

WHY DID GOD PERFORM THIS ENORMOUS CREATIVE ACT

(**Bold type** and underlining of scripture text have been added for emphasis)

(Your questions and comments are welcome)

Scripture explains that God's ultimate purpose in the creation is to make known His glory. In this regard, we read: Psalm 19

¹ The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

² Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.

³ There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.

⁴ Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun,

⁵ Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race.

⁶ His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.

Verse 4 of this passage is cited by the apostle Paul at: Romans 10

¹⁸ But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.

Here the question is raised, "Have they not heard?" *The answer is that the heavens declare the glory of God to the ends of the earth and throughout the entire world. Further, we read at: Romans 1*

²⁰ 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**:

Also, *God's ultimate purpose with man is to manifest His glory in His people, both now, and in the ages to come as seen at:*

Ephesians 3

⁸ Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;

⁹ And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

¹⁰ To the intent that **now** unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known **by the church the manifold wisdom** of God,

¹¹ According to the **eternal purpose** which **he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:**

Ephesians 2

⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

⁵ Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

⁶ And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

⁷ That **in the ages to come** he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

However, before we can arrive at an adequate understanding of the

various topics revealed in the scriptures (including, but not limited to, faith, grace, salvation, and judgment), **we must ask the question:** Foreknowing the first man's rebellion against Him, and also that this enmity would be passed on to all men (Romans 5:12-Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and **so death passed upon all men**, for that all have sinned), necessitating the painful provision for man's restoration, functionally, to His image and likeness, what had God set before Himself as an object to be attained? **Simply, what is God pursuing with man?**

We will pursue this inquiry by considering particularly relevant scriptures commencing in Genesis and concluding in Revelation.

Genesis 1

1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

4 And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.

5 And **God called the light Day**, and **the darkness he called Night**. And **the evening and the morning were the first day**.

6 And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.

7 And God **made the firmament**, and **divided the waters** which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so.

8 And **God called the firmament Heaven**. And **the evening and the morning were the second day**.

9 And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so.

10 And **God called the dry land Earth**; and **the gathering together of the waters called he Seas**: and God saw that it was good.

11 And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, **whose seed is in itself**, upon the earth: and it was so.

12 And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, **whose seed was in itself, after his kind**: and God saw that it was good.

13 And **the evening and the morning were the third day**.

14 And God said, Let there be **lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide** the day from the night; and let them be **for signs**, and **for seasons**, and **for days**, and **years**:

15 And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven **to give light upon the earth**: and it was so.

16 And God made **two great lights**; the **greater light to rule the day**, and the **lesser light to rule the night**: he made **the stars also**.

17 And God set them in the firmament of the heaven **to give light upon the earth**,

18 And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good.

19 And **the evening and the morning were the fourth day**.

20 And God said, **Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth** in the open firmament of heaven.

21 And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

22 And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth.

23 And **the evening** and **the morning** were **the fifth day**.

24 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.

25 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.

26 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.

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; **male and female created he them**.

28 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.

29 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**.

30 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.

31 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

1 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.

2 And **on the seventh day God ended his work** which he had made; and **he rested** on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.

3 And God **blessed the seventh day**, and **sanctified it**: because that in it **he had rested** from all his work which God created and made.

The Genesis passage evidences a preeminent role intended for man.

God said to the man and the woman, “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.” (verse 28) *Significantly, man is singled out to be in God’s image and His likeness*, (verse 27). God intended that man would be possessed of a mind, emotion, and a will like God’s own, albeit of limited capacity.

It is not unusual that the answer to the broad question, (in this consideration, What is God’s purpose in the creation of man?), is found in answers to lesser questions. One such lesser question: **Why did God make man in his image and his likeness?** The answer unfolds as we observe God’s movement with man, in time.

Early in this movement, God planted a garden in a place called Eden. He placed man in the garden “to dress it and keep it.” Further, man was told that he was free to eat of all of the trees of the garden, except one. Eating of this particular tree would negatively affect man’s relationship with God. Genesis 2

8 And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

15 And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden **to dress it and to keep it.**

16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

17 But **of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it:** for in the day that thou eatest thereof **thou shalt surely die.**

Within this arrangement, we see man’s intellect, emotion, and his will, activated. His intellect, in that God communicates with man. Man’s mind can translate this communication into understanding Man knows God’s will in the matter of dwelling in the garden in Eden.

The will is a volitional capacity wherein man, like God, can make choices. We see in Genesis chapter 3, that the man chose to eat of the forbidden tree, resulting in a breach in his relationship with the One who had created him. The man knew that he had been unfaithful to his created relationship by and with God, and thus, experienced his emotional capacity through fear.

Genesis 3

6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

7 And **the eyes of them both were opened**, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

8 And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

9 And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

10 And he said, **I heard thy voice** in the garden, and **I was afraid**, because **I was naked**; and **I hid myself.**

11 And he said, **Who told thee that thou wast naked?** Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?

Man’s created likeness to God enlarged the company with whom God could fellowship in divine things. In the Garden of Eden, God had provided a place where he could find satisfaction in dwelling with man. God came to the garden in the cool of the day and “called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?” The man heard the voice of the Lord God when he came into the garden to commune with them. Instead of drawing

near to God, the man and the woman hid themselves. They had breached the trust that God had placed with them.

Much of scripture is explaining God's redemptive plan designed to restore man to God's image, however, this is a subject to be considered at another time. Let it suffice to say that Adam's disobedience resulted in the corrupting of his mind, and that of his descendants, so as to distort mans perception of the meaning of his existence. With such mental distortion, the emotional and volitional faculties were functionally altered.

We will now survey scriptures expressing God's purpose in the creation as having a place to dwell with man. We read that God seeks out those who will acknowledge Him, and who are faithful, as the following passages in the book of Genesis indicate:

“**And** to Seth, to him also there was born a son; and he called his name Enos: then began men to call upon the name of the Lord.” (4:26)

“**Noah** was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.”

Thus, “Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.” (6:8,9) “And the Lord said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.” (7:1) “God remembered Noah***And God spake unto Noah, saying, Go forth of the ark, thou, and thy wife, and thy sons, and thy sons' wives with thee.” (8:1,15,16) “And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.” (12:1,2,4)

Also, in regard to faithfulness, we read at Psalm 101

6 Mine eyes shall be upon **the faithful** of the land, **that they may dwell with me:** he that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve me.

7 He **that worketh deceit** shall **not dwell** within my house: he **that telleth lies** shall **not tarry in my sight.**

And further, “Now the Lord said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country***unto a land that I will shew thee: and I will make of thee a great nation***” (**Genesis** 12:1,2,4)

Abraham sojourned in the land of Canaan as did his son, Isaac. Isaacs' son, Jacob, had twelve sons, and during a drought in the land of Canaan, Jacob went down to Egypt where he and his family multiplied into the nation, Israel. Some 400 years later, God sent Moses and brought the children of Israel out of Egypt.

After the Lord had delivered Israel (the great nation he promised to Abraham) out of the land of Egypt, Moses and the people sang this song unto the Lord at:

Exodus 15

1 Then sang Moses and the children of Israel **this song unto the LORD**, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.

2 The LORD is **my strength** and song, and he is become **my salvation:** he is **my God**, and **I will prepare him an habitation**; my father's God, and I will exalt him.

17 Thou shalt bring them in, and plant them in **the mountain of thine inheritance**, in the place, O LORD, which thou hast made for thee **to dwell** in, in the Sanctuary, O LORD, which thy hands have established.

During the time that Israel journeyed through the wilderness on their way to the land promised to Abraham and his seed, the Lord said unto Moses, at: Exodus 25

1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

2 Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring me an offering: of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart ye shall take my offering.

8 And let them make me a sanctuary; **that I may dwell among them.**

22 And **there** I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel

Thus, the children of Israel constructed the tabernacle wherein God would dwell among them. The tabernacle was made according to the pattern that God had given Moses. The Lord further instructed the children of Israel **at: Deuteronomy 12**

9 For ye are not as yet come **to the rest** and **to the inheritance**, which the LORD your God giveth you.

10 But when ye go over Jordan, and dwell in the land which the LORD your God giveth you to inherit, and **when he giveth you rest** from all your enemies round about, so that ye dwell in safety;

11 **Then** there shall be a place which the LORD your God shall choose to cause his name to dwell there; thither shall ye bring all that I command you; your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, your tithes, and the heave offering of your hand, and all your choice vows which ye vow unto the LORD:

Many years after Israel had crossed over the Jordan River and into the land of Canaan, King David desired to build an elaborate and more permanent house for God to dwell in, among the children of Israel. However, as we shall learn, Solomon, David's son, built the temple. ***And while Solomon built the temple for God to dwell in with His people Israel, God told David that He would build David a house, and that David's house, his kingdom, and his throne would be forever.*** **This matter is addressed at: 2 Samuel 7**

1 And it came to pass, when the king sat in his house, and the LORD had given him rest round about from all his enemies;

2 That the king said unto Nathan the prophet, See now, I dwell in an house of cedar, but the ark of God dwelleth within curtains.

3 And Nathan said to the king, Go, do all that is in thine heart; for the LORD is with thee.

4 And it came to pass that night, that the word of the LORD came unto Nathan, saying,

5 Go and tell my servant David, Thus saith the LORD, Shalt thou build me an house for me to dwell in?

6 Whereas I have not dwelt in any house since the time that I brought up the children of Israel out of Egypt, even to this day, but have walked in a tent and in a tabernacle.

7 In all the places wherein I have walked with all the children of Israel spake I a word with any of the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to feed my people Israel, saying, Why build ye not me an house of cedar?

10 Moreover I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them any more, as beforetime,

11 And as since the time that I commanded judges to be over my people Israel, and have caused thee to rest from all thine enemies. **Also the LORD telleth thee that he will make thee an house.**

12 And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, **I will set up thy seed after thee**, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and **I will establish his kingdom.**

13 **He shall build an house for my name**, and **I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever.**

14 **I will be his father, and he shall be my son.** If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men:

15 But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee.

16 And **thine house and thy kingdom** shall be established **for ever** before thee: **thy throne** shall be established **for ever.**

17 **According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David.**

18 Then went king David in, and sat before the LORD, and he said, Who am I, O Lord GOD? and what is my house, that thou hast brought me hitherto?

19 And this was yet a small thing in thy sight, O Lord GOD; but thou hast spoken also of thy servant's house **for a great while to come.** And is this **the manner of man**, O Lord GOD?

20 And what can David say more unto thee? for thou, Lord GOD, knowest thy servant.

21 For thy word's sake, and according to thine own heart, hast thou done all these great things, to make thy servant know them.

22 Wherefore thou art great, O LORD God: for there is none like thee, neither is there any God beside thee, according to all that we have heard with our ears.

23 And what one nation in the earth is like thy people, even like Israel, whom God went to redeem for a people to himself, and **to make him a name**, and to do for you great things and terrible, for thy land, before thy people, which thou redeemedst to thee from Egypt, from the nations and their gods?

24 For thou hast confirmed to thyself **thy people Israel** to be a people unto thee **for ever:** and thou, LORD, art become **their God.**

28 And now, O Lord GOD, thou art that God, and thy words be true, and thou hast promised this goodness unto thy servant:

29 Therefore now let it please thee to bless **the house** of thy servant, that it may continue **for ever** before thee: for thou, O Lord GOD, hast spoken it: and with thy blessing let the **house** of thy servant be blessed **for ever.**

When Solomon was king over Israel, we read:

1 Kings 4

1 So king Solomon was king over all Israel.

20 Judah and Israel were many, as the sand which is by the sea in multitude, eating and drinking, and making merry.

21 And Solomon reigned over all kingdoms from the river unto the land of the Philistines, and unto the border of Egypt: they brought presents, and served Solomon all the days of his life.

24 For **he had dominion over all the region** on this side the river, from Tiphshah even to Azzah, **over all the kings on this side the river:** and **he had peace on all sides round about him.**

25 And **Judah and Israel dwelt safely**, every man under his vine and under his fig tree, from Dan even to Beersheba, **all the days of Solomon.**

1 Kings 6

1 And it came to pass in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel were come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month Zif, which is the second month, that he began to build the house of the LORD.

11 And the word of the LORD came to Solomon, saying,

12 Concerning this house which thou art in building, **if thou wilt walk in my statutes, and execute my judgments, and keep all my commandments to walk in them; then will I perform my word with thee,** which I spake unto David thy father:

13 And **I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake my people Israel.**

14 So Solomon **built the house, and finished it.**

1 Kings 8

23 And he said, LORD God of Israel, there is no God like thee, in heaven above, or on earth beneath, who keepest covenant and mercy with thy servants **that walk before thee with all their heart:**

27 **But will God indeed dwell on the earth?** behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?

28 Yet have thou respect unto the prayer of thy servant, and to his supplication, O LORD my God, to hearken unto the cry and to the prayer, which thy servant prayeth before thee to day:

29 That thine eyes may be open toward this house night and day, even toward **the place of which thou hast said, My name shall be there:** that thou mayest hearken unto the prayer which thy servant shall make toward this place.

30 And hearken thou to the supplication of thy servant, and of thy people Israel, when they shall pray **toward this place:** and hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place: and when thou hearest, forgive.

As we continue the consideration of God's purpose in the creation, the **new covenant administration** reveals a further development in God's plan to dwell with his people. ***Jesus introduces to the Jews the transition from a temple constructed by men's hands to the house that God promised David, a spiritual house, and also, a spiritual kingdom wherein is David's eternal throne.***

The following scriptures provide a brief explanation of this new covenant fulfillment of God's desire to dwell with his people: John 2

13 And the Jews' passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

14 And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting:

15 And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables;

16 And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; **make not my Father's house an house of merchandise.**

17 And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up.

18 Then answered the Jews and said unto him, What sign shewest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things?

19 Jesus answered and said unto them, **Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.**

20 Then said the Jews, **Forty and six years was this temple in building,** and wilt thou rear it up in three days?

21 But he spake **of the temple of his body.**

22 When therefore he was **risen from the dead,** his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed **the scripture,** and **the word** which Jesus had said.

After Christ was raised from the dead and the Holy Spirit had come, Peter declared at: Acts 2

23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

24 **Whom God hath raised up,** having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.

25 For David speaketh **concerning him,** I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved:

26 Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope:

27 Because **thou wilt not leave my soul in hell,** neither wilt thou suffer **thine Holy One** to see corruption.

28 Thou hast made known to me **the ways of life;** thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance.

29 Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that **he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.**

30 Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, **that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne;**

Also, the apostle Paul referring to David at: Acts 13

23 **Of this man's seed** hath God **according to his promise** raised **unto Israel** a Saviour, Jesus:

Reference is made to Christ at: Hebrews 8

1 Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such a high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens;

2 A minister **of the sanctuary,** and **of the true tabernacle,** which **the Lord pitched,** and **not man.**

6 But **now** hath he obtained a **more excellent** ministry, by how much also he **is** the mediator **of a better covenant**, which was established upon better promises.

10 For **this is the covenant** that I will make **with the house of Israel after those days**, saith the Lord; I will **put my laws into their mind**, and **write them in their hearts**: and **I will be to them a God**, and **they shall be to me a people**

And, concerning the transition from Gods dwelling with his people under the old covenant, to his dwelling with them under the new covenant administration, we read: Hebrews 9

1 Then verily **the first covenant** had also ordinances of divine service, and a **worldly sanctuary**.

2 For there was a tabernacle made; the first, wherein was the candlestick, and the table, and the shewbread; **which is called the sanctuary**.

8 The Holy Ghost this signifying, that **the way into the holiest of all** was **not yet made manifest**, while as the **first tabernacle** was yet standing:

9 Which was **a figure** for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience;

11 **But Christ** being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and **more perfect tabernacle**, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;

15 And for this cause he is the mediator of the **new testament**, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under **the first testament**, they which are called might receive **the promise** of eternal inheritance

The new covenant made with Israel at Jeremiah 31:31-34 contained the following elements: 1. Law written in their hearts; 2. Be their God, and they shall be my people, (see Hebrews 8:10 above); 3. Teach no more every man his neighbor, saying, know the Lord, for they shall all know me; 4. Forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The following passages of scripture explain these elements as being realized by the church and in the New Jerusalem during this age; and (the bride and the Lamb's wife) in the age to come. **In reference to elements one (1) and two (2)**, Paul addresses **the church** at Corinth:

2 Corinthians 3

3 Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but **with the Spirit** of the living God; not in tables of stone, but **in fleshy tables of the heart**.

2 Corinthians 6

16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are **the temple of the living God**; as God hath said, I will **dwelt in them**, and **walk in them**; and I will **be their God**, and **they shall be my people**.

Regarding element three (3) of the new covenant promise the apostle John writes:

1 John 2

20 But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye **know** all things.

27 But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

1 John 5

20 And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us **an understanding**, that we may **know** him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

Concerning element four (4) the apostle Peter says:

Acts 5

29 Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

30 The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree.

31 Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a **Saviour**, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

32 And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.

Therefore, we observe that with the instituting of the new covenant, God no longer dwells with his people in a temple made by men, but rather, as the apostle Paul says **at: 1 Corinthians 3**

16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that **the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?**

In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul explains that the church is all of God's people gathered together into Christ, *the church being Christ's body, and includes both, Jew and Gentile:*

Ephesians 1

9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:

10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times[*] he might **gather together in one all** things in Christ, **both** which are **in heaven**, and which are **on earth**; even in him:

11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be **the head** over all things **to the church**,

23 Which is **his body**, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

***The "fulness of times" is during the present age. (see Galatians 4:4)**

Ephesians 2

19 Now therefore **ye** are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens **with the saints**, and of **the household** of God;

20 And are built upon **the foundation** of the **apostles** and **prophets**, Jesus Christ himself being **the chief corner stone**;

21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an **holy temple** in the Lord:

22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

The apostle Peter also provides insight concerning God's house, established in Christ by the Holy Spirit:

1 Peter 2

5 Ye also, as **lively stones**, are built up a **spiritual house**, an **holy priesthood**, to offer up **spiritual sacrifices**, acceptable to God by **Jesus Christ**.

6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a **chief corner stone**, elect, precious: and he that **believeth** on him shall not be confounded.

7 Unto you therefore **which believe** he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made **the head** of the corner,

8 And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

9 But **ye** are a **chosen generation**, a **royal priesthood**, an **holy nation**, a **peculiar people**; that **ye** should shew forth **the praises** of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light;

In verse nine (9) above, the word “praises” is the English translation of the Greek word “arête”, meaning “...(valor), i.e. *excellence*...” (Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance Of The Bible). This Greek word is also translated “virtues” at: Philippians 4:8; 2 Peter 1:3,5.

The manifestation of God’s virtues is the result of the transforming work of the Holy Spirit in God’s children. This transformation process is addressed at:

Romans 12

¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

² And be not conformed to this world: but **be ye transformed** by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

2 Corinthians 3

¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. ¹⁸ But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are **being transformed into the same image** from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Philippians 2

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation** with fear and trembling;

¹³ for **it is God who works in you** both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

In the book of Revelation, the final book of the Bible, wherein God has given us a view of things “hereafter” (Revelation 4:1), we see that God’s original purpose of dwelling with his people, who reign with him in his kingdom will be realized:

Revelation 21

1 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.

2 And I John saw **the holy city, new Jerusalem**, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3 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.**

4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: **for the former things are passed away.**

5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

7 He that overcometh shall **inherit all things**; and **I will be his God**, and **he shall be my son.**

9 And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee **the bride, the Lamb's wife.**

10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and **shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem**, descending out of heaven from God,

Revelation 22

3 And there shall be no more curse: but **the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:**

4 And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.

5 And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

Let us note several significant observations in concluding this consideration of the questions: Why did God perform this enormous creative act? What had God set before himself as an object to be attained in the creation? What was/is God pursuing in the creation of man?

First--God's original intent that man would subdue the earth and have dominion over all other living things is ultimately realized in His kingdom. This eternal reign by men is as servants of their Creator.

Second--Gods pursuit **of a personal relationship with man** is the dominant theme of scripture from the beginnings in Genesis through the ending in Revelation. Accordingly, Adam was engaged by God in a relationship in the garden in Eden. Then with Enos, men began to call on the name of the Lord. At Genesis 5:22, we are told that Enoch walked with God. So, also, did Noah who served God in the catastrophic event of the "flood".

Then, we learn of God's instruction to Abraham that, through Isaac and Jacob, resulted in the nation of Israel. ***Throughout the Old Testament, the nation of Israel is the focus of God's efforts to have a people with whom He could dwell, and through whom "all the people of the earth may know that the Lord is God, and that there is none else."*** (1Kings 8:60)

God raised up Moses, who led the children of Israel out of Egypt. Through Moses, God gave **the old covenant** instructions to the children of Israel. At this time the tabernacle was built.

Later, from among the children of Israel, God anointed David to be king over the nation. **It was to David that God promised, that of his seed a house would be built, wherein God would dwell.** Pursuant to this promise, Solomon, David's son, built the temple that was the place where God dwelled with **His people Israel.**

It is significant, however, to note that **the promise to David of a seed and a house would be realized ultimately, not in Solomon and the temple that he built, but rather, in Christ and a spiritual house, built of living stones.** (Regarding David's seed. See Acts 13:22,23). Concerning this house, Paul writes at: Ephesians 2

19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

21 In whom all the building fitly framed **together** groweth unto an holy temple **in the Lord:**

22 In whom ye also are builded **together** for an habitation of God **through the Spirit.**

Third--We see that God's promise to David ultimately referred to a future development of the divine administration of his purpose with man, called the "**new covenant**". This new covenant was instituted by **the death of Christ** and was realized in man by **the coming of the Holy Spirit**. We are told in Ephesians chapter 1, verses 13 and 14, that those who believe are "sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession***". ***The new covenant is an eternal covenant realized in measure until the resurrection of the body at the return of Christ, at which time the inheritance will be realized in its fullness.***

The scriptures that have been quoted and referred to in the book of Revelation show *God's full and complete accomplishment of His original purpose to dwell with man, under the new covenant, in and through the Person and work of his Son, Jesus Christ. And, by restoring man to the image of His Son, God's love, mercy, and grace in the process, coupled with the final result, manifests the divine glory.*