

GENESIS CHAPTER 2

THE CULMINATION

As we have been studying the creation, certainly we have read of many “firsts.” I mean that is what usually happens when you find yourself at the beginning of anything; let alone the creation of the universe and all that it contains.

Today we read of the cessation of those creative acts.

God has created everything thing necessary for life on earth. He has created man and woman and placed them in a paradise. Last week we got just the bare bones account of that, but this week we will get the details. So let’s look at Genesis chapter two.

1 Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. 2 And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. 3 Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

These verses could very well have been tagged onto the end of chapter one. It wraps up that chapter very nicely.

So what happens when God rests? Why does God rest? Does He get tired? The answer is no, He doesn’t get tired. The phrase “seventh day” is mentioned repeatedly in these verses. This brings emphasis to the subject. The word “sabbath” comes from the word “shabbat” meaning to cease work or rest. It is also related to the word “seven.”

God wasn’t tired. He simply ceased His creative works. This actually agrees with science, which states that matter is no longer being created or destroyed. That is truly the case. God simply ceased His creative acts, sat back and said, “ All is good.”

I'm sure we can all appreciate that feeling of accomplishment when we have finished a project and can sit back to enjoy the moment of completion.

But we also have something being established here; another "first" as it were.

The seven-day week is being established. The number seven means 'perfection' or 'completion.' So seven days completes a week. And this first week was perfect. I wish I had a week like that every now and then. It is interesting that the seven-day week has always been the norm. Every calendar uses this concept. Why? Because it was so from the beginning.

There are three Sabbaths mentioned in scripture. The first is this one. It was God's personal Sabbath. He ceased His creative acts. There is also no mention of the evening and morning, so God is still in the "cease mode" at least when it comes to creating something anew.

There is then the national Sabbath of Israel. This was instituted in Exodus chapter 16. There is no mention of Sabbath until this point. The Sabbath was a day of rest – a day to take the time to appreciate God and family. We should note that it was God that established a time of rest. He created time and how we reckon it. Every other creation of God lives life one day at a time. Only man plans looks forward. Only the one aspect of creation created in the image of God runs around in a rat race.

Augustine put it this way:

"Thou hast made us for Thyself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee."

(The famous Chinese scholar that came to America to lecture)

The last Sabbath is the spiritual Sabbath of the Christian.

Hebrews 4:1-11

Thanks to the resurrection of Jesus we can rest in His acquisition of our eternal destiny. We don't have to work to earn our salvation. We cease working for salvation because He has done the work for us. We now do good works as a result (fruit) of His work.

John 15:5

5 “ I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

Gen. 2:4-6

4 This is the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, 5 before any plant of the field was in the earth and before any herb of the field had grown. For the Lord God had not caused it to rain on the earth, and there was no man to till the ground; 6 but a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground.

The rest of the chapter is a supplemental account of the creation of man on the sixth day. We are getting the details whereas we only got the “cliff’s notes” in chapter one.

The word “ history” in the NKJV is translated “generations” elsewhere. This is the *toledoth*. It is a kind of segue whereby a new author takes over in the writing of Genesis. This accounts for the different grammar in the Hebrew. It does not support the JEDP concept of liberal scholars.

This word will be very important to us in our studies when we get to the genealogies.

Verses five and six take us back in creation before man was created. We see that God watered the ground by a constant mist. This was supplied by artesian wells coming from underground.

7 And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

This is an anthropomorphism. The Hebrew literally reads, “and breathed the breath of *lives*...

This breath separates us from the beasts of the field.

7 And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

Life in God's Garden

8 *The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. 9 And out of the ground the Lord God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*

10 *Now a river went out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it parted and became four riverheads. 11 The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one which skirts the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. 12 And the gold of that land is good. Bdellium and the onyx stone are there. 13 The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one which goes around the whole land of Cush. 14 The name of the third river is Hiddekel; it is the one which goes toward the east of Assyria. The fourth river is the Euphrates.*

These place names were brought over from pre-flood days. The garden and everything else was destroyed in the Flood.

15 *Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 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."*

Eden was a province of sorts.

Eden means *pleasance*.

Man was created to work. Working is not a curse. It is an opportunity to serve God and others.

(The city-dweller with the garden)

Adam was a tenant.

Two trees. Why?

Adam was vice-regent of creation. With privilege comes responsibility. "To whom much is given much is required."

18 *And the Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." 19 Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought*

them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.

After all the “goods” of that week, God looked at His creation and decided it wouldn’t work with just a man there.

God gave Adam an object lesson by naming the animals.

21 And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. 22 Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

23 And Adam said:

*“This is now bone of my bones
And flesh of my flesh;
She shall be called Woman,
Because she was taken out of Man.”*

24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

The first anesthetic

The first surgery

Rib = side (not from the skull or foot but from his side) to be protected and loved, not lorded over or walked upon

“bone of my bone” probably not his actual words or reaction.

Woman = womb man

The first marriage (Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve) can’t reproduce after its kind

The first family unit

Adam was put to sleep, his side opened up so that he may have a wife.
Jesus died on the cross, His side pierced for His bride.

Eph. 5:22-33

Marriage- Christ and the Church

22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. 24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. 28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. 30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. 31 "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. 33 Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

We get the pattern for how things ought to be here in Genesis.

A couple working and thriving together in service to God and each other.