

10 - Genesis 2:7-17 - Environment & Responsibilities of Man
Ray Mondragon

- I. The Primeval History 1:1-11:26
 - A. The History of the Creation 1:1-2:3
 - B. The Early History of Mankind 2:4-3:24
 - 1. The Creation of Mankind - in innocence 2:4-25
 - a. The Creation of the Man 2:4-7

Genesis 2: outworking of the creation mandate

2.7 Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

We have elohim = creator; Yahweh emphasizes the relationship we have with God. We look at the word for 'form'. 'Dust' may suggest the fact that we are made of elements that form the earth.

Yastar creates/forms the Adam from the adamah (ground)

- > Meaning - mold, shape
- > Usage -
 - √ potter Isa 29.16; 45.5.
 - √ goldsmith same idea, different process
 - √ God God interacting with the creation

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'man' is also translated 'Adam'. 'From the ground': *adamah*

Humanness

- > Shared aspects -
 - material (dust)
 - animated substance, like the animals

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One of the aspects of man; the spiritual. Makes man distinct from animals. 'living being' = nefesh.

Humanness

10a

- > Shared aspects -
 - material (dust)
 - animated substance, like the animals
- > Distinct Aspects - in the image of God
 - image (1.26)
 - breath of life

This is the very good creation. Chapter 2 is an expansion of chapter 1, focusing in on the creation of man.

Essence - chapter 2 creation explanation

1. Day 7 Sabbath rest
2. Expansion of Day 6
3. Pre-fall world (still the 'very good' creation)
4. Creation of man - ruler

Applications

- 1] Humility
 - In the light of 'from dust'
- 2] Dignity
 - Always in the image of God, even if in depravity

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 - b. Environment for Man 2.8-14

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

A different focus with what God is doing in the Garden. 'toward the east,..Eden'. We haven't been able to locate it.

Eden Location various ideas:

1. Head of Persian Gulf, presently Iraq
2. Armenia
3. Babylonia = Iraq
4. East of Israel
 - Reason why we can't locate it. The Flood, ch 7-8, was world-wide, destroyed the surface, re-distributed layers of the earth, so:
5. Destroyed by Flood—the only explanation

2.8 The LORD God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed. 10b

1) The Garden 2:8-9

Applications

- 1] Humility - from dust 7
- 2] Dignity - image of God
- 3] Resources - garden 8

God gives all needed...and for us for anything He calls us to do: motherhood, vocations, etc. That is your 'garden'.

2.9 Out of the ground the LORD God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

These were the resources: we just tend the trees. The things He provided were the ideal before the fall: pleasing, good, abundance.

2.9 Out of the ground the LORD God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The tree of life = the provision for eternal life that would sustain us... we are finite and need sustenance. This is a reminder that we are finite even in the ideal state.

2.9 Out of the ground the LORD God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

God knows good and evil from an objective perspective; they then had the subjective experience of evil. More commentary later in passage.

2) The Rivers 2:10-14

Everything they needed to maintain life for plants and man.

2.10 Now a river flowed out of Eden to water the garden; and from there it divided and became four rivers.

We have smaller rivers adding to one bigger. But here it is one that divides into four. There is a river that will flow out of the New Jerusalem that seems similar. There is reference also, before that, that Jerusalem will be elevated.

10c

2.11 The name of the first is Pishon; it flows around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold.

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12 The gold of that land is good; the bdellium and the onyx stone are there.

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12 The gold of that land is good; the bdellium and the onyx stone are there.

Detail. Clearly historical account. Something that happened even though we can't identify them today.

2.13 The name of the second river is Gihon; it flows around the whole land of Cush.

14 The name of the third river is Tigris; it flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

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People, immigrants, in the US named cities after their previous homes in Europe. The Tigris and Euphrates may have been named for those that they knew before the flood, not being the same ones before the Flood.

Conditions

- > all 'very good' 1.31
- > lack of cultivated shrubs 2.5
- > Lack of cultivated plants
- > Lack of rain
- > Lack of cultivator: introduction to creation of man
- > garden of Lord 2.8-9
- > pre-flood Rivers 2.10-14

Applications

10d

- | | | | |
|----|------------------|------------------|------|
| 1] | Humility - | from dust | 7 |
| 2] | Dignity - | image of God | |
| 3] | Resources - | garden | 8 |
| 4] | Provision - | growth and water | 9-14 |
| 5] | Responsibility - | cultivation | 15 |

2.15 Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.

Put in a garden to cultivate and keep it. He wants us to be a part of what He is doing—the joy and fulfillment of accomplishing the tasks.

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| c. | The Responsibilities of Mankind | 2:15-17 |
| 1) | The Task | 2:15 |
| 2) | The Command | 2:16-17 |

2.16 The LORD God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely;
17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.”

Kind of a subset of the mandate. Now a ‘test’ to choose and we can choose to love and obey Him or reject Him as Adam and Eve did.

Nature of God

1. Sovereignty - command 16

Provides a garden, now a command...

2.16 The LORD God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely;
17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.”

A good God: from *any* tree. *freely* is an infinite absolute: may eat, eating = continually, as much as you want.

Nature of God

10e

1. Sovereignty - command 16
2. Goodness - ‘any’
3. Generosity - ‘eat freely’ the goodness and generosity.

2.16 The LORD God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely;
17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.”

They had experience of good, but not of evil. God gave an understanding of certain things, eg, animals, and of ‘evil’.

Tree of knowledge: views on what it means

1. Would give man omniscience
2. Sexual awakening Fall—> negative aspects....
3. Beneficial & injurious really more moral
4. Immortality could be from the tree of life;
God didn’t want man to remain in the fallen state...so he would die
5. Experiential Evil

Nature of God

1. Sovereignty - command 16
2. Goodness - ‘any’
3. Generosity - ‘eat freely’
4. Holiness - ‘good and evil’ 17

2.16 The LORD God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely;
17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.”

We can make choices.

Nature of God

1. Sovereignty - command 16
2. Goodness - ‘any’
3. Generosity - ‘eat freely’
4. Holiness - ‘good and evil’
5. Volition - ‘shall not eat’

2.16 The LORD God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely;
17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.”

Another infinitive absolute: emphasizes the certainty: die dead.

Nature of God

1. Sovereignty - command 2.16
2. Goodness - 'any'
3. Generosity - 'eat freely'
4. Holiness - 'good and evil' may make choices
5. Volition - 'shall not eat'
6. Justice - 'will surely die'

Applications from chapter 2

- 1] Humility - from dust 7
- 2] Dignity - image of God
- 3] Resources - garden 8
- 4] Provision - growth and water 9-14
- 5] Responsibility - cultivation 15
- 6] Accountability - choices 16-17

Some choices will have eternal results.

Our Creator and Lord desires our service and provides all we need for it!!!

- d. The Provision for Man - suitable helper 2:18-25