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Genesis 2

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Genesis 2.

Topics.

- On the seventh day God finished his work and rested.
- When the generations of the heavens and the earth were created.
- The seven days of creation.
- God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed life into him.
- The Lord God planted a garden in Eden.
- A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden.
- God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it.
- If you eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall die.
- It is not good that the man should be alone.
- Woman is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh.
- A man shall hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

The previous chapter: the focus of chapter one was upon the six days of creation and the creation of Adam.

GENESIS 2:1-3

On the Seventh Day God Finished His Work and Rested.

- **Genesis 2:1-3:** Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. ²And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. ³So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

All the host of them refers to the throng of heavenly angels, all the array of luminaries, the sun, moon and stars and the multitudes of living creatures which cover the dry land, the rivers and seas and the air. When reading the creation story, it should always be kept in mind that the Bible is not a scientific book, but a religious book and because of this it should not be looked at for a detailed scientific understanding, and no one should be disturbed by physicists' criticisms of it. The purpose of the story of creation is not to teaching scientific facts but a far more important message which is to imprint deep upon our minds the conviction that the one God created all things. The revelation which it gives is the truth, obscured to all who deny God, that one God in the beginning created the heaven and the earth. This holy utterance is the keynote of the whole story of creation, the rest simply expands it. The creation story sweeps the heavens and earth clear of the crowd of so-called gods, and shines a spotlight on the truth that the One enthroned above created all things. We can scarcely estimate the grandeur, of the all-uniting force, of that utterance. For all Christians the word of God "He spoke, and it was done," is the sign-manual of Deity and the God they worship.

God rested: the fact the Sabbath rest comes at the close of creation does not symbolise God's need of rest, but that His perfect accomplishment of His plans and purpose concerning creation for this earth has ceased because the works were finished, and He saw that was all very good. The work of the creative process is brought to an end. The work of the first four days was the preparation of the dwelling-place for the living creatures that after the fourth day were created to inhabit it. The chaos, the separation of the waters above from the waters beneath, the emergence of the land, the beginning of vegetation, the shining out of the sun as the dense mists cleared all find confirmation in the eternal truth: "Though the utterance of the divine will our earth was created." Our first parents (Adam and Eve) were created on the sixth day the last day of creation and then God rested on the seventh day (Saturday) this set the pattern for the Sabbath for all future generations until Christ's death and resurrection when the Christian Sabbath became the first day of the week (Sunday) celebrating Christ's resurrection and the finishing work of redemption. Since the LORD rested on the seventh day and one of the Ten Commandments states:

- Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. (Exodus 20:8).

Some today believe they must keep the Sabbath Day or they will be out of favour with God. For those who desire to live under the Old Covenant of Law the true Sabbath is Saturday, but this commandment was given to the nation of Israel and came with a death penalty if any Israelite profaned it or did any work on it (Exod. 31:14-15) so if we embrace it today as a commanded law we also have to embrace the punishment. Nowhere in the New Covenant of Grace does Jesus, the apostles or Paul give a commandment to keep the Sabbath. New converts started meeting on Sunday, because the Jews denied Christ and wouldn't allow them in the Synagogues and it was the day Christ rose, but it is not a command of God, but become the practical and traditional day for Christians to gather together. Today it matters not to God what day Christians gather together to worship since it is not the day that is important to God, but the honesty and integrity of the heart toward Him every day.

The apostle Paul wrote:

- Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink or with regard to a religious festival, a new moon festival or a Sabbath Day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ. (Col. 2:16-17).

GENESIS 2:4

When the Generations of the Heavens and the Earth were Created.

- **Genesis 2:4:** These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.

The words, "These are the generations," show that it is possible that the first four days prior to the sun and moon being created and set in their place, could quite easily have been long periods of time since the word day in the bible often carries the idea of an age or season of time or a period of time for certain events to take place. Added to this the sun and moon were created to form days months, seasons and years and they were not set in their place until the fourth day.

Obviously, it is safe to claim that the days after the fourth day would have been twenty-four-hour periods, but it may not be so safe to claim that the first three or four days were twenty-four-hour days as we know them today.

GENESIS 2:5-6

When the Midst of the Ground was Going up from the Earth.

- **Genesis 2:5-6:** When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground,⁶ and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground.

In the beginning the earth laid in waste and emptiness, it was covered with water and the mist (or vapours) of that water was so thick in the firmament (the expanse) that the earth was covered in darkness.

The Seven Days of Creation.

1. God created light and separated the light from the darkness. (Genesis 1:1-5).
2. God created an expanse to separate the solid water from the midst of water. (Gen 1:6-8).
3. God set boundaries for the waters (i.e., rivers, lakes and oceans) and the dry land appeared and the earth sprouted vegetation, plants and fruit trees. (Gen 1:8-13).
4. God created the sun, moon and stars for signs and for seasons, and for days and years. (Gen 1:14-19).
5. God created the fish and the birds (Gen 1:20-23).
6. God created all types of living creatures to live upon the land, livestock, creeping things (insects) beasts of the earth and man. (Gen 1:24-31).
7. God rested, meaning God stopped creating because all the work of creation was completed. (Gen 2:1-3).

By the omnipotent creative power of God the earth and our universe went from darkness, waste and emptiness to be covered with the most magnificent beauty and filled with the most glorious of all types of living creatures and all this for our comfort joy and pleasure. For far greater detail of creation see:

- Genesis chapter one in Commentary OT (ON WEBSITE MENU).

GENESIS 2:7

God Formed Man from the Dust and Breathed Life into Him.

- **Genesis 2:7:** 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 creature.

This is amazing: man is made from the dust of the earth, but filled with the breath of God, if we were to symbolise this we could say that man was created with an earthly nature and a heavenly nature or that man was created with a lower nature (the dust) and a higher nature (the breath of God). It could be said that Adam was able to act think and behave from the flesh (the dust of the earth) or from the Spirit (the breath of God). The light is now set upon on man; it matters not whether the creation story is perfectly understood, since all that is important is the truth that God made all the universe and prepared the earth for the delight of living creatures and that He made the birds that soar and sing, and the creatures that swim through the waters of the seas, and all the beasts that roam the earth, these are all God's creation. Though there was a heavenly world of angels and an earthly world of harmless animals there was no life of the same form as man, at this time and because of this it would be right and proper to say that Adam was alone. Gods' words, "It is not good that the man should be alone," (v18) shine a spotlight on the fact that God clearly understood man's need for a creation that Adam could talk to and share his life with.

The LORD God Planted a Garden in Eden.

- **Genesis 2:8-9:** And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Here we see God setting His focus upon a particular land area for man to dwell in. How special is this, God is not going to set man in any area of the earth, but establishes a particular area of special beauty for him. In this unique garden God plants multitude of the most amazing trees that are not only beautiful to the eyes (it is certain they had leaves of stunning colour), but also grew all types of the most delicious fruit. Added to all these trees God planted one tree of knowledge of good and evil.

NOTE: all of creation including mankind are bound by the laws God has set in nature, but God is not bound by them since He created them and set them in their rightful place so it is possible that these trees literally, "sprang up out of the ground," (v9) in the same way that God made the plant to miraculously grow during the night over Jobs head to give him shade for one day (Jon. 4:6-7) (Jon. 4:9-10).

The Garden of Eden: shows that God, as a tender Father, desired Adam's happiness, comfort joy since all the joy and beauty of the Garden of Eden were created for his delight and his pleasure. Wherever it was, Eden signifies delight and pleasure it was adorned with every tree pleasant to the sight, and enriched with every tree that yielded fruit most beautiful to the taste and most healthy for food. The Garden of Eden had two unique trees.

1. There was the tree of life in the midst of the garden which Adam and Eve could freely eat. The title: "the tree of life," clearly implies that the fruit of this unique tree was able to sustain mortal life. Though Adam and Eve were mortal creatures it appears if they had been able to continually eat of the tree of life it would have sustained their mortal life so that they would not have died. This idea is support by the fact when Adam and Eve did sin the LORD not only cast them out of Eden, but set an angel before the garden so that they could not access the tree of life and live forever as the following verses show.

- The LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: ²³Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. ²⁴So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubim, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life. (Gen. 3:22-24).

Prior to this Adam and Eve knew nothing of death. It is certain the tree of life was planted in the prime position of the garden so that it would be an object of daily observation to keep their minds habitually aware of God and easy to access.

2. There was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, so called because there was a positive revelation of the will of God about this tree, so that by it man might know moral good and evil. It is given this title because it was a test of obedience by which our first parents were to be tried, whether they would be good or bad, obey God or break His command. In these two trees God set before Adam good and evil, the blessing and the curse.

A River Flowed out of Eden to Water the Garden.

- **Genesis 2:10-14:** A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers. ¹¹The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. ¹²And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. ¹³The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush. ¹⁴And the name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

Out of the large region of which the Garden of Eden a river flowed. It is possible that this river arose from one spring or met together in one channel and then once outside of Eden it branched out and became four main streams. These verses have caused much speculation over the years concerning where the Paradise of Eden might have been. Following are the three most common thoughts.

- 1 In the Persian Gulf, in a region now submerged, the Babylonian legends actually place it there, at Eridu, at the junction of the Tigris and Euphrates. The two other rivers they supposed to have been the Indus and the Nile, represented by the two coasts of the Persian Gulf.
- 2 In the region surrounded by the river Euphrates, where it and the Tigris met, and become one river, and as such entered and passed through Eden and parted into four streams of water or four principal rivers (two of which retained their names).
- 3 The river Jordan, because four rivers are spoken of together by the son of Sirach in the following verses of the Apocrypha:
 - He filleth all things with his wisdom, as Phison and as Tigris in the time of the new fruits. ²⁶He maketh the understanding to abound like Euphrates, and as Jordan in the time of the harvest. ²⁷He maketh the doctrine of knowledge appear as the light, and as Geon in the time of vintage. (Sirach 24)

We should not be concerned with the fact that these rivers cannot be perfectly ascertained and pinpointed considering the great changes produced in the state of the earth, by the great flood of Noah's generation as well by earthquakes etc., all we can be certain of is that the river was the purest of all rivers and contributed greatly to all forms of life and to the pleasantness and fertility of the garden. It is interesting to notice that in the Garden of Eden we see a river of life flowing from the first Paradise of God and in the last Paradise of God we see a river of life flowing from the throne of God. This river can be seen as a symbol of the everlasting love of God, that pure river of water that brings happiness and life to everyone who comes to its streams, which the following verses speak of:

- There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. (Psalm 46:4).
- Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. (Rev. 22:1-2).

For further information concerning the final Paradise of God, see the title:

- The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgement.

In Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

GENESIS 2:15

God took the Man and put Him in the Garden of Eden to Work it.

- **Genesis 2:15:** The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

The words, "God took the man him" carries the idea that God took Adam with good words or by the hand and led him to the garden. This verse shines a spotlight on the truth that none of us were sent into the world to be lazy and idle even in the Garden of Eden it was still God's law, "He that will not work has no right to eat." (2 Thess. 3:10). Even though it was a paradise the garden still had to be tilled and planted. Seeds must be sown and the cultivated plots kept in order; but work in the Garden of Eden was not with toil and labour, with fatigue and trouble, with sorrow and sweat, as after the fall; but rather for Adams recreation and pleasure. Caring for the garden added to Adam's happiness, because the man as yet uncursed, responded willingly to the care of the garden and everything he put his hand to would have produced abundantly. The faithful preservation of the garden was a trust committed to man by his bounteous Maker. The keeping of the garden may also include guarding it from the damages of the cattle, the wild beasts, or even the smaller animals. It is interesting to notice that gardening was the first occupation of mankind. If the first man was given the task of caring for the most beautiful garden ever created how much more should mankind be caring for the most beautiful planet God has given us all to live upon.

GENESIS 2:16-17

If you Eat of the Tree of the Knowledge you shall Die.

- **Genesis 2:16-17:** And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷but 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."

These verses clearly imply that providing Adam and Eve never ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil they would never see or experience death and all the decay and horrors that come with it. This means that though Adam and Eve were created mortal creatures providing they ate of the tree of life and never ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil they would have lived forever. The tree of life didn't just sustain life until they died its fruit gave perpetual life. Today of course our tree of life is the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus said:

- I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. (John 6:35).
- This is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. (John 6:40).

For further information concerning the tree of life and the tree of good and evil see the notes following (Gen. 2:8) (above) under the title: "The LORD God Planted a Garden in Eden."

GENESIS 2:18-20

It is Not Good that the Man should be Alone.

- **Genesis 2:18-20:** Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." ¹⁹So out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him.

Last of all creation comes Eve. It matters not how beautiful the Garden of Eden was and it would have been the most beautiful of all gardens in the midst of plenty yet even amongst such amazing delights it is very likely Adam would have been conscious of feelings that he could not gratify. He

could never find his full happiness without someone to share the good life he had been given. Gods words, "It is not good that man should be alone," shows that God Adams creator clearly understood this, but these words refer to far more than the inner emptiness and desire of Adam they also carry the idea that it is not convenient that man be alone for the following reasons:

- For God's purposes for the future history of the earth and its final end.
- For the propagation and increase of mankind.
- For man's personal comfort or for his social nature.
- For man to have no one to help him in all the affairs of life.

The Creator himself, in whose image man was made understood man's need for romantic affection within him and for social interaction. Man is formed to be social, to talk and chat and discuss things concerning God and concerning life, not only with his superior, but also with his equal. At this stage Adam is created an individual and as such he needs a mate that he can share all aspects of his life with.

Adam gave names to all livestock, to the birds and to every animal: power over the creatures was given to man, and as a proof of this he named them all, but though he was lord of the creatures, yet nothing in this world was a help meet for him. God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam; while he knows no sin, God will take care that he shall feel no pain. God, as his Father, brought the woman to the man, as his second self, and a help meet for him.

GENESIS 2:21-23

Woman is Bone of my Bones and Flesh of my Flesh.

- **Genesis 2:21-23:** So, the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²²And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."

The words, "bone of my bones," mean "my very own self." Whether Adam was conscious of the change in himself, and of the work of the God going on, or received supernatural information of the event when he awoke, we are not told. It is possible that it was revealed to Adam in a vision, while he was sleeping that this lovely creature, now presented to him, was a piece of himself, and was to be his companion, and the wife of his covenant. Whatever the case Adam was perfectly aware of the nature of her when she appeared before his eyes for the first time.

Adam named Eve woman: the word woman comes from the Hebrew word (*'ishshah*) and means a woman or wife. The word (*'ishshah*) comes from the Hebrew word (*'iysh*) and the word (*'enowsh*). The word (*'iysh*) means a man as an individual or a male person or husband and the word (*'enowsh*) carries the idea of being mortal. It should be of no surprise that the Hebrew word for women (*'ishshah*) also carries the idea of a male within its meaning since it is from man that the woman came. Adam on waking from his sleep, found one standing by him in whom he recognised a second self, and he welcomed her joyfully, and exclaimed, "This at last is bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh:" that is, she is she is his counterpart, not merely in flesh, feeling and the senses, but in every quality that enhances his life and his comfort, joy and happiness.

GENESIS 2:24-25

A Man shall Hold Fast to His Wife, and they shall Be One Flesh.

- **Genesis 2:24-25:** Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

Since Adam and Eve had no parents it can only be by revelation and by God putting these words within Adam that he spoke them. Thousands of years later we see Jesus citing these very words of Adam to his audience, "Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh (Matt. 19:5). The words, "It is not good that the man should be alone," (v18) show that man was not created to be an island on his own and contained within the words, "A man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh," is the Divine appointment of marriage. Based on the following words of God, "I will make Adam a helper fit for him" (Gen. 2:18) some feel the survival of a marriage is the sole responsibility of the woman, but this is a grossly mistaken idea. The happiness of marriage is not solely dependent upon the woman being a helper to her husband, but is also dependent upon husband being her protector and supporter. Christ expressed this in the following words:

- Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, (Ephesians 5:25).
- Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. (Colossians 3:19).

They shall become one flesh carries the following three ideas:

1. They shall become united together in the act of marriage.
2. They shall become one in their children.
3. They shall become one in mind and heart.

God created both male and female so that neither the woman is without the man, or the man without the woman. Without the woman mankind would cease to exist, likewise without the man there would be no births both the man and the woman stand side by side, on an equal level before God.

The man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed: our first parents needed no clothes for covering against cold or heat, for neither could hurt them and since they were in a state of innocence, they needed none for ornament. God had blest Adam and Eve with a most save and beautiful and perfect environment to abide and the law given to him was easy yet man being given the highest honour of all creatures soon became as the beasts of the field that perish.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.
