

## LESSON 2:

# What is the Goal of Our Salvation?

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## Summary

The goal of human life is bound up with the Covenant of Life God made with Adam – and through him, with his posterity – at creation. This covenant established that man’s purpose was to bring glory to God by bearing God’s image and enjoying communion with Him. This high stature accentuates the seriousness of the Fall; the covenantal relationship also explains why God would move to save man in what would be codified in the Covenant of Grace.

### REQUIRED READINGS:

WCF ch. 4, “Of Creation,” WLC 15 & 17, WSC 9-10  
WCF 7.1-2, “Of God’s Covenant with Man,” WLC 20  
WLC, WSC 1, “The Chief End of Man”

## How Did God Create Man to Be? (WLC 15, 17, WSC 9-10, WCF 4)

### Westminster Confession of Faith

#### CHAPTER IV – *Of Creation*

1. It pleased God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, <sup>(a)</sup> for the manifestation of the glory of His eternal power, wisdom, and goodness, <sup>(b)</sup> in the beginning, to create, or make of nothing, the world, and all things therein whether visible or invisible, in the space of six days; and all very good. <sup>(c)</sup>
2. After God had made all other creatures, He created man, male and female, <sup>(d)</sup> with reasonable and immortal souls <sup>(e)</sup>, endued with knowledge, righteousness, and true holiness, after His own image; <sup>(f)</sup> having the law of God written in their hearts, <sup>(g)</sup> and power to fulfill it: <sup>(h)</sup> and yet under a possibility of transgressing, being left to the liberty of their own will, which was subject unto change. <sup>(i)</sup> Beside this law written in their hearts, they received a command, not to eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, <sup>(j)</sup> which while they kept, they were happy in their communion with God, and had dominion over the creatures. <sup>(k)</sup>

<sup>(a)</sup> Rom. 11:36; 1 Cor. 8:6; Heb. 1:2; John 1:2-3; Gen. 1:2; Job 26:13; Job 33:4

<sup>(b)</sup> Rom. 1:20; Jer. 10:12; Ps. 104:24; Ps. 33:5-6

<sup>(c)</sup> Gen. 1:1-31; Ps. 33:6; Heb. 11:3; Col. 1:16; Acts 17:24; Exod. 20:11

<sup>(d)</sup> Gen. 1:27

<sup>(e)</sup> Gen. 2:7; Eccl. 12:7; Luke 23:43; Matt. 10:28

<sup>(f)</sup> Gen. 1:26; Col. 3:10; Eph. 4:24

<sup>(g)</sup> Rom. 2:14-15

<sup>(h)</sup> Eccl. 7:29; Gen. 2:17

<sup>(i)</sup> Gen. 3:6, 17; [Eccl. 7:29]

<sup>(j)</sup> Gen. 2:15-3:24

<sup>(k)</sup> Gen. 1:26, 28-30; Ps. 8:6-8

Westminster Larger Catechism	Westminster Shorter Catechism
<p><b>Question 15</b></p> <p><b>Q. <i>What is the work of creation?</i></b></p> <p><b>A.</b> The work of creation is that wherein God did in the beginning, by the word of his power, make of nothing the world, and all things therein, for himself, within the space of six days, and all very good. <sup>(a)</sup></p> <p>(a) Gen. 1, Heb. 11:3, Prov. 16:4</p> <p><b>Question 17</b></p> <p><b>Q. <i>How did God create man?</i></b></p> <p><b>A.</b> After God had made all other creatures, he created man male and female; <sup>(b)</sup> formed the body of the man of the dust of the ground, <sup>(c)</sup> and the woman of the rib of the man, <sup>(d)</sup> endued them with living, reasonable, and immortal souls; <sup>(e)</sup> made them after his own image, <sup>(f)</sup> in knowledge, <sup>(g)</sup> righteousness, and holiness; <sup>(h)</sup> having the law of God written in their hearts, <sup>(i)</sup> and power to fulfill it, <sup>(j)</sup> and dominion over the creatures; <sup>(k)</sup> yet subject to fall. <sup>(l)</sup></p> <p>(b) Gen. 1:27  (c) Gen. 2:7  (d) Gen. 2:22  (e) Gen. 2:7, Job 35:11, Eccl. 12:7, Matt. 10:28, Luke 23:43  (f) Gen. 1:27  (g) Col. 3:10  (h) Eph. 4:24  (i) Rom. 2:14-15  (j) Eccl. 7:29  (k) Gen. 1:28  (l) Gen. 3:6, Eccl. 7:29</p>	<p><b>Question 9</b></p> <p><b>Q. <i>What is the work of creation?</i></b></p> <p><b>A.</b> The work of creation is, God's making all things of nothing, by the word of his power, in the space of six days, and all very good. <sup>(a)</sup></p> <p>(a) Gen. 1, Heb. 11:3</p> <p><b>Question 10</b></p> <p><b>Q. <i>How did God create man?</i></b></p> <p><b>A.</b> God created man male and female, after his own image, in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness, with dominion over the creatures. <sup>(b)</sup></p> <p>(b) Gen. 1:26-28, Col. 3:10, Eph. 4:24</p>



# Study Questions

## Preparation

1. How would you define what a covenant is?

## Observation

2. How does WCF 7.1 describe God's covenants with man?
3. What four items do the Confession and the Larger and Shorter Catechisms mention about man's original state? How do these qualities reflect God's image?
4. How does the Genesis 1-3 account suggest man was in communion with God? How does WCF 7.2 characterize man's relationship with God before the Fall?
5. What does the first question in both the Larger and Shorter Catechism describe man's ultimate purpose as being?

## Reflection

6. People today do not view man as being made in God's image. Has that elevated or lowered man's dignity? Explain.
7. How does this understanding of man's purpose compare with that held by people today? How might this be both challenging and attractive to others?