

The Purpose of God's Creation & Our Existence

神創造和我們存在的目的



Scriptures 經文

Genesis 創世記 1:26-27

Isaiah 以賽亞書 43:7

Ephesians 以弗所書 1:11,12,17,18

Maryland Gospel Church 馬利蘭福音教會 3-19-23

創世記 Genesis 1 : 26, 27

- 26 神說、我們要照著我們的形像、按著我們的樣式造人、使他們管理海裡的魚、空中的鳥、地上的牲畜、和全地、並地上所爬的一切昆蟲。
- 27 神就照著自己的形像造人、乃是照著祂的形像造男造女。

- 26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."**
- 27 So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.**

以賽亞書 Isaiah 43 : 7

**7 凡稱為我名下的人、是我為自己的榮耀創造的、
是我所作成、所造作的**

**7 Everyone who is called by My name,
Whom I have created for My glory;
I have formed him, yes, I have made him."
(NKJV)**

以弗所書 Ephesians 1 : 11, 12

11 我們也在祂裡面得了基業、這原是那位隨己意行作萬事的、照著祂旨意所豫定的。

12 叫祂的榮耀、從我們這首先在基督裡有盼望的人、可以得著稱讚。

11 In Him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the plan of Him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of His will,

12 in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of His glory.

以弗所書 Ephesians 1 : 17, 18

17 我求我們主耶穌基督的神、榮耀的父、將那賜人智慧和啟示的靈、賞給你們、使你們真知道祂。

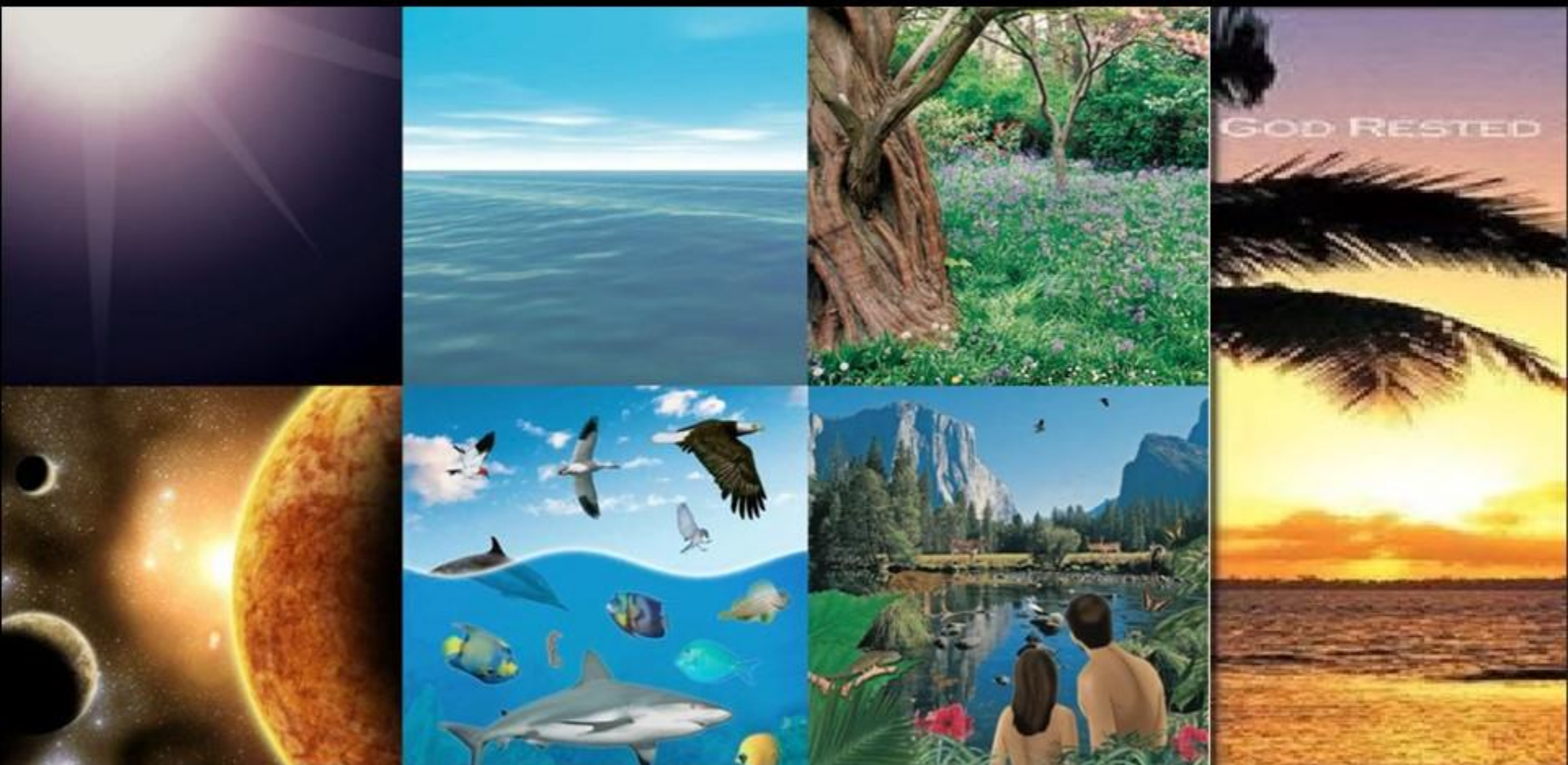
18 並且照明你們心中的眼睛、使你們知道祂的恩召有何等指望。祂在聖徒中得的基業、有何等豐盛的榮耀。

17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may come to full knowledge of Him.

18 I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints

The Purpose of God's Creation & Our Existence

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Genesis 創世記 1:26-27

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Maryland Gospel Church 馬利蘭福音教會 3-19-23

引言

Introduction

Two months ago I preached on Psalm 19. It touched on the subject of God's general revelation and His creation work.

兩個月前，我講了詩篇第19篇。是關於神的普通啟示和祂創造的工作。

Since then the subject of God's creation has occupied my mind leading up to today's sermon.

從那時起，神的創造一直佔據著我的腦海，導至我講今天的信息

I did a lot of research on this subject and God provided me with excellent resources.

對這個主題我做了很多探討，神也供應我極豐富的資料。

引言 Introduction

Today's sermon is on what is the purpose of God's creation and our existence. This is a very important and profound question.

今天的講道是神創造世界和我們存在的目的是什麼。
這是一個非常重要和深刻的問題

From the scriptures we read this morning, most of you probably already know God did it for His glory and this answer is correct.

從我們剛讀到的經文中，大多數人可能已經意識到神的創造是為了祂的榮耀，沒錯。

But the real meaning of this simple answer is much deeper than it seems.

但這個簡單答案的真正含義比看起來要深刻得多。

You may have wondered if perhaps God was lonely and bored before the creation, so He decided to design and make a complicated and meaningful system to show off His creativity and intelligence and to amuse Himself.

引言

Introduction

也許你曾想過神在創世之前是不是很孤單無聊，所以祂決定設計並製造一個複雜而有意義的系統來炫耀祂的創造力和智慧並自娛自樂。

You may also have wondered if God was lacking any glory so He needs to make creatures to praise Himself and glorify Himself. 你可能也想過神是不是缺少了榮耀，所以祂需要受造物來榮耀和讚美祂。

The answer to these questions is an emphatically NO. 這些問題的答案肯定是錯。

God is not alone, He is not bored because God is a triune God and within the Godheads there is immeasurable joy and love. 神並不孤單，祂並不無聊。祂是三位一體的神，在三個位格中充滿了無盡的愛和喜樂。

And God does not need to create creatures to give Him additional praise and glory because His name El Shaddai implies He is an all-sufficient God 神並不需要用受造物加添祂的榮耀和讚美，因為祂的名字 El Shaddai 意指祂就是一位全備、全足的神。

引言

Introduction

So what was God's purpose in creating the world and mankind? 那麼神創造世界和人類究竟有什麼目的呢？

We need experts who who have sharp minds, who understand the Bible well, who know God well to give us a satisfactory answer. 我們需要有敏銳頭腦，非常明白聖經，真正認識神的專家給我們一個滿意的答案。

In this regard I am not qualify to speak on this subject, so I won't be talking too much today. 在這方面，我沒有資格在這個話題發言，所以我不會講太多。

But God does not disappoint us and He has provided us extremely qualified people to preach on this subject. 但神沒有讓我們失望，而是提供了非常優質的講員來給我們提供答案。

So my role today will be a moderator and commentator. 所以我今天的角色只是一個主持人和解說員。

史普羅博士

Dr. R. C. Sproul

Our first speaker is Dr. R. C. Sproul (1939 – 2017)

今天的第一位講員是史普羅牧師 / 博士 (1939 – 2017)

R. C. Sproul was an American Reformed theologian and ordained pastor in the Presbyterian Church in America. He was the founder and chairman of Ligonier Ministries



史普羅博士是一位美國改革宗(歸正)神學家，也是美國長老會的牧師。他是林格尼爾福音事工的創始人和主席

R. C. Sproul was a gifted teacher and sought after speaker who brought the Bible alive to his audience

史普羅博士是一位有天賦的聖經教師，他善於把聖經活潑生動地講解讓聽眾明白。

從塵土到榮耀 From Dust to Glory

從塵土到榮耀 (系列)

第二課：上帝在人裡面的形像

史普羅博士

The Image of God in Man

R. C. Sproul

From Dust to Glory (series)

從塵土到榮耀2—上帝在人裡面的形像 史普羅

連結



The Image of God in Man: Dust to
Glory R.C. Sproul

Link



We will watch a 15-minute summary video from an original 23-minute message by Dr. Sproul

以下15分鐘的播放是從史普羅牧師23分鐘講道中摘取出來

The video comes in both English and Chinese versions. 視頻有中、英文兩版。

Due to limited time, I can only play the Chinese version, but the English version has been sent to the congregation who do not understand Chinese 由於時間有限，我只播放中文版，英文版已經發給聽不懂中文的會衆了

從塵土到榮耀 (1) From Dust to Glory (1)

從塵土到榮耀

第二課：上帝在人裡面的形像

史普羅博士

從塵土到榮耀



從塵土到榮耀 From Dust to Glory

What Dr. Sproul just said is so true because suicide is a serious problem today. CDC statistics indicates that suicide is the 12th. leading cause of death in America.

史普羅剛才說的很真實，因為今天自殺是一個嚴重的問題。CDC 的統計數據顯示自殺在美國死亡原因中排第12位。

Statistics also indicate that suicide rate is on a rapid rise among teenagers, even among pre-teens.

統計數據也顯示，青少年的自殺率正在迅速上升，甚至在青春前期也是如此。

I believe computers, technology and artificial intelligence will displace many jobs and make many people feel useless and lose purpose in life, giving rise to more suicide .

我相信計算機、高科技和人工智能將取代許多工作崗位，使更多的人感到自己無用，失去生活目標，從而導致自殺。

從塵土到榮耀 (2) From Dust to Glory (2)



萬一我的存在是有目的的呢？

The Image of God in Man – from Dust to Glory (2)

The Image of God in Man

R. C. Sproul

更加深入探索 **Going Deeper**

We thank God that Dr. Sproul's teaching is always enlightening, rich, clear and easy to understand.

我們感謝神，史普羅牧師的教導總是富有啟發性、內容豐富、清晰和容易明白。

But Dr. Sproul's video is just today's appetizer because we need to dig deeper into the meaning of this subject.

不過史普羅牧師的視頻只是今天的開胃菜，因為我們還需要更深入地挖掘這個主題的含義。

We need to know what is the glory of God?

我們需要明白什麼是神的榮耀？

How does God glorify Himself through His creation? 神如何透過祂的創造得著榮耀？

What is the chief end of God's creation?

神創造的主要目的是什麼？

喬納森·愛德華茲 Jonathan Edwards

For an in-depth study on this subject, we must turn to Jonathan Edwards

為了深入研究這個主題, 我們需要閱讀 喬納森·愛德華茲的寫作。



1703 - 1758

Jonathan Edwards was a Puritan pastor, revivalist, philosopher, and theologian in the United States 300 years ago. 喬納森·愛德華茲 是三百年前美國的一位清教徒牧師, 奮興佈道家、哲學家 and 神學家。

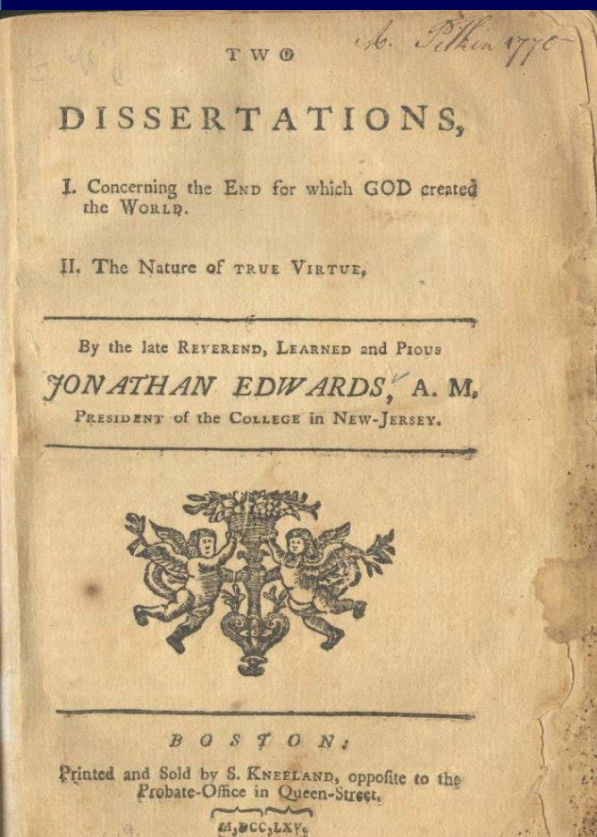
He was also the third president of Princeton University. He was instrumental in starting the "Great Awakening" in the 1730s & 1740s 他也是普林斯頓大學的第三任校長。愛德華茲是 1730 和 1740 年代美國屬靈大覺醒運動的主要發起人之一

He is considered one of America's foremost and original philosophical theologians.

他被認為是美國最重要和最具原創性的哲學神學家之一。

A Great Theological Treatise by Jonathan Edwards

喬納森·愛德華茲的一篇偉大神學論文



A few years before he died, Jonathan Edwards worked out a very important theological work – He wrote “A Dissertation Concerning the End for Which God Created the World”

喬納森·愛德華茲 去世前幾年完成了一篇非常重要的神學論文—— “關於神創造世界的目的”

Even today, almost 300 years later, Edwards' dissertation still captivates the minds of many theologians and Bible scholars

即使在差不多300年後的今天，愛德華茲的論文仍然吸引著許多神學家和聖經學者的思想

Edwards' dissertation is important yet difficult to understand. But we need to strive to understand it. 他的論文非常重要但不容易理解，我們需要努力去明白它。

Concerning the End for Which God Created the World

神創造世界的目的

One of those people captivated by Edwards' dissertation is Joe Rigney, president and professor of theology in Bethlehem College and Seminary.

被愛德華茲的論文深深吸引的人之一是伯利恒大學和神學院院長兼神學教授喬·里格尼。

Professor Rigney produced a seven-part video course on Edwards' dissertation

里格尼教授製作了一個關於愛德華茲論文的七部分視頻課程

[1 Course Introduction](#)

[2 Definitions & Assumptions](#)

[3 The Initial Answer](#)

[4 The Final Answer](#) : 最終答案

[5 Criteria & Candidates](#)

[6 Objections & Responses](#)

[7 Application for Worship](#)

Our limited time only allows us to watch some highlights from the 4th. part of this video course
我們有限的時間只容許我們觀看第四部分課程的重要亮點

God's Glory in Creation 神 創 造 世 界 的 榮 耀

Because of time constraint I can only present short clips from professor Rigney's video lessons.

由於時間有限，我只能播放里格尼教授的視頻課程的簡短片段。

Since the videos are only in English, we will give a short Chinese and English summary before or after each clip. 由於視頻只有英文，我們會在每個片段之前或之後作簡短的中英文摘要。

**“it appears that all that is ever spoken of in the Scripture as an ultimate end of God's works is includes in that one phase, the glory of God...”
But what is the glory of God?**

看來似乎聖經中說到神一切工作的最終目的，都包含在
“神的榮耀”這句話裏.....”但什麼是神的榮耀呢？

Edwards defines the glory of God in creation as an external overflow, exhibition, and communication of His internal glory and fullness.

愛德華茲將神在創造中的榮耀，定義為祂內在的榮耀和豐盛的外溢、展示和傳遞。

God's Glory in Creation 神創造世界的榮耀

Chapter 2.7: Bringing It All Together

"For it appears that all that is ever spoken of in the scriptures as an ultimate end of God's works, is included in that one phrase, the glory of God."

But what does this mean?



God's Glory in Creation 神 創 造 世 界 的 榮 耀

How does God glorify Himself through His creation?
神如何透過祂的創造榮耀祂自己呢?

The overflow of God's internal glory produces an effect in people He created and have chosen, giving them the knowledge and understanding of Himself, causing them to delight in Him, esteem Him, value Him, enjoy Him and love Him. In this way the Creator is glorified.

神內在榮耀的外溢在祂創造和揀選的人身上產生效果，使他們認識神，理解神、尊榮神、享受神、以神為樂並愛慕祂。這樣造物主就從祂的創造物得著了榮耀。

It should be understood that in this process the glory of God is both an outflow and a backflow. The glory shines upon and into the creature, and is reflected back to the luminary.

應該明白的是：在這過程中神的榮耀既是溢出又是回流。榮光照在和照入被造物身上，然後又反射回到發光體。

God's Glory in Creation 神創造世界的榮耀

The light of glory comes from God, belongs to God, and returns to God. So all things are of God, in God, and to God; God is the beginning of things, the process of things, and the end of things. "

榮耀之光來自神，屬於神，又歸回神。所以一切都出於神，在神裡，也歸於神；神是事情的開始、事情的過程和結束。"

The following is my insert 以下是我加插的:

As Paul said "For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ." " "And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord" (2 Cor. 4: 6; 3: 18)

這正如保羅在哥林多後書所說: "那吩咐光從黑暗裡照出來的神、已經照在我們心裡、叫我們得知神榮耀的光顯在耶穌基督的面上" (林後4:6).... "我們眾人既然敞著臉、得以看見主的榮光、好像從鏡子裡返照、就變成主的形狀、榮上加榮" (林後3:18)

Communication of God's Glory to His Creatures

神把祂內在的榮耀傳遞給祂的受造物

Chapter 2.7: Bringing It All Together

"And therefore, the communication of God's glory is the communication of the glory of His things, etc. as communicated by the Father to the Son, and by the Son to the Spirit, and by the Spirit to the Church, and by the Church to the world, and by the world to the angels, and by the angels to the spirits, and by the spirits to the saints, and by the saints to the glorified, so that there are clearly implied in that glory of God, which consists in the communication of his eternal glory."

How do these come to us?



The Chief Ultimate End in God's Creation

神創造世界的至終主要目的

There are multiple purposes in God's creation.

神的創造具有多重目的

For example, a person goes out to the pharmacy to buy medicine for treatment. Going out to the pharmacy is his secondary purpose.

Buying and taking the medicine is his ultimate goal. To be healed is his chief (main) purpose.

舉例說一個人外出去藥房買藥治病。出去藥房是他的次要目的。買藥和服藥是他的終極目的。要病得醫治乃是他的主要目的。

Edwards was looking for God's "original chief end (purpose)" in His creation.

愛德華茲尋找的是神在創世之前的“原本主要目的”。

Edwards saw from the Bible, the triune God in glory before the creation, delighting in each other, loving each other, and united with each other in oneness and harmony.

愛德華茲從聖經中看到，三位一體的神在創世以先是在榮耀中，彼此喜悅，彼此相愛。在合一、和諧和一體中。

The Chief Ultimate End in God's Creation

神創造世界的至終主要目的



Professor Rigney used a diagram to show God's oneness in the Trinity before the creation. 里格尼教授用一張圖展示了神在創造之前在三位一體中的合一。

Then Edwards saw from the "high priest prayer" of Jesus in John 17, before His crucifixion, that God's chief purpose in creation is to bring those whom He has created, chosen, and redeemed (that is, the church) into His own life, into union with Him.

然後愛德華茲從約翰福音17章, 耶穌受難前“大祭司的禱告”中看到神創造的至終主要目的是將祂所創造、所揀選和所救贖的人類（也就是教會）帶進祂自己的生命裏面，與祂聯合。

Professor Rigney also showed in the diagram God's plan to add the church, the bride of Christ to God's oneness in the Trinity. 里格尼教授在圖表中也展示了神計劃將教會，即基督的新婦加入三位一體中的合一中。



The Chief Ultimate End in God's Creation

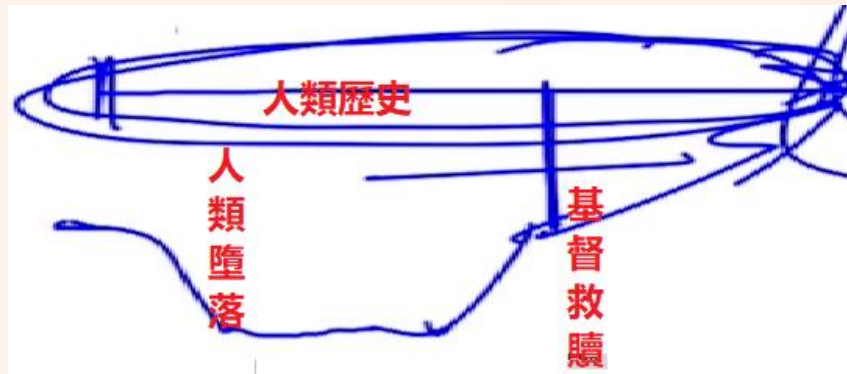
神創造世界的至終主要目的

The whole process of human history is to make this happen and this is the chief end of God's creation.

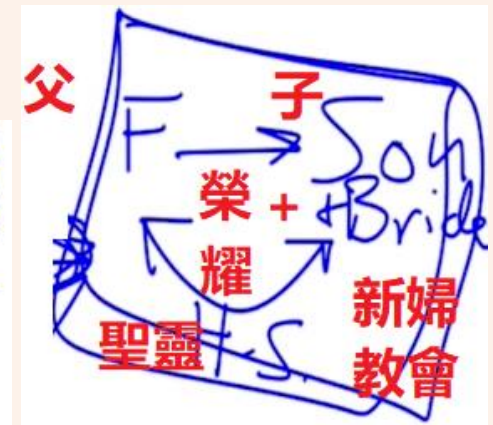
人類歷史的整個過程就是要達到這個目標，這就是神創造世界和人類的主要目的。



Beginning
起始



History 歷史過程



End
結束

The Chief Ultimate End in God's Creation

神創造世界的至終主要目的

Chapter 2.7:
Bringing It All Together



The Chief Ultimate End in God's Creation

神創造世界的至終主要目的

The High Point of Scripture: John 17

John 17:1-5

When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed."



Unraveling a Big Mystery in the Bible

解開聖經中一大奧秘

Does anyone know what **BIG MYSTERY I am talking about?** 你們有誰知道我在說什麼**大奧秘**呢?

Ephesians Chapter 5 says that the union between a man and his wife is a join into one flesh, and that it is a great mystery.

以弗所書 第五章說到男人與妻子連合、二人成為一體是**極大的奧秘**

Why is it a great mystery? 為什麼這是個**極大的奧秘**呢?

Then Paul explained that he was talking about the oneness between Christ and the church 然後保羅解釋說他是指基督和教會聯合 (連結)

Many of us know the church is the bride of Christ and she will be together with Christ just like husband and wife. So why is it still a profound mystery? 我們許多人都知道教會是基督的新婦，與基督在一起就像夫妻一樣，既來大家都知道為什麼這仍是一個“**極大的奧秘**”呢?

We don't get it. 我們不明白。

Unraveling a Big Mystery in the Bible

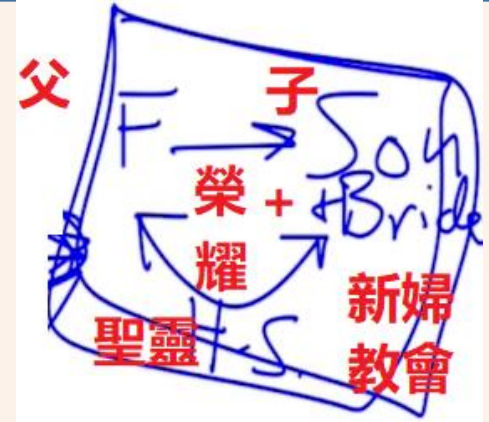
解開聖經中一大奧秘

Now think of this 現在想想這個：

2 joined in 1 flesh 二人一體

3 joined in 1 (the Trinity) 三位一體

Do you get it now ? 你明白了沒有？



In becoming one with Christ, the church is joining the triune God because Christ is in the Trinity

教會與基督合而為一，就是加入了三位一體的神，因為基督是在三位一體的神中。

This is like marrying a prince and becoming part of the royal family except much more. We are talking about joining the Godhead ! 這就像嫁給王子成為王室的一員，但我們在這裏說及的是與神格連合，這是無與倫比的！

It is a huge privilege for us to be invited into the Godhead thru Christ and this is a profound mystery.

我們藉著基督被邀請進入神格中是極大的榮耀，這就是極大的奧秘。

Unraveling a Big Mystery in the Bible

解開聖經中一大奧秘

Now all of a sudden other mysteries and puzzling words in the Bible also becomes clear to us

忽然之間，聖經中的其他奧秘和令人費解的話語也變得清晰起來

In Ephesians 1 Paul prayed that God would give us the the Spirit of wisdom and revelation to enlighten our heart so that we may know the hope of God's calling for us and the riches of God's glory among the saints.

在以弗所一章，保羅祈求神賜給我們智慧和啟示的靈，照明我們心中的眼睛，使我們知道神呼召我們的盼望並祂在聖徒中有何等豐盛的榮耀。

What is that glory and hope? 那榮耀和盼望是什麼？

It is none other than what we just talked about – Our hope of joining the Godhead thru Christ.

就是我們剛剛說過的 — 透過基督加入神格的盼望和榮耀

We thank God for Jonathan Edwards' dissertation which is so enlightening. May everyone be bless by his work.

我們要為喬納森·愛德華茲 極具啟發性的論文感謝神。願每個人都因此而蒙福。

The Purpose of God's Creation & Our Existence

神創造和我們存在的目的



Genesis 創世記 1:26-27

Isaiah 以賽亞書 43:7

Ephesians 以弗所書 1:11,12,17,18

Maryland Gospel Church 馬利蘭福音教會 3-19-23