

BEHOLD –
TAKE A GOOD
LOOK!

Gen. 1:29-31



Gen 1:29 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.

Review

Our theme this year is...

VISION 20/20

HIS VISION. OUR FOCUS.

During the last couple of months, we have been observing situations where men and women in the Scriptures faced unforeseeable circumstances and walked by faith as they encountered them. This morning we will shift our focus to begin a new series...

BEHOLD – TAKE A GOOD LOOK!

In Tyndale's first English translation in 1525, the word "behold" meant "to hold in high regard." We will focus upon what God holds in high regard.

- "BEHOLD" occurs 1,326 times in 1,275 verses in the King James Bible.
- The first usage of "behold" is found in the Book of Genesis, where the Creator is telling Adam to "take a good look" in Garden of Eden:

Gen. 1:29 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.

- The second usage is a summary of creation:

Gen. 1:31 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.

- The third usage is the Creator's declaration of mankind's quest for deification of self:

Gen. 3:22 And the LORD God said, **Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil**: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:

Let's begin by looking at the first three usages of "behold."

I. THE CREATOR'S HANDIWORK

A. The General Description

Gen 1:26 **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.

- God, the Creator, made man after His own image, “male and female created he them.”
 - Mankind is a reflection of the Creator “...in our image, after our likeness...”

- Mankind, like the triune God, is also a trichotomy:

1 Thess. 5:23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and *I pray God* your whole **spirit and soul and body** be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- To reflect the Creator, we must worship Him “in spirit and in truth” (Jn. 4:24) and discipline ourselves to emphasize our spiritual growth and development.

Mt. 26:41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: **the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.**

- God, the Creator, blessed them and gave general directions for His plan.
- God, the Creator, stated the first “behold” in verses 29-30:

Gen. 1:29 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.

- Adam and Eve were “to take a good look” at the perpetual provisions – herbs, fruit, etc.
- God, the Creator, wants His creation to understand that He provides what we need!

B. The Specific Directions.

Gen. 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.**

- God, the Creator, revealed more details in Gen. 2 in that His provisions required Adam's responsibility for the care and upkeep.
- Adam's responsibility included the dire warning of the consequences of disobedience – "... **in the day** thou eatest thereof **thou shalt surely die.**"
- God, the Creator, wanted Adam to know that He has given the provisions for all that is needed, but it accompanies personal responsibility to maintain them.

II. THE CREATION'S HIGHLIGHTS

Gen. 1:31 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.

A. The Peculiarity – “...every thing that he had made, and, **behold, it was very good...**”

- The quality of creation, “...behold, *it was very good...*” is the second “behold” in the Scriptures.

Jas. 1:17 **Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights,** with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

B. The Purpose = to glorify the Creator!

Psa. 19:1 The heavens **declare the glory of God**; and the firmament **sheweth his handywork.**

- Every thing is made for the glory of God, especially mankind.

Isa. 43:7 *Even* every one that is called by my name: for **I have created him for my glory**, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.

- Believers, particularly, are to live their lives for God's glory:

Mt. 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, **that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.**

1 Pet. 2:12 Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, **they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God** in the day of visitation.

- Believers are obligated to the Creator to live a life that reflects fellowship with Him.

1 Jn. 2:6 He that saith **he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.**

1 Cor. 15:49 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, **we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.**

III. THE CREATION'S HORROR

Gen. 3:22 And the LORD God said, **Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil**: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:

23 **Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden**, to till the ground from whence he was taken.

A. The Desire for Deification of Self

Gen. 3:4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and **ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil**.

- From idolatry to atheism, mankind rebelled against the grace and goodness of God.
- Throughout history, the Scriptures have recorded God's goodness and severity.

Rom. 11:22 **Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God**: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in *his* goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be

B. The Deadly Destruction of Sin

- Adam's disobedience brought destruction of fellowship with Almighty God.

Rom. 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**:

Rom. 3:23 For **all have sinned**, and come short of the glory of God;

Mt. 7:13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and **broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat**:

- The third “behold” is to “take a good look” at the consequences of sin.
- The verdict of “death” has only One mediator – the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Tim. 2:5 For *there is* **one God**, and **one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus**;

1 Jn. 2:1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. **And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:**

2 And **he is the propitiation for our sins:** and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of* the whole world.

C. The Divine Deliverance by the Savior

Rom. 5:15 But not as the offence, so also *is* the free gift. **For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, *which is* by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.**

1 Cor. 15:45 And so it is written, **The first man Adam** was made a living soul; **the last Adam** *was made* a quickening spirit.

46 Howbeit that *was* not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.

47 The first man *is* of the earth, earthy: the second man *is* the Lord from heaven.

48 As *is* the earthy, such *are* they also that are earthy: and as *is* the heavenly, such *are* they also that are heavenly.

49 And **as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.**

- The third “behold” is devastating to mankind, but John the Baptist gave a greater “behold:”

Jn. 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, **Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.**

- Adam gave all of us a sinful nature, alienating us from God, but Christ delivers us from sin, enabling us to return to fellowship WITH God.

Isa. 38:17 **Behold**, for peace I had great bitterness: but **thou hast in love to my soul delivered it from the pit of corruption: for thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back.**

Psa. 103:12 As far as the east is from the west, **so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.**

- Through Christ, we have a new life, and victory over ourselves!
- Consider two more “beholds” and the magnitude of their blessing for mankind!

2 Cor. 5:17 Therefore **if any man be in Christ**, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; **behold**, **all things are become new.**

1 Jn. 3:1 **Behold**, **what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God**: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

Conclusion

The first things we are to “behold” and “to hold in high regard” are that the Creator provided every thing that Adam needed, especially fellowship with Him, and that through sinful and selfish disobedience, all was lost. Everything lost in Adam is possible to regain through the “Last Adam,” the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord has given us all the provisions we need to live victoriously in our day:

Eph. 6:10 Finally, my brethren, **be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.**

11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

13 Wherefore **take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.**

14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

16 **Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.**

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and **the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:**

18 **Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit,** and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;