

Lesson: Genesis 2:4-25: Everything began “Good” Pt. 3

If creation was described in Genesis 1, why is there a need for Genesis 2? Genesis 2 serves as a way to speak of God’s immanence (his closeness). Genesis 2 shows God who is above can also get in the dust.

Biblical Takeaways (2:4-25)

1. The Man and the Garden (2:4-9)
 - a. Gen 2 explains that before there was rain God caused the earth to be watered from beneath the earth.
 - b. Gen 2 tells us that the man (Heb: Adam) was made from the “dust of the ground.” But he did not live until God breathed into his nostrils the “breath of life.” That is when he became “a living soul.” Life is the consequence of God’s very breath. Without the breath of God, there would be no life.
 - c. God planted a garden where he placed every tree in the east in a place called Eden. In the middle of it, he had two trees, the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. One gave eternal life the other led to death.
2. The Garden as Center of the World (2:10-14): Out of Eden flowed a river that covered much of the world. One of the river branches flowed to Cush which is in Africa. The point is that Eden gave botanical life to the world around it. The question is often raised, “where is Eden?” Eden as understood biblically is a heaven/earth space. It cannot be found on a map.
3. The Vocation of the Man (2:15-17)
 - a. Man was to “serve and protect it.” The language will also be used of the priests who “serve” the tabernacle (Num 3:7). Eden was the place where God met with his creation and dwelled with them. The tabernacle and the temple would become that place. Humanity’s job was to serve and keep that place. God saw himself in humanity and met with you humanity. It takes God to meet God.
 - b. God commanded the man in his care for God’s garden to eat freely of any tree in the garden except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Eating from that tree would be death. God gives a literal death sentence, (lit.) “dying you will die.”
4. The Helper Suitable for the Man (2:18-25)
 - a. God created the Man with community in mind. He never wanted the man to be by himself. He created the animals for Adam’s care. God brought them to Adam to see what Adam would name them. Adam was to imitate his Creator and Father in naming, and thus, ordering them. But none was a suitable helper.
 - b. God made Adam go to sleep and took one of his ribs. The Woman came from Adam and was his equal in dignity and value. Her job was to help the man (Heb. *ezer*). God is often characterized as our “helper” (cf. Ps 10:14), meaning the woman as a help does not mean she is under the man. Since the woman is the man’s co-worker, the Bible sets the standard of marriage. The man and woman join together to be one forming a new unit since they came from one another. The man and woman leave their parents and join together as one flesh.