

## **Genesis Chapter Two**

- The Creation of Man and Woman

The first three verses of chapter two really end chapter one. It's an *inclusio*, the placing of similar material at the beginning and end of a section. Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth". Genesis 2:1 "And so the heavens and the earth were completed."

Some critics say Genesis 1 and Genesis 2 contradict each other. They do not. Genesis two does, however, introduce us to some firsts:

- The first sabbath (1-3)
- Man's first home (4-14)
- God's first covenant with man (16-17)
- The first marriage (19-25)

### Verses 1-3

***"And so the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their heavenly lights  
2 By the seventh day God completed 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 on it He rested from all His work which God had created and made."***

Concluding God's week of creation, this is the only place in Scripture where we are told God is resting. Because God rests, Hebrews 4 allows rest to be something believers can receive as a future benefit. It is also important to point out that the seventh day does not have the phrase, "*and there was evening and there was morning,*" meaning the seventh day has no end.

Sabbath comes from the Hebrew word *Shabbat* which means "*to cease working, to rest.*" The word Sabbath does not enter Scripture until Exodus 16:23, however the concept of rest is clearly explained in Genesis 2. This seventh day is also unique in that God blessed this day of rest. After he blessed this day, He *sanctified* it, meaning He set it apart for His purpose. Exodus 20 is a reference back to Genesis 2.

### Exodus 20:8-11

***"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 For six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath of the LORD your God; on it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male slave or your female slave, or your cattle, or your resident who stays with you. 11 For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and everything that is in them, and He rested on the seventh day; for that reason the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy."***

The sabbath rest is so important God made it as a sign between Him and His chosen one. It is important to point out that God did not make this sign with any other nation except Israel.

### Exodus 31:12-17

***"Now the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 13 "Now as for you, speak to the sons of Israel, saying, 'You must keep My Sabbaths; for this is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, so that you may know that I am the LORD who sanctifies you. 14 Therefore you are to keep the Sabbath, for it is holy to you. Everyone who profanes it must be put to death; for whoever does any work on it, that person shall be cut off from among his people. 15 For six days work may be done, but on the seventh day there is a Sabbath of complete rest, holy to***

*the LORD; whoever does any work on the Sabbath day must be put to death. <sup>16</sup> So the sons of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to celebrate the Sabbath throughout their generations as a permanent covenant. <sup>17</sup> It is a sign between Me and the sons of Israel forever; for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, but on the seventh day He ceased from labor, and was refreshed.”*

A sabbath rest is both a reminder of their deliverance from bondage (Deuteronomy 5:12-15) and as a foretaste of the rest they would enjoy once they entered the Promised Land (Deuteronomy 3:20, 12:10, 25:19, Joshua 22:4). The New Testament book of Hebrews explains this promise of rest is also for believers today (Hebrews 3:7-4:13).

This is the third time God has offered a blessing in the creation week. The first two blessings were for the living creatures and then Adam and Eve. In both cases the blessing was for them to be “*fruitful and multiply.*” Here the third blessing gives man a day of rest but also a day to receive enrichment and to add to the fullness of life. The seventh day is a day of spiritual blessing and power. Because God also sanctified this day, making it a Holy day, this is the first thing to be hallowed in Scripture. This is to be a day set apart for God. This blessed holy day has no morning and no evening; it continues on.

How does one enter God’s rest? By faith.

#### **Hebrews 4:1-3**

*“Therefore, we must fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it. <sup>2</sup> For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also did; but the word they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united with those who listened with faith. <sup>3</sup> **For we who have believed enter that rest.**”*

### **The Creation of Man and Woman Verses 4-25**

Genesis 1:1 - 2:3 is an account of creation. Here in chapter two God gives us an intimate understanding of man’s and woman’s relationship with Him. Man is given a position and responsibilities in God’s creation. The setting for this chapter is narrowed down to a garden.

#### **Verse 4**

***“This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made earth and heaven.”***

It should be pointed out that there is a slight change in how Moses addresses God. Up to this point Moses has used the term *Elohim* (God). Here, in verse 4, Moses uses the term *Yahweh-Elohim* (Lord God). What is the difference and why the change? *Elohim* represents God as the Creator; it signifies His omnipotent deity. *Yahweh* is the personal covenant name of God. *Yahweh-Elohim* combines the Creator and Covenant Redeeming aspect into one name. The sabbath is a day to celebrate God as both the Creator and the Redeemer.

Without rain how was the vegetation watered? It rose up from the ground.

### Verses 5-6

***“Now no shrub of the field was yet on the earth, and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, for the LORD God had not sent rain upon the earth, and there was no man to cultivate the ground. <sup>6</sup> But a mist used to rise from the earth and water the whole surface of the ground.”***

There was no bush ... no small plant ... no rain ... no man to work the ground. In the third day of creation the word shrub or bush is not listed. The bushes and small plants listed in chapter two come as Adam begins to work or cultivate the land. These are the same bushes that post-fall will bring forth thorns and thistles (3:18). After sin entered the world the earth itself will bring forth a punishment for man, plants growing thorns and thistles.

### Verse 7

***“Then 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 person.”***

The name Adam means “*taken out of the ground*”. The human body could only be designed and created with the wisdom and power of God.

As Paul explained as he tried to reason with the Greek philosophers on Mars Hill “*that they would seek God, if perhaps they might feel around for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; <sup>28</sup> for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we also are His descendants.’ <sup>29</sup> Therefore, since we are the descendants of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by human skill and thought*” (Acts 17:27-29).

God breathed life into man; this is a picture of face-to-face intimacy. This is an act of giving. Only man, who is created in God’s image, received the breath of God to establish his life.

### **Ecclesiastes 3:19-20**

***“For the fate of the sons of mankind and the fate of animals is the same. As one dies, so dies the other; indeed, they all have the same breath, and there is no advantage for mankind over animals, for all is futility. <sup>20</sup> All go to the same place. All came from the dust and all return to the dust.”***

### Verse 8

***“The LORD God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed.”***

Eden in the east is from Moses’ perspective who receives this information in Sinai. The garden of Eden was in between the two great rivers, the Tigris and the Euphrates. Its location was in Mesopotamia, which is modern day Iraq.

For a brief time, Eden was the center of the world. Eventually that would change to Jerusalem which is and will be the center of the world. The entire world points to Jerusalem. For example, if one lives west of Jerusalem one would read from right to left. However if one lives east of Jerusalem, they read from left to right. Activity, even something as simple as reading, points towards Jerusalem.

### Verse 9

***“Out of the ground the LORD God caused every tree to grow that is pleasing 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.”***

In the center of the garden stood two trees. These two trees held the destiny of man. Life stood in the center of the garden; God gave man permission to eat from the “*Tree of Life.*” God also commanded man NOT to eat from the “*Tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*” Years later Moses will lead the entire nation of Israel up to the top of two mountains and from there he will read God’s law, and as man first had a choice in the garden, so did the nation of Israel. They had the choice to either choose blessing and life or to reject God’s blessing and choose death (Deuteronomy 28-30). Before Israel had an opportunity to choose life or death, blessing or curses, Adam and Eve had to choose which word from God they were going to obey. Will they receive God’s permission or will they choose to go against God’s command? People today find themselves staring at the same decision Adam and Eve had to make six thousand years ago.

Why was it wrong to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? Because doing so would be to seek wisdom apart from God’s word. It would be deciding what is right and what is wrong without referencing God.

For those who choose to receive God’s blessing, the free gift of salvation, God has given a promise. How the world began, it will end. In the end times the Tree of Life will once again be offered.

### **Revelation 2:7**

*“The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who overcomes, **I will grant to eat from the tree of life**, which is in the Paradise of God.”*

### **Revelation 22:1-2**

*“And he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was **the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit**, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.”*

### Verses 10-14

***“Now a river flowed out of Eden to water the garden; and from there it divided and became four rivers. <sup>11</sup> The name of the first is Pishon; it flows around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. <sup>12</sup> The gold of that land is good; the bdellium and the onyx stone are there as well. <sup>13</sup> The name of the second river is Gihon; it flows around the whole land of Cush. <sup>14</sup> The name of the third river is Tigris; it flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.”***

To this day we have no idea where the Pishan river and the Gihon River were located. We may not have the geographical information available but we clearly have the ability to understand Biblical lessons from Genesis two. Notice the area the garden was placed in had an

abundance of gold and other precious metals. Bdellium is a semi-transparent gummy resin. The onyx stone was to become part of the priestly ephod, upon which were inscribed the names of the twelve tribes (Exodus 28:9-14). Onyx was also on the high priest's breastplate (Exodus 28:20). Listing these stones shows how good the place God designed for man was (and will be again).

#### Verse 15-17

***“Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to cultivate it and tend it. <sup>16</sup> The LORD God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may freely eat; <sup>17</sup> but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for on the day that you eat from it you will certainly die.”***

Here is God's first covenant with man. God placed Adam in the garden but then he commanded him to tend it. God gave Adam work to do but one must understand God's commandments are not burdensome, so says the apostle John.

#### **1 John 5:3-4**

*“For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome. <sup>4</sup> For whoever has been born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world: our faith.”*

Some critics question what God meant when He warned that Adam would surely die. Did God mean if Adam did not sin, he would have lived forever? No Adam was not immortal; only God is immortal.

#### **1 Timothy 6:15-16**

*“He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, <sup>16</sup> who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen.”*

So, what did God mean? Had Adam lived a life of obedience without sinning, he would have passed into heaven without suffering death.

#### Verse 18

***“Then the LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.”***

The second covenant God makes is that of marriage, where the two become one. Adam was able to fellowship with God so why was his solitude something God saw as “not good?”

Woman is not lesser than man. God created her in His own image just as He created Adam. She shares in having dominion over all of creation. The difference is Adam was made from the earth; Eve was made from Adam's side.

When I perform weddings part of the charge to the couple comes from this verse:

- God removed one of Adam's ribs and out of the man's side He created woman.

- She came from his side so that she may stand alongside him, not to be ruled by him but to complete him.
- She came from the rib, which is below the head so that the man would provide a covering for her.
- She came from the rib which is near the arm so that man would protect her.
- She came from the rib which is near the heart so man would love her.

Adam was put to sleep and his side was opened so that he may have a wife. Jesus died on a cross and His blood shed so that He may have a bride (the church).

#### Verses 19-25

***“And out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. <sup>20</sup> The man gave names to all the livestock, and to the birds of the sky, and to every animal of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. “And the LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup> Then the man said, “At last this is bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; She shall be called ‘woman,’ Because she was taken out of man. For this reason, a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked, but they were not ashamed.”*”**

Before marriage became a civil relationship established by law, it was a spiritual relationship governed by God. The term “one flesh” implies anything that breaks the physical bond of marriage can also break the marriage itself. This is why in the Old Testament the penalty for adultery was so severe (Deuteronomy 22:22-24, John 8:3-7).

We live in a world created by God. We are creatures made in the image of God. We enjoy multiple blessings from the hand of God. How tragic it is that many couples decide to leave God out of their marriage!

## **Genesis**

### **Chapter Three**

- The Fall of Mankind

## The Fall of Mankind Verses 1-24

### Verse 1-4

***“Now the serpent was more cunning than any animal of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God really said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?’”<sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, “From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat;<sup>3</sup> but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.’”<sup>4</sup> The serpent said to the woman, “You certainly will not die!”***

These first five verses are a series of dialogues. Please note that up to this moment everything that Eve has enjoyed has come because God spoke it into being. God’s word was responsible for the day and night, the sun and the moon, the garden and all that was in it. One would hope that God’s word had proven reliable and should be obeyed, however this snake was “cunning”. Notice in verse 3 Eve added the phrase, God said “not to TOUCH the tree”. God never gave that directive; Eve was the first person to add to what God said and meant. The enemy blasphemed God by saying “you certainly will not die.” That was a direct challenge and places the enemy’s word against God’s. That should be no contest, yet even today it is.

Sin and the fall of man: the acceptance of sin, the willingness to rebel against God causing the fall of man alienated man from his Creator, from other man and from creation. Unfortunately, the temptation was and still is today, to question God’s word, which was verbal in the garden and written in the modern day. This decision and action to question God’s character and His being willing to keep His promise, led to the destruction of this once perfect relationship.

We are told the serpent was cunning, meaning deceptive. Some may wonder why Eve was not concerned with a snake talking to her. Didn’t that cause some concern? We do not know if it was common before the fall for Adam and Eve to be able to communicate with animals. What should have been a huge red flag was not the communication but what was said. The serpent spoke against God. That’s what should have caused Eve to reject this conversation instead of acting upon what was told to her.

The devil caused Eve to doubt by saying “did God *really* say that?” This is a technique the enemy still uses today, not changing his method in six thousand years.

### Verse 5

***“For God knows that on the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will become like God, knowing good and evil.”***

Once we question God’s word one becomes prepared to deny His word. What is a lie? It is the belief that man can be his own god. That man can live for the creation not the Creator and suffer no consequences.

### Verse 6

*“When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took some of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband with her, and he ate.”*

Eve was deceived; Adam sinned willfully.

### 1 Timothy 2:14

*“Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor.”*

### Romans 5:12

*“Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.”*

### 1 Corinthians 15:22

*“For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.”*

### 1 John 2:16

*“For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.”*

### Verse 7

*“Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves waist coverings.”*

The fruit of sin is shame. For the righteous, light can be a garment (Psalm 104:2, Matthew 17:2). Once clothed in God’s light, sin caused the covering to be removed leaving them (and us) exposed and naked.

### Verses 8-10

*“Now they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?” <sup>10</sup> He said, “I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself.”*

Out of fear, Adam and Eve fled from God. God did not come in the early morning, nor in the heat of the day but in the cooling of the end of the day. Scripture says God is patient. God asks them, “where are you?” The question was designed to:

- Allow Adam to have a sense of being lost
- To lead Adam to confess his sin
- It expressed God’s sorrow over Adam’s condition
- It showed that God does seek after man
- It highlighted man’s accountability to God
- It revealed that God will personally address each of us

God's question demanded an answer; it could NOT be ignored.

#### Verses 11-13

*“And He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree from which I commanded you not to eat?”<sup>12</sup> The man said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me some of the fruit of the tree, and I ate.”<sup>13</sup> Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” And the woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”*

Both the man first and then the woman blames another; neither took personal responsibility. Adam blamed Eve; Eve blamed the serpent. One is enticed by temptation when they seek their own desire. Desire then births sin and sin brings forth death.

#### James 1:14-15

*“But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.<sup>15</sup> Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.”*

#### Verse 14-15

*“Then the Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, Cursed are you more than all the livestock, And more than any animal of the field; On your belly you shall go, And dust you shall eat All the days of your life; 15 And I will make enemies Of you and the woman, And of your offspring and her Descendant; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise Him on the heel.”*

No question is asked of the serpent for there is nothing to teach him. Satan is directly sentenced.

#### Isaiah 65:25

*“The wolf and the lamb shall graze together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent's food.”*

This is one of two times God verbalizes a curse. The other is in Genesis 4:11. The first part of the curse is directed at the vessel Satan used (the snake.) It seems before the snake was used to tempt Eve it could walk on legs. The curse removed that possibility; it now must slither on the ground. In addition, God places a natural aversion between the human and the snake. The cursing of the snake is consistent with the handling of any animal that causes harm to man.

#### Exodus 21:28

*“When an ox gores a man or a woman to death, the ox shall be stoned, and its flesh shall not be eaten, but the owner of the ox shall not be liable.”*

To “eat dust” is a picture of complete defeat, (Isaiah 65:25; Micah 7:17). To place enmity between two parties is to cause a mutual antagonism between them. Satan's hatred for Eve is obvious but now man will also have a deep-seated dislike, a hostility toward the enemy. This is all imparted from God placing the curse on Satan.

This is also a prophecy of Jesus defeating satan. satan will bruise Jesus. He will wound Jesus but Jesus will crush satan. The prophecy is also the first acknowledgment of the virgin birth. This prophecy speaks of the seed of the woman NOT the seed of a man. Martin Luther called this section of Scripture the first sermon ever preached. When the term *seed* is singular, as it is here, it represents a future individual descendant. This verse looks forward to Jesus defeating satan.

#### **Verse 16**

***“To the woman He said, “I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth, In pain you shall deliver children; Yet your desire will be for your husband, And he shall rule over you.”***

Unlike the animal kingdom birthing their offspring, woman will experience great pain in child birth. The woman’s most joyous event will now involve pain. The woman’s two most intimate aspects of life, being a mother and a wife will now be affected. When God said that the woman’s desire will be for her husband this leads to the woman having to fight her desire to control her husband. In an ungodly situation the husband yields to the wife and forces her to fulfill a role God did not design for her to fulfill. In general, sin has corrupted the willing submission of the wife and the protective headship of the husband, each having to wrestle with emotions and challenges to fulfill God’s design.

#### **Verses 17-19**

***“Then to Adam He said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat from it’; Cursed is the ground because of you; With hard labor you shall eat from it All the days of your life. 18 Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; Yet you shall eat the plants of the field; 19 By the sweat of your face You shall eat bread, Until you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return.”***

Because he yielded to idolatry, obeying Eve and disobeying God, a curse is placed on all of creation. God does not curse man nor does God curse work, He curses the ground. The ground will still yield fruit but now it will also yield thorns and thistles. Man’s work will now go from joy to weariness.

As Matthew 27:29 explains Jesus was crowned with thorns, thus He bore the curse for us. Man had to be redeemed from the curse.

#### **Galatians 3:13**

***“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree.”***

Because of Adam:

- Sin entered the world (Romans 5:12)
- Death came to all mankind (Romans 5:15, 1 Corinthians 15:22)
- All men were condemned (Romans 5:18)
- All men were made sinners (Romans 5:19)

### Verse 20

***“Now the man named his wife Eve, because she was the mother of all the living.”***

This is the first time we see the name Eve. Up to this point she has been called female (1:27), help mate (2:18), woman (2:22), and wife (2:24-25). Genesis 5:2 says God called both man and woman, man, meaning the term man, mankind or humanity represents all humans: *“Male and female he created them, and he blessed them and **named them Man** when they were created.”*

Biblically, because the woman’s name comes from the husband a woman gains more of her identity from the husband than the husband does from the wife. This is why women are encouraged to make a wise decision as to who they are willing to marry.

This verse says Adam named Eve because she was to be the mother of all the living. At the time she was not pregnant. This is a confession of faith and trust in God. God said he would defeat satan through the seed of the woman, meaning there had to be children in the future.

### Verse 21

***“And the LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.”***

In order for them to be clothed a sacrifice had to be made. Covering ourselves with our own good works is like Adam and Eve covering themselves with fig leaves.

### Hebrews 9:22

*“...without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.”*

### Verses 22-24

***“Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might reach out with his hand, and take fruit also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever”—<sup>23</sup> therefore the LORD God sent him out of the Garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken. <sup>24</sup> So He drove the man out; and at the east of the Garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction to guard the way to the tree of life.”***

satan made an empty promise that if they ate from the tree they would become like God. Now their decision has cost them the fellowship they enjoyed with God. Being sent out of the garden was being sent away from the only place they had known God. Would He still fellowship with them? Would he still meet with them outside of the garden? Are they destined for eternal separation from God? One can only wonder how much was explained to them when they were excommunicated for the garden.

Cherubim are always associated with the presence and glory of God (Ezekiel 10, Isaiah 6, Revelation 4.) When cherubim are said to be on earth, this marks a meeting place with God (Exodus 25:10-22). Any angelic being could have kept Adam from the tree of life. Cherubim were stationed there to keep satan out.