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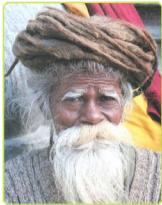
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"God that made the world and all things therein . . . hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; that they should seek the Lord."
(Acts 17:24, 26–27)

I. The Beginnings of the Human Race

With these words the apostle Paul began preaching a sermon in Athens, one of the most important cities in the ancient world. Much of this sermon was actually a survey of world history. The people of Athens had studied history—Athens was famous for its schools. But Paul knew that they did not understand history. The men of Athens had never done what you are about to do: they had never studied history from the Word of God.

The Creation of the World

"In the beginning God—." The Bible's first four words make a very important point. God (or **Jehovah** [ji HO vuh] as He is often called in the Bible) existed when nothing else did, and all that has come into being was made by Him. For this reason, God owns every galaxy, every planet, and every human. All should honor and obey the One Who has graciously chosen to let them exist.

A Great and Mighty Creator

God created His world simply by speaking. In six days the earth went from being a dark, water-covered planet to a beautiful place that God Himself said was "very good" (Gen. 1:31). God accomplished this amazing work with only a series of commands.

The events of this world's first week teach **divine sovereignty**, God's complete and permanent control over this world. The words of Jehovah are powerful. They determine what is and what will be. Whatever opposition He has faced in history, He has chosen to face it so that He may use it for His own purposes. Jehovah is indeed the Supreme Being, the One Who "worketh all things after the counsel of his own will" (Eph. 1:11).

The Best Part of Creation

God's work of creation came to its climax after He made the animals on the sixth day. Up to that point, God had created by using the impersonal command, "Let there be." But just before His final creation, He said, "Let us make man" (Gen. 1:26).





Made in God's Image

The reason for this special interest was that humans were to be God's great masterpiece. Unlike the other creatures, humans would be made in God's own image (Gen. 1:27).

The **image of God** in man is a set of qualities possessed by all humans that reflects God's own personality. Because humans are made in God's image, they are like God in many important ways. Like God, they have the ability to think, love, use language, know right and wrong, and enjoy relationships.

Because all humans are made in God's image, all humans are precious in God's sight. They are far more precious than the other creatures. Also, because humans are made in God's image, they are religious beings. They know that they have not made themselves, and they sense that to know themselves, they must know their Creator. This is the reason that all human societies have been religious in some way.

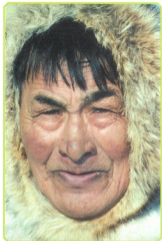
Made to Rule

Jehovah created humans with a job to do. After making the first man and woman, He told 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" (Gen. 1:28). This command, often called the **Creation Mandate**, reveals why God made humans.

The Meaning of the Creation Mandate—The central command of Genesis 1:28 is to "subdue" the earth by having "dominion" over it. Whether that part of God's world is a peanut or the Ganges River, humans are called by God to think of ways to tame the earth and to make it useful.

To exercise this kind of dominion requires all sorts of knowledge and skill—knowledge of science, math, technology, language, and history. The Creation Mandate is not a command about just fish and birds. It is about developing **culture**, the physical and mental environment developed through human thought and labor.

The Creation Mandate and Civilization—Central to the study of world history is the study of civilization. The word **civilization** refers to human culture as it is lived in cities or under the influence of cities. Historically, a **city** is more than a place where many people live. It is a cultural institution in which humans who share certain core values work together to improve their quality of life. They work together by dividing their labor.



Everyone is made in the image of God to reflect His glory.



700-1600

Pepin the Short is crowned king of the Franks and founds the Carolingian Dynasty 751

Pope Urban II calls for the first crusade against Muslim control of the Holy Land 1095

The pope crowns and proclaims Charlemagne Roman Emperor December 25, 800

William of Normandy successfully invades England 1066

700

800

900

1000

1100

Hugh Capet, Count of Paris, founds the Capetian Dynasty 987

Pope Gregory VII forces a German ruler to submit to the papacy or lose his crown 1077

I. Interval Between the Fall of Rome and the Rise of Feudalism

Rise of European Kingdoms

During the fifth century, German tribes began to migrate onto land governed by the Roman Empire. They often fled more aggressive tribes. As the Roman Empire weakened, German tribes increased in power. By 476 the Western Roman Empire had fallen.

While the Roman government collapsed, Christianity thrived and spread throughout the German tribes. These tribes became the foundation of Medieval Europe. For example, the Franks settled in the region of Gaul (France) and formed several powerful kingdoms.



Merovingian House

Clovis became the leader of one of these Frankish kingdoms in 481. He used military force and other means to combine several kingdoms. During an important battle, he cried out to God for victory and promised to be baptized. He won the battle and fulfilled his promise. Clovis also ordered three thousand of his soldiers to be baptized into the Roman Church. The embracing of this form of Christianity won Clovis the support of the Roman Church. This alliance between the Frankish rulers and the Church of Rome endured for centuries.

When Clovis died, the kingdom was divided among his four sons. This royal line became known as the Merovingians. By the seventh century, this family had lost influence due to careless and immoral living. The **mayor of the palace** (the leading palace official) became the real power in the kingdom.

Carolingian House

Near the end of the seventh century, Pepin II became the mayor of the palace in a strong Frankish territory. He conquered neighboring territories and united them under one rule. Charles Martel (see

European slave traders (mostly from Britain, France, and Portugal) anchored their ships off the western coast of Africa to pick up their human cargoes. African raiders brought slaves from the interior to the coast. Held captive in chains, ropes, or yokes, the slaves were forced by the raiders to walk many miles to the coast.

After the harsh treatment received during the land journey, the slaves' sea voyage proved to be even worse. The traders crammed the slaves into their ships, which had decks too low to stand between and were often too crowded to move in. Sailors chained each slave to the ship to prevent his escape. For two months they lived—or died—in these hot, filthy quarters. At times they were allowed fresh air and exercise above deck, but in poor weather they were kept below with no fresh air. As much as twenty-five percent of these men, women, and children died before reaching the New World.

Africa had entered the nineteenth century with a few powerful leaders engaged in supplying slaves to European and Muslim nations. As this evil practice ended, African states found positive and productive ways to produce wealth.



Tapping a rubber tree

Progress in Africa after the Slave Trade

As they had for centuries, several states in Africa maintained their independence during most of the nineteenth century. Kings and chiefs continued to rule over expanding states, and a modern Africa began to emerge.

Trade in slaves had ended, thanks in large part to efforts of the British and their navy. The African economy changed from selling slaves to providing raw materials needed by industrial countries. These materials included ivory, beeswax, honey, cotton, and rubber. Palm oil remained the leading export because industrial nations used it to lubricate their machines.



Oil palm tree fruit

Oil palm tree



Transition in Africa

The transition of the African economy brought many benefits. We will briefly examine a few of them.

Warfare and raiding of enemy tribes did not begin with the advent of slavery. However, the growing demand for slaves in the New World led to a great increase of both. When the British navy effectively ended the slave trade around 1850, the warfare and raids declined significantly.

Powerful leaders of African tribes had controlled the slave trade and the wealth it generated. Once slavery had ended, most Africans enjoyed an improved distribution of wealth. Since anyone could harvest the natural resources, many Africans took advantage of this opportunity. Known as a **gathering-based economy**, this change allowed more Africans access to the wealth that poured into Africa. Crops that could quickly be sold for cash included cocoa and peanuts (in addition to those mentioned above).

With the decline in warfare and the end of the slave trade, Africa experienced a steady increase in population.



Cocoa beans from the cocoa fruit

Section Quiz

1. Most nations in Europe are experiencing a(n) _____ in population.
2. In the coming years, a growing percentage of the world's population will live outside of _____.
3. Name an outspoken supporter of the man-made global warming theory.
- 4–5. List two energy sources and briefly describe how they are used to produce energy.
- * Briefly describe man's role in the environment based on Genesis 1:28 and Matthew 22:39.

II. Global Economy

Today a person can go almost anywhere in the world and find his favorite soft drink or fast food. In addition, products previously available only in a distant market can be purchased locally because of our global economy.

Causes

While the global economy began to develop following World War II, its growth has accelerated in the last two decades. Many recent events have made possible a truly global economy. In Chapter 19 you learned about the fall of communism in Eastern Europe. This political change dramatically increased opportunities for trade. Improvements in transportation and trade agreements have also made it possible to ship products across many national boundaries. In addition, technology has contributed to the efficiency of trade on a global level. Finally, sustained peace among many nations of the world allows global trade to flourish.

Examples

Organizing regions into large trade zones has taken several forms. We will look at two examples.

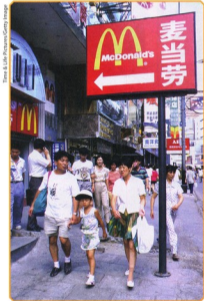
Free Trade Areas

Many nations have established economic trade zones in order to increase trade. Members of these trade blocs agree to remove tariffs and quotas (amounts of products that other countries can sell to the members of these trade zones). **Free trade areas** exist in many regions, including parts of Africa, Latin America, Southeast Asia, and the South Pacific.

Single Market

Several regions have developed economic and monetary zones that cross national boundaries and include multiple states. This **single market** enables states to trade with one another without restriction. The single market has resulted in greater wealth for the member states. We will briefly examine three examples of this system.

The **European Union (EU)** is an economic and political alliance of nearly thirty nations across Europe. This organization built upon the European Economic Community described in Chapter 19. The



A McDonald's restaurant in Shanghai, China, illustrates the global economy.