

God of Creation | Genesis Ch. 1-11

Session Four: Genesis 2:4-25 | Created in the Image of God

Big Picture Questions

- What does the text want us to ask?
- Chapter 1 answered:
 - Who created? God alone.
 - Why He created? For His glory.

Created in the image of God

- This made humans unique from the rest of creation
- How do humans reflect who God is?
 - We interact with the rest of creation in the way God would if He were here
 - God does enter into creation as the person of Christ, so we should look to Christ as the ultimate example of an image bearer

What chapter 1 has already revealed about Man & Woman

- Both man and woman are:
 - Equally responsible for creation
 - were both given dominion
 - Equal image bearers
- This means...
 - They don't exercise authority or bear the image of God in identical or interchangeable ways
 - Both man and woman are necessary for dominion to occur
 - Both man and woman are necessary for the image of God to be demonstrated to the world

Moses begins a new section that builds upon chapter 1

- Intentional repetition: "These are the generations of..."
- A good student of the Bible is always asking, "how do I connect what came before to where I am now?"
 - How do these texts take on deeper meaning when we read them in the context of what we've already seen in chapter 1?

Ch. 1	Ch. 2
Macro, zooming out on the story like a drone	Micro, zooming into one particular aspect of the creation narrative
More generally about God and all aspects of creation, including humans	Focuses on the story of human origin, though primarily still about god
	Less poetic

Extremely formulaic	Less repetitive
Elohim- God Almighty	YAHWEH- The Lord God
Transcendent God on high	Near and personal

There is a unity between these seemingly contrasting accounts of creation

- Matthew 6:9 “Our *father* who art thou *in heaven*...”
- Don’t lean too much toward the personal God or too much towards transcendent; hold them in tension.
- Man is an image of God (sacred), and also formed from the dust (low)
 - “Adam”= man
 - “Adamah”= dust (from the same word as Adam)
 - “Ruach”= breath

Features & Location of The Garden

- The Trees
 - The trees’ location
 - In the middle of the garden
 - They should be the central consideration of the garden’s inhabitants
 - The trees’ names
 - The Tree of Life & The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil
 - Their names demonstrate God’s sovereign/central right to decree who has life and to decree what is right/wrong
 - God determines morality and God gives life as he chooses
- The Garden’s location
 - The Garden’s name
 - “Garden”= protected area
 - “Eden”=delight
 - East
 - What does this mean to the original audience?
 - It is relative to the direction of Mt. Sinai
 - He provides man with everything they need. The original audience had been in the desert for 40 years. They questioned God’s provision at every turn, even though God had demonstrated He could/would provide.
 - They would deeply feel the contrast between the desert and the garden.
 - The Rivers
 - “Mesopotamia”= the land between two rivers (The Tigris and the Euphrates)
 - Believed to be the first place humans appeared
 - What historians would tell you lines up with what the Bible is saying
 - The original audience would be familiar with these landmarks.
 - Moses is showing them, this is a real place, these events actually happened. This historical narrative is supposed to be taken as actual fact.

In the garden, work was good

- Eden was a place where work was given to the man, and it was joyful work
 - The cultural mandate: be fruitful and multiply, rule and subdue, take dominion
 - They were delightful works because they took place in a place of delight

The need for woman in this work

- In light of the repetition of chapter 1, we are hit by the fact something about Eden wasn't good, it wasn't complete, it wasn't perfect.
- "Helper"= necessary ally, an indispensable ally
 - Unless the woman was made to help the man, the mission of God does not go forward
 - The same word is used in the OT to describe God himself helping His people in their times of need
 - It is not a small word, it is a big word.
- Once Adam is made prepared for Eve, Eve can be made ready for Adam

There is more that unites Woman and Man than separates them.

- "Woman"= ishshah, because she was taken out of man (ish)
 - She shall be called "like me" because she came from me
- In our culture, we have become so concerned with the differences of man and women that we often lose sight of what we share in common
 - What is most like half the moon? The other half.
 - Men and women are created in the image of God, by the same God and in the same garden.
- When we wholly separate men from women, there is a contempt that grows between us.
 - The first step of treating someone with contempt is to look at someone and think, "not like me."
- One Flesh
 - Ephesians 5:22-33
- Naked and not ashamed
 - Children don't associate shame with nakedness, but after chapter 3 shame is always related to nakedness
 - In revelations, when we stand in the new heavens and the new earth, we have been clothed in fine linen- the righteousness of Christ. We have been given a covering of our shame.
 - In Eden, we see innocence and vulnerability that will be lost in chapter 3
 - Much of the life of a believer is trying to regain a vulnerability that we've lost amidst the ravages of sin

Christians' work today still reflects Eden

- We are tasked with re-eden-izing the world.
- All work that is done as a believer is done as seeking God's glory.
- All work is good work when it is done to the glory of God.
 - It helps give a snapshot of this protected area of delight.