

# **GENESIS 2: THE GARDEN OF EDEN**

## **I. OVERVIEW**

- A. God finishes His work of creation on the seventh day
  - i. He blesses the seventh day as a day of rest
- B. Creation story is told from a second perspective
  - i. God created Adam from dust
    - a. Breathed the breath of life into him
  - ii. God planted Eden in the east and placed Adam there
    - a. Along with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil
- C. A river flowed from Eden and split into four rivers
  - i. Pishon
    - a. Around the land of Havilah where there is gold
  - ii. Gihon
    - a. Around the land of Cush
  - iii. Tigris
    - a. East of Assyria
  - iv. Euphrates
- D. God gives Adam a job
  - i. Tend the garden
  - ii. Eat of every tree except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil
    - a. Death is the result
- E. God looks for a helper for Adam
  - i. First all the animals are brought before him
    - a. Adam names them all but none are found to help him
    - b. God creates Eve from Adam's rib

## **II. THE SEVENTH DAY IS MENTIONED THREE TIMES IN V. 1-3**

- A. Seven indicates three things:
  - i. Completion of creation
    - a. Creation was done on six days, but there are seven days of creation
    - b. Work week based on this
      - i. Our work is mini "creations"

- ii. Rest
  - a. Just as important to creation as the actual work
  - b. Rest is important to God
- iii. A day set apart as holy and blessed
  - a. The seventh day is for God

### III. THE INTRODUCTION OF THE SABBATH

- A. Exodus 20:8-11
  - i. Should be remembered and kept holy
  - ii. All work should be done in six days
  - iii. No work on the seventh day
    - a. Don't make someone else work either
- B. Christians are not obligated to follow Sabbath
  - i. ***Colossians 2:16-17 Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.***
- C. Our rest is found in Christ eternally
  - i. However, it is wisdom to give the body a rest one day per week
- D. Rest is about God and men dwelling together
  - i. ***1 Chronicles 23:35 For David said, "The LORD, the God of Israel, has given rest to his people, and he dwells in Jerusalem forever.***
  - ii. ***1 Chronicles 28:2 Then King David rose to his feet and said: "Hear me, my brothers and my people. I had it in my heart to build a house of rest for the ark of the covenant of the LORD and for the footstool of our God, and I made preparations for building.***
  - iii. ***2 Chronicles 6:41 "And now arise, O LORD God, and go to your resting place, you and the ark of your might. Let your priests, O LORD God, be clothed with salvation, and let your saints rejoice in your goodness.***
  - iv. Psalm 95
    - a. Let us enter into His presence
    - b. Don't harden your hearts like the generation in the wilderness who could not enter His rest
  - v. Psalm 132
    - a. David desired to create a resting place for God

- b. God will dwell in Zion, His resting place forever
- vi. God rested on the seventh day by coming to earth and dwelling with His image bearers
  - a. We enter into His rest the same way

#### **IV. GENESIS IS SPLIT INTO SEVERAL SECTIONS**

- A. Verse 4 starts a new section

#### **V. DIFFERENCES IN CREATION ACCOUNTS<sup>1</sup>**

- A. Literary style
  - i. Gen 1 is formulaic
  - ii. Gen 2 is narrative
- B. Name of God
  - i. Gen 1 is Elohim
  - ii. Gen 2 is Yahweh Elohim
- C. God's view of creation
  - i. Gen 1 – “God saw that it was good.”
  - ii. Gen 2 - “It is not good that the man should be alone”
- D. Scope
  - i. Gen 1 is cosmic
  - ii. Gen 2 is personal
- E. Order of creation
  - i. Gen 1 – plants, animals, humans
  - ii. Gen 2 – man, plants, animals, woman
- F. Origin of man
  - i. Gen 1 – image of God
  - ii. Gen 2 – formed from dust
- G. How do we reconcile these differences?
  - i. Different author
  - ii. Same author, different focus

#### **VI. LORD – V. 4**

- A. God's covenant name Yahweh

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<sup>1</sup> Middleton, J. Richard. “What Is The Relationship Between The Creation Accounts In Genesis 1 and 2?” *BioLogos*, 3 Jan. 2018, <https://biologos.org/articles/what-is-the-relationship-between-the-creation-accounts-in-genesis-1-and-2>.

- B. Jews don't want to accidentally take Yahweh's name in vain so they substitute it with Adonai
  - i. Translated Lord

#### **VII. MAN OF DUST – V. 7**

- A. Dust is symbolic of humility
  - i. ***Genesis 18:27 Abraham answered and said, “Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes.***
- B. We are created in the image of God but in humility
  - i. One day we will be resurrected and take on the image of Christ
  - ii. ***1 Corinthians 15:47-49 The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.***

#### **VIII. LIVING CREATURE – V. 7**

- A. Hebrew *nephesh* – often translated “soul”
- B. Refers to whole being – man does not have a soul, man is a soul<sup>2</sup>
  - i. Soul can't be separated from body

#### **IX. TWO TREES – V.9**

- A. This theme is throughout scripture
- B. Represents choice between God's way and man's way
  - i. Everyone faces this choice
  - ii. Not just Adam and Eve
- C. Look for trees throughout the rest of the Bible

#### **X. RIVER FLOWING OUT OF EDEN – V. 10**

- A. Eden is the garden (dwelling/resting place, temple) of God
- B. River flows out of it
- C. Another theme throughout Scripture – living waters
  - i. ***John 7:37-39 On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” Now this he said about the***

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<sup>2</sup> “Nephesh/Soul.” Bible Project, <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/nephesh-soul/>. Accessed 22 Mar. 2023.

*Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.*

- ii. *Revelation 22:1-2 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.*

D. Splits into four rivers

- i. Four represents authority, completeness
- ii. Four rivers bring God's authority to whole earth

#### **XI. ADAM'S OCCUPATION WAS A GARDENER**

A. Work should be valued not despised

- i. There is creativity in work
- ii. Work is loving your neighbor
- iii. There is struggle in work

#### **XII. HELPER FIT FOR HIM – V. 18**

A. Or, a helper comparable – NKJV

B. Women are equal partners in marriage

- i. Different roles
  - a. Men have responsibility to lead
  - b. Women have responsibility to help
- ii. This does not apply in any other situation besides marriage
- iii. God values service as great in His sight
  - a. *Matthew 20:25-28 But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*
  - b. So men and women should serve each other

#### **XIII. RIBS – V. 21**

A. God opened Adam's side and took a rib to form woman

- B. The soldier opened a wound on Jesus' side and through His death the Church was formed<sup>3</sup>

#### **XIV. ONE FLESH – V. 24**

- A. Unity in marriage
- B. Man and woman were made for each other
- C. Model of Christ and the Church – theme throughout scripture
  - i. ***Ephesians 5:31-32 “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.***
- D. They are to be joined – conscious decision

#### **XV. NAKED – V. 25**

- A. Not about nudity
- B. Being vulnerable before God and others<sup>4</sup>
- C. After fall, nakedness becomes shameful

#### **XVI. POINTS TO JESUS**

- A. Jesus is the fulfillment of the Sabbath rest
  - i. ***Matthew 11:28-30 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”***
  - ii. Every day is the Sabbath because we are at rest in Him
    - a. We are at peace with God and with others
- B. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden
  - i. It supports and sustains life forever
  - ii. Jesus called Himself the true vine (John 15:1)
    - a. He brings life to those who abide in Him and eat His flesh and drink His blood
  - iii. There will be another tree of life in the midst of a temple/garden/city
    - a. Where Jesus will be King and High Priest
- C. Jesus is the second Adam
  - i. Adam's life brought death to the world
  - ii. But Jesus' death brought life to the world

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<sup>3</sup> Guzik, David. “Study Guide For Genesis 2.” *Blue Letter Bible*, 2018,  
[https://www.blueletterbible.org/comm/guzik\\_david/study-guide/genesis/genesis-2.cfm](https://www.blueletterbible.org/comm/guzik_david/study-guide/genesis/genesis-2.cfm).

<sup>4</sup> Guzik

- a. A new creation
- b. A new human race
- c. He will resurrect His people to incorruptible flesh

**XVII. QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION**

- A. In what ways can we find rest in Jesus? How does He extend God's rest to His people?

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- B. What was the original relationship like between humans and animals? What is our responsibility now in light of this?

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- C. How do you view your work? Do you view it as a blessing from God? Or do you wish you didn't have to work?

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- D. What does it mean to be "one flesh" in marriage? What does this look like in practical terms?

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- E. What does the unity of flesh in marriage say about our unity with Christ?

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F. Why is divorce so wrong and destructive?

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G. Why did God present Adam with the choice between the two trees? Couldn't He have simply made one tree impossible to access?

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H. How can we allow ourselves to be vulnerable before God and each other? What does this vulnerability look like?

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#### **XVIII. FURTHER STUDY**

A. Why is the seventh day mentioned three times in the first paragraph of Genesis 2?

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B. What did Jesus do after He ascended to heaven? What does this mean for us when we say we are a "new creation" (Hebrews 10:11-14)?

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C. What are some ways that Jesus is compared and contrasted to Adam? See Romans 5:12-19; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22, 45-49

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- D. What is the significance of Jesus being pierced in His side on the cross? Why is it important that this refers to Adam being pierced in the side during the creation of Eve?

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- E. What are the similarities and differences between the tree of life in Genesis 2 and the tree of life in Revelation 22? What is the purpose of each tree?

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- F. Read Revelation 21-22. Compare and contrast the Garden of Eden to the New Jerusalem. What does the Garden of Eden ultimately point to?

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- G. Why does Genesis 2 switch the order of the creation of plants, animals and humans? What does this tell us about God's purpose for mankind?
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