

From The Beginning

The Methodology of God

by

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Introduction

Genesis 1:24-31

And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so. And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

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. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so.

And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

Genesis 2:7-9

And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

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Our world had a start, it is not eternal; it is not *from everlasting*. Our scientists tell us that the earth had a start; they know it is not eternal. Our journey has a beginning and it is from the beginning that we will start. This study is an attempt to both understand, and to validate our

present by progressing through our course from the start.

There may be some who say that some thing or person *could* have been more than it is. This has always been a somewhat futile statement. You couldn't now be more than what you are now; because you are what you are now: the opportunity is past. A more positive statement is that the world, or a person, *can* be more than they are; forward from where you are now. Could have been is not possible, can be is sure.

We want to explore the two pieces--are and can be--by illuminating that which made what is. By adding light to this, it is our hope to focus your attention on the spots where we've been, in order to show the strengths that we now have. Some of these strengths may look like weaknesses; but they are not. Besides, weaknesses are just strengths improperly framed.

An example of this in my own life is my weak mechanical abilities. I don't know how to build a house or fix a car. However, I have planned the rebuilding of a house and successfully diagnosed car trouble. My *weakness* revealed to me my strength of delegation. Because I don't know how to build a house or fix a car, I trust it to others. Furthermore, knowing my weaknesses, I don't try to tell those who have that strength how to do their jobs. It is clearly understood, however, that their workmanship will be judged by the reasonable performance of the product that is the result of their efforts.

The concept of delegation is easy to accept in things of this nature. It becomes much more difficult to accept in matters of morals, ethics and religion. When it comes to the God of the universe, we are constantly restricting the *delegated* authority we will give Him. The range lies from almost none to almost all. It is almost none, because even the most distant of us will find an occasional "God help me/us/them" slipping through their lips or crossing their mind. It is limited to almost all, because even the most devout of us will find the "I will/you should" preceding and not following the reference to God. This is as it should be.

There is none so corrupt as to live a life of total disavowal of God. There is a very limited supply of those, among the human race, who are perfectly in tune with God. There are, fortunately, at least three perfect human who the Bible specifically states were of that nature. God has revealed their lives to us as examples of what man can be, if he will cling to God. This list does not include Adam, who was created perfect (and then had a mishap). Nor does the list include the one who is perfect but was only incidentally human, Jesus of Nazareth--we will fully reveal him later. These are the three.

These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.
(Genesis 6:9)

And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.
(Genesis 17:1)

There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.

(Job 1:1)

"But," you ask, "what is my limitation in seeing and managing my own life? Why do I need examples? Why does anyone need examples? Why do we need any perfect people?"

If it were only your life involved in all reality, you would not need to even ask these questions. If it were only your life involved in all reality then there would be no need for anything other than your life. However, there is no singular *your life*: even Adam, when complete, no longer had this luxury. Each life touches other lives and is touched by other lives. It is these points of contact that we must delegate to someone or something.

Master, which is the great commandment in the law?

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

(Matthew 22:36-40)

There is only one true way to express this love for God and for one another. Since God is perfect, the love that we express to Him and to our fellow man must also be perfect.

And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us.

If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

(1 John 4:16-21)

We will either delegate this to someone, or we will defer to something, for the rules of engagement with others. Are you really comfortable with that someone being man; or that something being government? The better choices for that someone and that something are described in Scripture in their perfect state: God and His will.

We all see things in time--flowing from event to event. God sees things in total. All that we say was, is or will be, *IS* to God. This is brought to light by the Bible.

And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?

And he said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain.

And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them?

And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.

(Exodus 3:11-14)

I AM is applicable then, *I AM* is applicable before then, *I AM* is applicable after then.

A Prayer of Moses the man of God.

LORD, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.

(Psalm 90:1-2)

Think of existence as a map. On this map is the entire universe as we know it. We are a point assigned on this map. We can move from our point to other points and in doing so we will gather what we call memories. However, we will not move through all points; we can't. On this map there are points called *past* and points called *future*, as well as the one we see called *present*. God sees the entire map. Indeed, God made the map.

The points on the map of existence are fixed. Those that are called past we know that we cannot change. Those called present we think that we are making. Those which will be present, but which are now future, we feel that we will get to make. However, this is a point-limited view of reality. God is not limited in this fashion. God sees the entire unchanging map. All that is, was and will be *IS* to God, and exists by His design. For us the map is a work-in-progress: for God it is a done-deal. We cannot change what God has made.

This can be an unsettling thought. We can feel trapped on a course that we cannot control. But ask yourself, "Would you really want to control your point and all that will ever touch it; even those points of which you are not aware? Could you ever do so? Can you control this real-life state of your point; in concert with all other points?"

This can be a marvelous thought as well. To know that we cannot be blamed for unintended

and unknown consequences of our actions; this can provide peace. The peace is enhanced when we know that we have a Faithful Artisan to whom we can turn when we reach the limits of our capabilities. This Artisan is God.

We stated that the wisdom of our delegation and deferrals is seen in the product of those to whom we turn. This is what we can also say of God. His work speaks to us to show forth His great artistry. We are His creation, and generally speaking, we are marvelous--aren't we?

When we finally come to a realization of the God of the Universe and of His working in the world, there is an extreme amount of peace; potentially speaking. No, everything doesn't fall into place immediately. The world does not become a constant sunshiny day. What does happen is that we know that there is a purpose for our existence. Then life isn't a matter of making things happen, but of finding out what will happen.

For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

(Romans 1:20-21)

It's kind of like that childhood recreational tool known as a coloring book. In the coloring books of my youth, there were some pages that allowed me to connect the dots. By connecting the dots I was able to make a complete picture, which could then be filled in with color. This is what life in God really becomes: we are connecting the dots of the outline that God has already provided.

And He provides the page.

And He provides the writing instrument.

And He provides the colors.

And He provides the proper stroke to fill in the picture.

And He provides the--I guess you'd call it, everything.

All we have to do is be available to receive. And you thought your childhood would go away, and the peace thereof would end? Not in the kingdom of God and of His Son. This we will discover from the beginning toward the end (for as of this writing we have not reached that point, yet).

At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?

And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

(Matthew 18:1-4)

This is our search; to understand and appreciate the products of God, on behalf of mankind and beyond. To do this we will start From the Beginning.

*Such a big God
With such a small plan;
Which includes all that is
The kingdom of man.*

*Things in the earth
And in the sky above,
All resplendent images
Of God's great love.*

*Pieces prepared in nature,
Each with its place,
Supporting what is called
The human race.*

*Fashioned in God's image
According to His word,
Which the entire universe
In the beginning heard.*

*The earth and the sky,
The fish in the sea,
All placed to support
What was to be.*

*A great creation
By the Living LORD,
Especially crafted,
And deeply adored.*

*Made with perfection,
To prepare its case;
That chose to drift,
It's peace to erase.*

*Knowing good and evil
When still a child,
Who throws fits
And acts quite wild.*

*But God in His glory
Can never err,
Perfect once*

We'll return there.

*Through yielding to God
And clinging to His hand;
Mankind will once again
See the Promised Land.*