

Genesis 2:4-24 The Creation of Man and Woman November 4, 2007

The first chapter of Genesis looked at creation from God's perspective. This section sees creation from man's perspective.

: 4 These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created...
This is the title statement for the section 2:4 – 4:26.

These are the generations... The Hebrew word *toledoth* can be translated 'the history of' or 'the genealogy of'. It looks forward to what will be, rather than the past creation story.

Note the introduction of the name 'Lord God' (**Yahweh Elohim**) instead of God (**Elohim**) alone. It will be used 20 times in Genesis 2-3, then only one more time in the Pentateuch, in Exodus 9:30. In this way Moses confirms that the God of creation is also the God of Israel. The pagan gods were not the creator.

: 5-6 From man's perspective there is nothing growing on the earth yet. Two types of land are noted: the field or uncultivated land; and the land or ground, land for cultivation.

And a mist was going up from the land... Some suggest that the entire geology and aquatics of the world was different before the flood.

: 7 Man (adam) is created from the dust of the earth (adamah). Our DNA is very similar to the rest of created life. However, until now, everything that was created came about by God speaking. Here God creates with his hands using material he had created earlier. Is the Bible saying that the creation of man is different from the creation of all the other creatures? I postulate that that is exactly what this means. **Isa 44:9 ff** shows the folly of man's attempt to create.

But then the Lord God *breathed into his nostrils the breath of life*. It is this God-breathed aspect of man that separates him from the rest of creation. This makes us into God's image. Now man is made a moral being, able to fellowship with God, but also accountable to God.

See Ezekiel 37:1-14.

Even after all the elements required to create life are assembled, yet they are dead chemicals until life is breathed into them. The evolutionists do not comprehend or acknowledge this.

: 8 *And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east...* The word Eden can be translated 'paradise', a Persian loan word referring to a royal park. This is symbolic of the place where God dwells. The tabernacle and later the temple are prefigured in Eden.
See Exodus 16 and Hebrews 9.

: 9-15 This section further describes the garden of verse 8.

There is an abundance of food in the garden.

There is a '*tree of life*' for which man has been seeking from the beginning. We all want to live forever. The golden candlestick in the tabernacle is a representation of the tree of life (Exod 25:31-35). In the New Testament Jesus is the light of the world and the source of life eternal (John 3:16-21).

There is the '*tree of the knowledge of good and evil*'. The prohibition concerning this tree makes us a moral people. We can know right from wrong. Adam was morally capable and morally accountable. There is a place for man's wisdom and knowledge, but it must be tempered by faith in God and God's goodness. See Ezekiel 28:1-19 and Proverbs 30:1-4.

There are four rivers identified. We only know two of them, the Tigris (Hiddekel) and Euphrates. The Gihon sounds like the Nile in the land of Cush (Ethiopia). The Pishon seems to be in the Arabian Peninsula (Havilah). Some people claim to identify the bed of the Pishon via satellite imagery. Some claim that the flood changed the entire geography of the area, and the river flowing out of Eden and Eden itself, can no longer be found.

: 15-17 Adam is placed in the garden to tend it and to guard it. The priests have similar duties in regard to the tabernacle (Num 3:7-8; 4:21-28). Adam is given only one commandment. We are given Ten Commandments. Disobedience will lead to certain death.

: 18-20 Here we see a dramatic change in the narrative. So far God has seen all he has created as good and very good. Suddenly God says: ***It is not good...*** A 'helper' is needed, so God prepares companionship for Adam.

In the naming of the animals, etc, Adam is given authority over them. Jesus re-named Simon and Saul. Nebuchadnezzar re-named Daniel and his companions, and we are given a new name when we enter God's kingdom by faith.

: 21-25 Eve is created out of the side of man (1 Tim 2:3; 1 Cor 11:8). She is to be by his side as the complementary companion he needs.

Adam breaks out into poem and song at the sight of her. How many love songs have followed throughout history.

As God formed Eve out of Adam's side, so he is forming the church out of Jesus side to be the bride for his Son (Eph 5:22-33).

Eph. 5:22-33 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body.

“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.

However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

: 24 *Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.* Here the covenantal nature of marriage is established. It precedes any established religion or church. It is between a man and a woman, and no other combinations (Lev 20:13; Matt 19:3-12).

Matt. 19:3-9 And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, “Is it lawful to divorce one’s wife for any cause?”

He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female,

and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh’?

So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”

They said to him, “Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?”

He said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so.

And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery.”

: 25 *And the man and his wife were both naked...* Our society keeps trying to move toward this state again, but it finds out that it cannot be done without shame.