

Genesis Chapter 2

V: 1 God's creative work was complete, everything was set in motion.

- The Hebrew style of teaching is often repetitive. Kind of like the FBI model of instruction.
 1. Tell them what you're going to teach them.
 2. Teach them what your going to teach them.
 3. Tell them what you taught them.
- Some of you may have noticed over these months that typically, we will read the scriptures together at the start, then as we go through we end up reading each verse again, and sometimes again.
- By the time we've been through a chapter you may have heard the scripture all by itself, excluding commentary or references 2-3 or more times.
- I'm trying not to rely on any ability as a teacher, apart from God's grace, I'm relying on God's word.

Isaiah 55:11 "So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing who which I sent it."

Jeremiah 23:29 "It not My word like a fire? Says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?"

Ezekiel 36:26 "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh."

- Chapter two is a review of the creation, it is a more detailed account of the summary that was given in chapter one.

"and all the host of them were finished."

Psalms 33:6 "By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth."

"Finished" (H-3615) "kalah" – finish, complete, accomplished.

V: 2 God rested from His work of creation. *"Rested"* (H-7673) "sabat" root of sabbath.

- He rested, but not absolutely, just from this. (He abstained from labor)

Colossians 1:16-17 “¹⁶For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.” (Are held together)

- The universe and all creation would have disappeared had He completely rested.
- Did God need 6 days? NO!
- He was setting an example for us.

V: 3 God blessed the 7th day and sanctified it.

“*Blessed*” (H-1288) “barak” - to bless, kneel, or salute. To invoke or confer divine favor, to ask God to look favorably upon.

Proverbs 10:22 “The blessing of the LORD makes one rich, and He adds no sorrow with it.”

- 1st time we see something “*sanctified*”.
- **Hermeneutics:** Rule of interpretation, **rule of 1st mention**. (Sets tone / pattern)

“*Sanctified*” (H-6942) – “qadash”, to be, make, pronounce or observe as clean, ceremonially or morally, to consecrate, dedicate, hallow, be or keep holy. To set apart for a specific purpose.

Exodus 20:8 (4) “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.” (same word)

- A day of rest, a day of consecration, a day dedicated to the Lord.

Matthew 12:8 “For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.”

- Jesus did the “work” - and we can rest in that.
- Sanctified, set apart – different – not for common use.
- “Church” in Greek, ecclesia – called out ones. Separated ones.
- Special, peculiar people, set apart for His purposes. Sanctified!

1 Peter 2:9 “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own peculiar / special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;”

- Created: “bara” - made from nothing.
- Made: “asah” - made from something already existing, assembled.

V: 4 “... the history of the heavens and the earth...” (His story)

“History / generations” - (H-8435) “toledot” everything entailed in a persons life. All there is to say.

- In this case everything entailed in the heavens and the earth, all there is to say.
- 1st use of *“LORD God”* as opposed to God.

Exodus 3:14 “And God (Elohim) said to Moses, I AM WHO I AM.” And He said, thus you shall say to the children of Israel, I AM (3x's) has sent me to you.”

- *“LORD”* (H-3068) “YHVH” (Tetragrammaton) - Jehovah Elohim – God the becoming One.
- *“God”* (H-430) “Elohim”

Psalm 18:31 “For who is God, except the LORD? And who is a rock, except our God?”

V: 5-6 Not a complete review of the 6 days of creation, just a filling in of certain details. Before day 3 and the creation of grass, herbs, and trees - it was just dry land and seas.

- Nothing is growing yet, because there is no man to till the ground: the earth is incomplete without man, according to God we are a necessary component.
- A description of the irrigation system: No rain on earth, a mist, rivers and streams watered the earth.

V: 7 *“And the Lord God...”* 2nd time - 11 Times in this chapter, 546 times in Bible, last time is **Revelation 22:6**.

“Formed” (H-3335) - “yatsar” - the squeezing into shape; to mould into a form; espec. as a potter; fig. to fashion, form, frame.

- First, God created man, **Genesis 1:27** - bara, from nothing, creating him a spiritual being, then He formed man - a physical creature.
- God used pre-existing, all organic materials – the same 17 elements found in dirt are the same 17 elements that constitute these earthly bodies.

1 Corinthians 15:47 “The first man is of the earth, earthly / made of dust.”

- God formed man from dust.
- God breathed life into man.
- Life comes directly from God.
- Only man received life in such a direct and personal way.

Psalm 100:3 “Know that the LORD, He is God; it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture.”

Psalm 139:14 “I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well.”

“*Man*” – Hebrew “adam”.

“*Ground*” = “adamah”

“*Breathed*” / “*breath*” (H-5397) “neshamah”, nesh-aw-maw’; fr. H-5395; a puff, i.e. wind, vital breath, divine inspiration.

“... *man became a living being / soul.*” - Complete and fully functional, not a transitional creature, again refuting evolution.

V: 8 God prepared a specific place for man, and he already had a specific purpose in mind, direction for the man – to till the ground (v:5).

Jeremiah 29:11 “I know the thoughts that I think towards you says the Lord, thoughts for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope / to bring you to an expected end.”

- Like Adam, we were all created and born into this world for a purpose.

Just as Mordecai spoke to Esther:

Esther 4:14 “... Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”

2 Timothy 3:1 “But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come.”

- We are not here at this time by accident. God has a specific purpose for each of our lives.
- He knows the trials and challenges that would present themselves in our day – and He brought us here to face them and to overcome them – that He would be glorified.
- In every age of apostasy, God always holds back and preserves a faithful remnant – could that be us?

“*Eden*” = “delight” – the Garden of delight.

John 14:2-3 “In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”

V: 9 God makes trees, pleasant to the sight, good for food.

- Along with the “regular” trees there is:
 1. The tree of life.
 2. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- No specific direction or prohibition just yet about what to eat or not eat.
- Just setting the scene.

V: 10-14 The description of various rivers in or near the Garden of Eden:

- A singular river leaves the Garden of Eden and is parted into 4 rivers:
 1. **Pishon:** “Free flowing”
“Havilah” - “Bringing Forth”
 2. **Gihon:** “bursting forth” – later the name of the main water supply to Jerusalem.
 3. **Hiddekel:** / **Daniel 10:4** -Tigris: “Rapid”
 4. **Euphrates:** “fruitfulness”.

I've got a river of life flowing out of me,
Makes the lame to walk and the blind to see;
Opens prison doors, sets the captives free,
I've got a River of life flowing out of me.

- These verses describe the pre-deluvian world and geography, there is no way to determine the original location of the garden of Eden or the lands described here.

V: 15 Man was created with purpose. God put man in the garden to work.

- Even before the fall of man and the curse; God's purpose for man was that he work.

Psalm 128:2 “When you eat the labor of your hands, You shall be happy, and it shall be well with you.”

Ephesians 2:10 “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

2 Thessalonians 3:10 “For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: if anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.”

V: 16-17 God's command to man had both a positive / put on type of responsibility, and a negative / put off responsibility.

- Note that it is a “command” - this is an imperative, not a suggestion.
- Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; - positive in a passive sense.

“but” – contrast

“You shall not” – very strong definitive terms, - negative in the sense of a “put off” type of behavior.

- This is a cross roads or sorts; it forces a choice, it brings us to a point that a choice must be made. The choice is either to obey God or not.
- When I was a sergeant and I gave one of my men some direction, or maybe even in stronger terms, an order.
- There was already an agreement in place by virtue of our employment, rank, and past history with each other that they would follow those orders in somewhat of a military sense.
- There is however still that ability and need to choose, even if it's a forgone conclusion, there is still that choice to be exercised.
- In our home situations, in our marital situations to some degree there is that same understanding or agreement.
- My wife is an awesome help meet. So often before I can or would ask her for some thing, she is watching and looking to meet the need before she could be asked – anticipating my needs in so many things.
- There might be occasion where I might ask her; “hey beautiful, could you bring me a glass of water?” And she is so loving and kind, that she readily does her best to minister to me.
- If I were to use stronger terms or a more direct phrase in requesting a glass of water; if I ordered her to get me a glass of water, I'd still get my glass of water, it's just that I might receive the water first, then the glass!

All kidding aside, this would present that forcing of a choice in a more dramatic way, but it's still the same choice. Obedience or disobedience.

- Personally, I've learned, and I choose to reserve those stronger forms of direction for the situations that pose the greater levels of need, usually pertaining to my wife's personal safety and well being, and to that of others that would be affected.
- Isn't it interesting that the first time that God gives direction to man uses such strong language with His creation – a “command.”
- I believe He uses such forceful communication because it is related to a life and death situation for His bride, for the one that He's not only created, but that He loves so intensely.

- This is more than a command it is His protection – because *“in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”*

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death...”

- In **Exodus Ch. 20** we read the 10 Commandments – the beginning of the Law.
- It is more than just the 10 Commandments, they are the 10 protections, they are the 10 “I love you’s.”
- Notice that there is no restriction on the tree of life:

Because Jesus said

John 10:10 “I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”

- Man is given the ability to choose, and given choices to make.
- Validation of our actual choice – to love God.

Jesus said:

John 14:21 “He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me.”

Hebrews 11:24-26 “²⁴By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, ²⁵choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, ²⁶esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.”

- Sin is always attractive, a true test.
- Test / obedience: God is master vs: man is master
- God doesn't put us in a place or situation we are not able and prepared to deal with.

1 Corinthians 10:13 “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”

Describing God's Word:

Psalms 19:7-11 “⁷The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; ⁸The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; ⁹The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. ¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

¹¹Moreover by them Your servant is warned, and in keeping them there is great reward.”

- God’s Word is a blessing, a protection, and a warning

V: 18 1st time – God declares that something is not good.

- God reveals the need, then He takes action to meet that need.
- A helper / help meet (H-5048) “neged”, neh'-ghed; part opposite; a counterpart, or mate; “a complementary helper.”

Proverbs 18:22 “He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the LORD.”

1 Corinthians 11:8-12 “⁸For man is not from woman, but woman from man. ⁹Nor was man created for the woman, but woman for the man. ¹⁰For this reason the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels.

¹¹Nevertheless, neither is man independent of woman, in the Lord. ¹²For as woman came from man, even so man also comes through woman; but all things are from God.”

- This reveals not only a relational inter-dependency, but the outline for a functional hierarchy (as opposed to a value hierarchy).

V: 19-20 God relates the problem to us through His word – it is not good for man to be alone.

- Now He helps Adam to see that same need in his own life.
- Adam is the first to get his name; he is now referred to as “Adam” as opposed to “man”.
- God re-iterates the creation of the various animals – out of the ground – then brings them each to Adam who then names them.
- Seeing them in pairs, noting that they each have a corresponding opposite, a match.
- Then the conclusion drawn from this experience:

“But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.”

V: 21 21-22 So Adam joined the singles club at church – because everyone knows that all the good looking, nice girls go to church.

- Eve must have been a knock-out – because Adam is out cold!
- Dating is a cultural behavior, not a Biblical one.
- God allowed Adam to see his own need, but then He put him to sleep to that need.
- God was the one who met the need, Adam wasn't even allowed to go out and try to meet that need.
- God didn't bring options, or choices, He simply presented just the right one, at just the right time.

V: 21 / 21-22 Woman made from a rib taken from man's side.

- Not from head, so that woman would be over man.
- Not from foot, so that woman would be below man.
- Taken and formed from his side as equal other half.
- Leader came first then the responder.
- This describes a "functional hierarchy" as opposed to a "value hierarchy."
Notably
- God's last act of creation. He saved the best for last.
- Later the bride of Christ would be birthed from the side of the 2nd Adam, Jesus Christ; as His side was pierced, with water and blood pouring forth in the birth of the church – His bride.
- **A woman's place, the place of fulfillment: is at the side of her man, not in front of him, not behind him – at his side.**

V: 23 *"Bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh"* - God's design!

- Eve was made especially for Adam
- Eve was made from man, not from animals, not separately from the earth etc.
- The man was made for wife, and the wife was made for the man. Kind of like a good restaurant – made to order...
- God didn't make another man for Adam, he made a woman!
- This first marriage met the Biblical standard – it set the standard, but considering who was officiating we shouldn't be surprised!

2 Corinthians 6:14 "Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?"

- Woman = isha Man = ish Man was forever different after woman.

Ephesians 5:30 “For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.”

V: 24 Leave & cleave: leaving mom and dad, cleave to wife, become one flesh.

- Subject to God to meet the needs of the wife, responsible for her, no longer directly subject to parents.
- We're not released from “honoring our father and our mother...” 5th commandment. – but there is a balance to be struck.
- Marriage = separate family.
- We're only half a man - incomplete, only complete upon marriage - one flesh.

The Bible has a lot to say about marriage:

1 Peter 3:7 “Husbands, likewise, dwell with them (your wives) with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.”

Ephesians 5:31-32 “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. ³²This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.” (His bride!)

V: 25 The man and his wife were both naked and they felt no shame.

Psalms 31:17 “Do not let me be ashamed, O LORD, for I have called upon You; let the wicked be ashamed; let them be silent in the grave.”

- No sin, no shame, innocence.
- They were focused on God, not on themselves.
- They were literally clothed in God's light.
- Later sin separated them from God's light and they realized they were naked.

SUMMARY:

- The foundations have now been laid for three basic relationships:
 1. God and man.
 2. Man and creation; animals & earth.
 3. Man and wife.
- Man was created innocent, not righteous.
- Righteousness: is the innocence that is maintained in the presence of temptation.
- Temptation will either develop you, or destroy you.