subject, or else a perversion, a mixed knowledge.

Let’s go to the 10th chapter of Jeremiah, beginning with the 10th verse, and see the contrast between the religion of the Bible and all others.

In the early verses of this chapter, the picture is given us of the heathen chopping down a tree, cutting it and shaping it in the form of an image, decking it with silver and gold, and then kneeling down and worshipping that combination of wood and metal that man has put together.

The 10th verse opens with the conjunction what? “But.” Here’s something different.

“But the LORD is the true God, He is the living God, and an everlasting King: at His wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide His indignation. Thus shall ye say unto them, The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth, even they shall perish from the earth, and from under these heavens. He hath made the earth by His power, He hath established the world by His wisdom, and hath stretched out the heavens by His discretion” Jeremiah 10:10–12.

Then, in the 14th verse, he returns again to this picture of the heathen making molten images and graven images. And he says they’re all falsehood; there’s no breath in them. They are vanity [a paraphrase of Jeremiah 10:14–15].

Sixteenth verse:

“The portion of Jacob is not like them: for He is the former of all things...” Jeremiah 10:16.

He’s the One that’s made everything. So, that which distinguishes the God of the Scriptures is the fact that we’re dealing with the Creator. He made the world; He made us.

Now, turn over to the last book of the Bible, Revelation the 4th chapter, the 11th verse, and notice the song that John heard in Heaven in which the inhabitants of Heaven and those who have gone there from this world join:

“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for Thou hast...” Revelation 4:11.

What?

“...created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are and were created” Revelation 4:11.

This is the basis of our worship of God. He created all things, and so He's worthy to receive what?

“...Glory and honour and power...” Revelation 4:11.

Then, we are not here just by chance. We're not here by evolution. We're not here by accident. We are here because of the creative act of the God of the universe. Therefore, we are here not to carry out *our* wishes or plans. We're here to carry out the assignment that was given to man as the steward of this world. We were made to have dominion. We're to act here in the place of God in carrying out His plans and purposes in this world.

So much, then, for this question, “Where did we come from? Where did the world come from? And what is our origin?”

The answer is God. The answer is God. God made the world. He made us. He made us in His image to carry out His plans and purposes.

Now, where are we going? What's going to happen to this world? Is the sun one of these days going to burn out and this earth become so cold that all life on it will be extinct? Or is this earth destined to collide with some other celestial body and end in a great explosion? What is going to happen to this world, anyway?

Can you try to imagine that there is no Bible? What would you and I know in answer to those questions? We wouldn't know anything, friends. Some professor might give us his educated guesses, but it wouldn't mean very much. Without this lamp of prophecy, this searchlight of revelation, we would indeed be in darkness concerning the future.

But my dear friends, the One who loved us enough to make this planet for our home, the One who loved us enough to make us in His image and turn this planet over to us, loves us enough that He wants to share with us His knowledge of the future and His plans for the future.

The book of Daniel is a wonderful example of this desire on God's part. In the book of Daniel, we have repeated great lines of prophecy, reaching from ancient times down to the last generation. I'd just like to note them for a few moments this

morning. We won't study them in detail, but just notice the grand sweep of prophecy. And notice, this is the point I want you to see this morning, notice that in every case, these lines of prophecy focus upon the future of this planet. That's the thing.

In other words, in the book of Daniel, we have God's answer to man's question, "Where we are going?"

You remember in that great vision of the image in Daniel 2, this vision was given by God to the king of the world—the king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar. And Nebuchadnezzar was thinking about the very question that millions think about, "Where are we going? What's going to happen? What's going to happen after me?"

Daniel told the king that that was in his mind, the 29th verse of the 2nd chapter:

"As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came into thy mind
upon thy bed, what should come to pass hereafter"
Daniel 2:29.

Was that was a natural thing for a king to think about? Was it a good thing for him to think about? Why, yes. What we do today, in many cases, is determined by what we think may happen or will happen tomorrow.

An automobile driver who looks only at the few feet in front of the car is a poor driver. The good driver is looking where? Up the road as far as he can see, taking in the whole sweep of things ahead.

So, this king, lying there upon his bed, he thought, "What's going to happen to my kingdom? What's going to happen to this world? What is the future?"

And God came near and gave him this dream. And you remember Daniel came in later and interpreted it, the head of gold, Babylon, the breast and arms of silver, the belly and thighs of brass meaning Greece, and then the legs of iron and the divided kingdom represented by the toes.

But now, watch. When we come down in history, down through Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, and the divided kingdoms of Europe, which have stood there for over a thousand years in their divided state, what do we find? What is the focal point of the whole dream? It's not the head, not any part of the image. It's what happens to that image.

What did happen to it? The stone, a stone came, hurled at the feet of that image, and broke it all to pieces, and became a great mountain and filled the whole earth [a paraphrase of Daniel 2:35].

And what does Daniel say this is? The kingdom of God is coming to this world, 44th verse:

"And in the days of these kings..." Daniel 2:44.

The kings of divided Europe, the nations formed on the breakdown of the Roman Empire.

“And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever” Daniel 2:44.

Here we have the answer to this question, “Where are we going?” This great ship that we’re passengers on, what’s it headed for?

It is headed for the *end* of earthly kingdoms and the ushering in of the kingdom of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This is the end goal of life on this planet.

Again, the seventh chapter, here the kingdoms of man are represented under the cartoon figures of great beasts, the lion, the bear, the leopard and the beast with ten horns. Again, the interpretation is clear, it’s four great kingdoms.

And finally, Rome is divided. But notice how the angel sums it all up in the 17th and 18th verses of Daniel 7.

“These great beasts, which are four, are four kings...”
Daniel 7:17.

Or kingdoms.

“...which shall arise out of the earth. But the saints of the most High shall...” Daniel 7:17–18.

What?

“...take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever” Daniel 7:17–18.

Now, in this vision, these four beasts and the ten horns that come from the fourth beast, need God’s answer to man’s rebellion in the judgment presented in verses 9 and 10. The judgment, coming in the last generation, brings an end to all human governments, and the blessed kingdom of Christ is ushered in.

And so, the 13th and 14th verses say:

“I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought Him near before Him. And there was given Him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve Him: His dominion is an everlasting dominion,

which shall not pass away, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed” Daniel 7:13–14.

Again you see, human history finds its climax, its goal in the setting up of the kingdom of Christ, and the people of God are to share that kingdom, thus carrying out the original commission that man should have dominion over the earth.

Speaking of the kingdoms of men, 26th verse:

“But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion...” Daniel 7:26.

This little horn power which heads the confederacy of men against God. The 27th verse:

“And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to...” Daniel 7:27.

Whom?

“...the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him” Daniel 7:27.

Now, notice the 28th verse, what Daniel says.

“Hitherto is the...” Daniel 7:28.

What?

“...the end of the matter...” Daniel 7:28.

“End” in the sense of object or goal, and “end” in the sense of climax. This is it. This is the grand event toward which all creation moves—the coming of Jesus, the judgment, putting an end to the pride of man, the sin of man, and bringing us to the everlasting reign of righteousness.

Now, in the eighth chapter, we have another line of prophecy. This time Babylon is going off the stage of action, so Medo-Persia is introduced under the figure of a ram, Greece under the figure of a goat. They’re stated to be thus by name in verses 20–21.

The prophet sees a great battle between them and Greece winning the victory. And then, finally, that power is divided in four, and another kingdom arises from one of them, which is recognized as Rome as we read the description.

In other words, we’re coming down over the same panorama of history again. But again, we find earthly governments and earthly religions in conflict with God and

His people. And finally, the question is asked in the 13th verse, “How long is this going to keep up?”

“...to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot?” Daniel 8:13.

And the answer, the climax of it all, is the 14th verse:

“And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed” Daniel 8:14.

The cleansing of the sanctuary is the great climax in this eighth chapter, as the judgment is the climax in the seventh chapter. They both relate to the same experience, the developing of God’s people to the place where sin can be blotted out of the books of record, and God can take the kingdom and purge this planet of the desecrators of His law.

Now, in the 10th and 11th and 12th chapters, we have the final chain of prophecy. And after relating various events of history between Daniel’s time and the end, we come to the 12th chapter and the 1st verse:

“And at that time shall Michael...” Daniel 12:1.

That is, Christ.

“...stand up...” Daniel 12:1.

That is, begin His reign.

“...the great prince which standeth for the children of Thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time Thy people shall be...” Daniel 12:1.

What?

“...delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever” Daniel 12:1–3.

You know, friends, I suppose we’re all like children. We love stories with happy endings. God made us that way. And thank God, the wonderful story of this world has a happy ending. It’s so in all these great visions of Daniel down through human history till the stone smites the image, till the judgment hour comes, till the

sanctuary is cleansed, till Michael stands up. And at that time, God's people are delivered and:

“...the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ...” Revelation 11:15.

Now, let's turn over to the book of Revelation. We're seeing it here again, over and over—the climax is the coming of Jesus and the setting up of the kingdom.

The first three chapters deal with the messages to the seven churches, one two, three, four, five, six, seven. And the last, Laodicea, means the judging of the people, linking the last church with the judgment hour of Daniel 7. And to that church is given the promise of the lost dominion.

The 21st verse:

“To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me...”
Revelation 3:21.

Where?

“...in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne” Revelation 3:21.

In chapters four, five, six and seven, we have the prophecy of the seven seals. And again, notice the climax, as we come down to the 6th chapter and the 12th verse:

“And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a...” Revelation 6:12.

What?

“...great earthquake...” Revelation 6:12.

This is the Lisbon earthquake of 1755.

Then, follows in quick succession as the prophet saw it in vision, the darkening of the sun, the moon becoming blood.

And then in the 13th verse, the stars of heaven falling—the great meteoric shower of 1833.

And then, what happens in the 14th verse?

“And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places” Revelation 6:14.

And then, John sees the Lord Jesus coming, and all the kings of this world weeping and wailing as they pray for the rocks and mountains to cover them [a paraphrase of Revelation 6:15–16].

The climax of these seals is the coming of Jesus.

In the seventh chapter, we have the sealing of the people of God in preparation for that time introduced.

Now, in the eighth, ninth, tenth and eleventh chapters, we have the prophecy of the seven trumpets, again revealing certain events of history. But I want you to notice the climax of it all in the 11th chapter of Revelation and the 15th verse:

“And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying...” Revelation 11:15.

What? Read it all together with me:

“...The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever” Revelation 11:15.

See, again the climax is the ushering in the kingdom of God in this world.

Beginning with the 12th chapter, we have another great line of prophecy. Here the kingdoms, the governments of this world that especially unite in the final end in persecuting the people of God are represented under the figures of the dragon in the 12th chapter, the beast in the first part of the 13th, and the two-horned beast in the latter part of the 13th chapter.

Well, as you follow down this prophecy, you see these earthly governments moved by false religious inspiration, seeking to blot out God’s people. But are they blotted out? Come over to the 15th chapter and see, beginning with the 2nd verse:

“And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten...” Revelation 15:2.

What?

“...the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are Thy works...” Revelation 15:2–3.

Well, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th chapters deal with the great plagues and the final judgments upon Babylon. Notice the climax, Revelation the 19th chapter, and the 11th verse:

“And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse;
and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True,
and in righteousness He doth judge and make war”
Revelation 19:11.

The rest of the chapter pictures His advent surrounded by the armies of Heaven, as He rides forth to conquer, King of kings and Lord of Lords, the 16th verse shows Him to be. Again, the coming of Christ is the great climactic event.

Then, in the 20th chapter, we have the millennium introduced and the final destruction of sin and sinners in the closing part of this chapter. And then in verses 21–22, this grandest of all pictures of the future of this planet. Oh, look at it. Beginning with that first verse:

“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God” Revelation 21:1–3.

Oh friends, the question, “Where are we going,” is abundantly answered in these great lines of prophecy. There’s no question about the future of this planet. We don’t have to wonder about whether some hydrogen bomb is going to blow the earth to bits. We don’t have to worry, friends, about whether some star is going to collide with us or some other disaster. Oh, there are going to be troubles in this world, but the future of this planet is without any question to be the home of the people of God with God Himself dwelling with man.

Where did we come from? God created us. Where are we going? We’re going to the setting up of the kingdom of God in this world by the personal appearing of Jesus Christ.

Now, friends, did you ever stop to think that in the providence of God, we are given a name that should always remind us of these two great answers to man’s two great questions? We are Seventh-day Adventists. What does “Seventh-day” bring to our minds? The Sabbath. And what does the Sabbath bring to our minds? Creation.

Let’s repeat the Fourth Commandment together:

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD

made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is,
and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed
the Sabbath day, and hallowed it” Exodus 20:8–11.

Yes, a true Sabbath keeper always has in his heart and mind the answer to that question, “Where did we come from? What is the origin of life, the origin of this planet? How did we get here? Why am I here?”

It’s all clear.

“...In six days the LORD made heaven and earth...”
Exodus 20:11.

And the Sabbath reminds us of that.

And then, this wonderful climactic event of the coming of Jesus, what does “Adventist” mean, anyway? It means one who’s looking for the advent of Christ. As Paul says:

“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious
appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ”
Titus 2:13.

Ah then, friends, in this name given us by God, Seventh-day Adventist, we have these two great answers, I repeat, to man’s two great questions of origin and destiny, the past and the future, the beginning and the end. And that end, thank God, is the real beginning of that which will *never* end—the everlasting kingdom of our Lord. Aren’t you thankful?

Now, between that day when the world was made by the almighty Word of Jesus Christ, and that other day so soon to be ushered in when we shall see the King coming and welcome Him with joy, stretches the 6,000 years of human history where the great controversy between Christ and Satan is always in progress.

And in between that great event of creation and that great event of the setting up of the kingdom, we see standing the cross where the One who created us gave His life to redeem us that we might be subjects of that kingdom which He is setting up. Without the cross, all this would be impossible.

But as the cross makes possible the redemption of the lost dominion, the cross also tells us of the value that God placed upon man in the original creation. The cross did not *make* that value. It *revealed* that value.

God so loved the world that He gave His only Son because that which was lost was of such infinite value—man made in the image of his Creator [a paraphrase of John 3:16].

I’m thankful for creation this morning. I’m thankful for the cross. I’m thankful for the coming King and kingdom. Are you? Would you like to express in your own words your thanksgiving to the One Who made you, Who died for you, and Who is

coming for you? It will cheer His heart. It's a very personal, personal thing between you and Him.

[Testimony meeting followed]

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