

Genesis 2

“Jesus our Lord”

Advent = LATIN ‘come’ – X HAS come! X IS come! X will Come Again

Bethlehem BIRTH of Christ Child > NOT beginning of Jesus

Emmanuel: God in Flesh > Eternal God stepped into Human History

Genesis 1 – Jesus @ Creation “All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made” John 1.3

He reigned in Glory for Eternity before HE Spoke World into Existence

Gen 1 Wide Angle Camera – v. 1 “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” /

Ch 2 ZOOM In – Garden of God / Man & Woman

John > Gospel starts ‘In the beginning’ > Focus on Glory of Jesus as God

4.34 'My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me & to finish His work'"

5.17 “My Father is working until now & I am working”

9.4 "I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day;
the night is coming when no one can work"

Bible Focus on WHO question – Who is maker of Heaven, Earth, Man?

Clearly Answered: **Elohim** – God the Creator / **Yahweh** – God the Lord

MORE TROUBLING WHY? QUESTIONS – Not Answered

WHY? Did God bother to make world, or man? Not lonely! Triune Glory

WHY? Did God give Adam the freedom of choice?

WHY? Were Consequences of Adam’s choice so Severe & Eternal?

1. Breath of Life

v. 7 the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

Heb: Adam = Man / adama = Ground – word play // close connection

Ground is our Cradle > our Home > eventually our Grave

Adam fashioned in Natural Body for an Earthly Existence Forever

potter & clay – God the Artist bonded to his Work – Deliberate Creation

God is Spirit > Breathes in Us > Humans are Given God's Very Life

“breath of life” – Unlike Animals > God's Very Breath sustains People

Michelangelo carves Scene: God's Mighty Finger > Man's Lifeless Hand

“soul” OT = Passionate Vitality > unlike Animals > Image of God

Fingerprints of God All Over Us > No True Atheist > All Know God

Many “suppress the truth of knowledge of God in unrighteousness”

Jesus dies for Penalty of our Denial of God > takes Wrath our Sins

Risen Jesus begins God's New Creation: “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you”...when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit”
John 20.21

2. Blessing of Labor

v. 8 Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east & there he put the man

a. Garden Man's Home > TODAY EDEN popularly regarded as MYTH

Book by MOSES – led Israelites thru wilderness to Promised Land

Moses used names of places known to Israelite readers / Fact not Fiction

If Eden MYTH THEN Adam & Eve ARE MYTHICAL FIGURES

Sin becomes Figment of MYTHICAL REALM / No Need for SAVIOR

Eden Somewhere across Arabian desert: Tigris/Euphrates River Valley

v. 10 “a river with four headstreams....3rd river Tigris, 4th Euphrates

1st & 2nd Rivers Unknown TODAY / Lost during Flood? Tributaries?

Chapter ONE Each Creative Day was PRONOUNCED AS GOOD

6th Day: 1.31 “God saw all that he had made, and it was very good”

Eden is TEMPLE-Garden > Garden carvings in Temple of God

Cherubim protects Holiness of Garden > Sin & Death are Excluded

Active Faith is Required to live in this Garden

Doubt of God & His Word cannot reside in God's Garden

All of Creation was Beautiful / Eden was ESPECIALLY BEAUTIFUL

2.9 “every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food”

2.11 “land of Havilah, where there is gold. (The gold of that land is good”

v. 12 “gold” > provide for People’s Enrichment OUTSIDE of Eden

Later riches Outside Israel Temple will be Brought In & Dedicated to God

World BEAUTIFUL – EVEN BEFORE man Created > for God’s Glory

God’s World – Everything is Beautiful and Valuable and Useful

Heavenly River > dissemination of Heavenly Life, Eden Temple-garden

Then it Branches Out to the 4 Corners of the Earth: Food, Healing, Life

// Water flowing from Throne of God in end of Ezekiel // end Revelation

b. Gardener v. 5 there was no man to work the ground

v15 Lord God took man & put him in garden of Eden to work it & keep it

WORK is Not CURSE > Gift, Divine Calling, Purpose of our Lives

v. 15 “work it and take care of it” > Work is Gift of God, Not Punishment

Adam & Eve are Priests and Guardians of the Garden

No Thorns, Thistles, Sweat, Aches, Pains: Just things U Enjoy re. WORK

RUDYARD KIPLING "Oh, Adam was a gardener, and God who made him sees, That half a proper gardener's work is done upon his knees"

Ch 3 Curse: Work tainted by Sweat, Thorns, Thistles > Still MUST Work

Jesus last words: All authority given as a result of his death for us...resurrection. He has been given all authority in Heaven and Earth.

Sends disciples to make whole earth garden > Fruit for Glory of God

All bow knee to Lord Jesus will > led before Throne of Heavenly Father

3. Book of the Law

vs 16,17 Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

a. Command 1st words of God to Man: Responsible Moral Agent

Could have Appointed Stone: 'Don't Move It' / River: 'Don't Cross It'

v. 9 Tree of Life & KG&E "in the midst of garden" Central, Remember

// President's Portrait in Official Officers > Who is in Charge Here?

Who will establish our Moral Code? Friends? Society? Parents? God?

b. Choice > v. 16 "you are free to eat from any tree in the garden"

Tree is Good, but belongs Exclusively to God

Command of Omission > Just Don't Eat THIS Tree! Not HARD!

Good = What Advances Life / Evil = What Hinders Life

Sin > Assert Human Independence, We DECIDE Good & Evil

Only God in Heaven transcends Time & Space > Only He Knows ALL

Only God has Prerogative to know Truly what is Good & Bad for Life

c. Consequences > 17 "in the day you eat of it you shall surely die" Death: Enemy, God made

Man to Life FOREVER

1st Mention of DEATH in BIBLE / 1st Mention of Moral Choice

Image of God / Sense of Morality / Capability of Knowing Good and Evil

WHY? – Did God give Adam the freedom of choice?

WHY? – Were the consequences of Adam's choice so severe and eternal?

"you will surely die" disobedience = death = SEPARATION

Death = SEPARATION > 3 Stages: Spiritual, Physical, Eternal

Spiritual > Immediate > Fellowship w God Broken, Run, Hide, Deny

Physical > Eventual "all the days of Adam were 930 yrs, then he died" 5.5 Eternal > Judgment

Day > Eternal, Conscious, Torment / Absence of God

Man from God / spirit from body / body & spirit from God forever

Seeker > "I am just trying to Obey the 10 Commandments!"

How's that Working Out for You? Not too Good! Honest: Impossible!

2nd Adam Obeys Fully > Achieves our Righteousness > Grace thru Faith

"the law was given thru Moses; grace & truth came thru Jesus Christ...For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace" John 1.17,16

4. Blessing of Love

God's BENEDICTION over ALL CREATION on 6th Day

"God saw all that he had made, and it was very good" Genesis 1.31

1st time NOT GOOD v. 18 "It is not good for the man to be alone"

a. God Knows our Needs: Knows us Better than know Ourselves

"He knows our frame and remembers that we are dust" Psalm 103.14

Man is a social being, made for fellowship, not power: we will not live until we love, giving self away to another
Derek Kidner

"SINGLE" PEOPLE SHOULD NOT BE ALONE - ROLE OF CHURCH

v 19 LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of field & all the birds of the air. He brot them to man to see what he would name them

Adam using 100% Brain – ALL CYLINDERS were FIRING in his HEAD

1st Biologist > STUDY, CATEGORIZING, NAMING Created ORDER

MIND more Brilliant than Einstein & Aristotle applied to CREATION

// 1.26 Adam imitates God who Names, exercise our Dominion over Earth

God & Adam stood Together, Animal Parade passed: Aardvark to Zebra

ALL Animals mentioned Here > Show Adam how Lonely he Was...

v. 20 So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found.

God wants to make Adam even More Appreciate Gift of WOMAN

If all Adam wanted was Fur Babies > We would NOT be Here Today!

Man ALONE is NOT ENOUGH God makes COMMUNITY

God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.
Genesis 1.27

Image of God is TEAM Sport > God is UNITY of Father, Son, Spirit

b. God Meets our Needs 18The Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; *I will make him a helper fit for him.*"

Triangle Relationship > God, Man, Woman / Depend on Eachother

Not mean Superiority or Inferiority > ‘helper’ 19 X’s OT – 16 for GOD!

“helper” Woman helps Man in Vocation, Enjoyment, Love, Fellowship

But EQUALS as bearers of God’s Image & in their Standing before God

Man is LEADER > Only Boss Adam asked is GOD > Responsible to Lead

vs. 21,22 Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, while he slept took 1 of his ribs & closed up its place w flesh... rib that Lord God taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.

Eve is Made out of the Very Stuff of Adam / yet WHOLLY NEW BEING

Relationship modeled after God > Not Exist in Isolation

Blessed, Eternal, Fellowship of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

The woman was made of a rib out of the side of Adam; not made out of his head to rule over him, nor out of his feet to be trampled upon by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be loved. Matthew Henry

c. Perfect Marriage 23 "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."

1st words Spoken by ADAM > WOW! MAN spoke Californian

What a Woman – in Pristine Glory – Wonder Woman / Miss Universe

God himself, like a father of the bride, leads the woman to the man. G. von Rad

1) Ultimate 24 “a man will leave his father and mother”

God joins M & W for Life / Not Convenience, Contract > Covenant

Other impt things: Parents, Children, Friends, Work, Church 2nd Place

2) Permanent 24 “be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh”

The marriage covenant is only to be broken by death.

Marriage only works when both parties give and not just take.

3) Intimate 25 “man & his wife were both naked & they felt no shame”

Being ‘naked’ before God and one another means there is nothing to hide.

Helped one another Socially, Spiritually, Sexually – Best Friends

We must live in a house with no roof and no walls. East African Revival

WHY QUESTIONS

WHY? – Did God give Adam the freedom of choice?

WHY? – Were the consequences of Adam's choice so severe and eternal?

AN EVEN BIGGER WHY QUESTION –

WHY? – Did God send His own Son to redeem us from sin?

Two Trees in EDEN– One Lead to Death / Another Gives Life

How to Get to Tree of Life? > Fulness of Time – God made another Tree

Moses writes about 3rd Tree: Deut 21.22 “if a man has committed a crime punishable by death and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree”

Paul sees this Threat Fulfilled in Jesus > Galatians 3

Jesus is CURSED for Us > Pays our Sins Penalty > HUNG on a Tree

Bible Begins AND Ends w GARDEN: “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. No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads”
Revelation 22.1-4

Psalm 57

Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge;

in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge, till the storms of destruction pass by.

I cry out to God Most High, to God who fulfills his purpose for me.

He will send from heaven and save me; he will put to shame him who tramples on me.

God will send out his steadfast love and his faithfulness!

My soul is in the midst of lions; I lie down amid fiery beasts—

the children of man, whose teeth are spears and arrows, whose tongues are sharp swords.

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!

They set a net for my steps; my soul was bowed down.

They dug a pit in my way, but they have fallen into it themselves.

My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast! I will sing and make melody!

Awake, my glory! Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awake the dawn!

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praises to you among the nations.

For your steadfast love is great to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth! Amen and Amen.