

THE FOCUS OF CREATION: Part 1 | GENESIS 2:4-17 | PASTOR MARK BOFILL | 3/26/2023

I. God's Masterpiece...Mankind (4-7) | II. God's Marvel...Eden (8-15) | III. God's Mandate... was Necessary (16-17) | IV. God's Mate...Eve (18-25)

INTRO: What God made on each of the 6 days of creation was truly amazing, but what God did on the **6th day of creation** was the most amazing of all! Moses now provides a break in his narrative, so as to zero in on what mattered most to God...Mankind! In (**Genesis 2:4-25**), we now have **THE FOCUS OF CREATION**, where God reveals 4 special things on the 6th day.

I. GOD'S MASTERPIECE: MANKIND (Gen 2:4-7) – These verses focus on days 1-3 as the mentioned in the previous section (**1:1-10**). Moses particularly *focuses on the perfect environment* which God established for His prize creation: **Mankind**

A. The SUMMARY of Creation (4-5a) – The word **HISTORY** is *Toledoth* (*lit. generations*)

The book of Genesis is the basis of all reality and history for mankind to discover. It is the foundation of God's revelation, for habitation, and communion, with a loving creator.

1. Notice first the word **HEAVENS**... it is **plural** here. Scripture reveals that God created three dimensions or Heavens:

- The first heaven is where the **birds fly**. (**Daniel 4:34**) *“And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven [8065 שָׁמַיִם - *shamayin*].*
- The second heaven is where the **stars are**: (**Psalms 19:1**) *The **heavens** [8064 שָׁמַיִם - *shamayim*] declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork.*
- The third heaven is where God dwells. The Apostle Paul spoke of being **“caught up”** to the third heaven: (**2 Cor. 12:2**) [3772 οὐρανός – *ouranos*].”
- *The Heavens and the Earth was created by God for US to inhabit here and now. **The third heaven is a paradise** where saints partake of immediate communion with God in Christ, and of **the Tree of Life** which is in the midst of the paradise of God (**Rev 2:7**).*

2. And the **“Lord God...” (4b)** – This is the special name of God – **Yahweh Elohim**... [3068 יהוה, יהוה; [*Yâhovah/yeh·ho·vaw*]/]. It is “unpronounced” except with the vowel pointings: **YHVH**. This is the personal name of God and His most frequent designation, occurring over 6,800 x's (cf., Ex 3:14, Ps 68:4; Isa 52:6; Jer 16:21; Ezek 37:6, John 8:58)

B. The SETTING of Creation (5b-6) *Had not caused it to Rain...* Here we are told that before any vegetation was created (*day 3*); God had already established a **HYDROLOGIC SYSTEM** with which He watered the earth. – **He did not use RAINFALL**, which relies upon solar evaporation of ocean waters into our atmosphere, which is then redistributed upon the land, into our rivers, and back to the ocean.

C. The SHAPING of Mankind (7) *And the Lord God formed man from the dust...* The word “formed” is **yatsar**, which is different from *bara* or *asah*... comes from the same word which means: *“to squeeze into shape.”*

1. **How did God form man?** God used basic elements of the earth to form **MAN'S BODY**. God is still at work in shaping man into His image...spiritually! – (Eph 2:10) *For we are His workmanship [poiema], created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

2. **How did man come alive?** Man's body was still lifeless without it being **ENERGIZED** by the giver of life. – *God Breathed [lit. blow] the breath of life into the NOSTRILS of Adam, which activated his lungs to begin the oxygen circulation process; which in turn prompted his heart to begin beating; which then allowed all the chemical processes to occur within Adam's cells. All of which is necessary for the maintenance of life!*

- Notably, the elements of man **DIFFERENT FROM ANIMALS** because **man has a soul**, but animals do not! (Eccl. 3:21) *“Who knows the spirit of the sons of men, which goes upward, and the spirit of the animal, which goes down to the earth?”*

CLOSING THOUGHT: The creativity and workmanship of God is nothing short of a **MASTERPIECE!** (JOB 33:4) says, *The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.*

II. GOD'S MARVEL: EDEN (Gen. 2:8-15) – Details are now provided about *the first habitat of man*, after the creation. A perfect environment designed and determined by God.

A. And the Lord PLANTED a GARDEN (8) – Who then was the first Gardener? **GOD!** Imagine the beauties of **God's Garden of EDEN...MARVELOUS!**

1. **Eden** can be translated: “Delight,” or “Pleasure.” – **My description:** *A lush green Oasis, with an abundance of healthy food. It had a perfect climate and crystal-clear waters! Ah, but the most delightful thought... EDEN was a place where man walked with God!*

2. **We do not know the exact location of Eden**, but use of the word “*eastward*” provides a “general sense,” indicating that it may have been near **Babylon** or **Mesopotamia**, but could also be located just **east of Jerusalem?**

B. The Lord God MADE EVERY TREE (9) – Once again, this is **day 3** (*before the fall*), man and animals were **probably vegetarians...** All of the plants had a purpose, were beautiful in appearance, and “*good for food.*” **MARVELOUS!**

- **Two particularly important trees** mentioned: The Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil...

1. **The TREE of LIFE (9a)** – Even though God Himself is the life-giver and *sustainer of life*, He apparently created a literal tree for man to partake of, which in turn provided eternal health benefits. **What else can we learn from this MARVELOUS TREE?**

- The tree was in the midst of the garden on earth.
- Upon Adam's transgression, God removed access to this tree (**Gen 3:22**).

- **The Tree STILL exists**, but only in heaven: (Rev 2:7, 22:2,14) *“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the **tree of life**, which is **in the midst of the Paradise of God.**”* (Rev 2:7)

2. **The TREE of the KNOWLEDGE of GOOD and EVIL (9b)** – This tree was unique in that it offered a ***different kind of fruit!*** A fruit that was forbidden to the taste of man, a fruit that would have life-altering consequences.

- **The ultimate question**... If God is good, **Why did He allow this tree in the Garden?**
- **The simple answer**... God **IS** good, and God is a God of **LOVE**. In order for mankind to know God's love then they had to be created with the ability to CHOOSE [Free-will]. **One simple tree was therefore NECESSARY!** – Without this tree, **Humankind would be automated**

C. **The Lord God made 4 SPECIAL RIVERS (10-14)** – In the **ANTEDILLUVIAN** world, Eden was the fountainhead of four rivers mentioned: **Pishon, Gihon, Hiddekel**, and the **Euphrates**.

- Many scholars believe that TWO of these rivers still exist, **the Euphrates** and **the Hiddekel** (*modern day Tigris*), which stems from Assyria. – I tend to side with Morris, who concludes that, *“The Catastrophic Flood event would have rearranged the entire geography of the globe, and therefore none of these rivers exist exactly as they were created.”* – H. Morris

D. **The Lord God PLACED Man (15) ...In the garden of Eden to Tend and keep it.**

1. **Man was Created to Work** – Work is not a result of the fall, it is just more difficult because of the fall! (*A lot more difficult!*) – However, if you are delighting yourself in God He can make you enjoy the occupation that you have! (cf. Col 3:22-23)

2. **Man was Created to RULE the earth**... because God gave it to him. (Gen 1:28), *“...fill the earth, and subdue it; have dominion over...fish...seas...birds...every living thing...”*

Devotional Thought: However, as we shall see, Adam **FORFEITED** the earth to Lucifer when he disobeyed God. What was a clear sign of this? **The EARTH**, which once yielded to man, would **now be CURSED** and produce THORNS and THISTLES (Gen 3:17-18; ROM 8:20-22).

AAAHHH...but there is hope! Our Creator, our Lord and Savior of mankind has **REDEEMED** us from the curse! - **The N.T. reveals that Christ redeemed the TITLE DEED to the earth?**

- (Matt 27:29) Is the pre-act/type? (*The Crowning of Jesus with Thorns!*)
- (Rev 5:1-7;13) Speaks of the right to the **SCROLL/TITLE DEED** of the earth.

CLOSING THOUGHT: God's creation of man is a **MASTERPIECE**, but we should **MARVEL** at the habitation and perimeters given for our blessings. EDEN was a place God created so that Adam, Eve, and their offspring could enjoy fellowship with God forever! *(But the condition existed)*

III. GOD'S MANDATE: Was NECESSARY (Gen. 2:16-17) – The Trees that Existed in Eden were for: Physical Sustainability – Eternal Sustainability – Obedient Accountability! – Because the tree of the knowledge of good and evil existed, **God had to give His COMMANDMENT to the Man...Adam!** A commandment which would allow fellowship with God to continue forever!

A. The POSITIVE Mandate (16) – 99.999999999% of the Trees in the Garden (all) were for **Adam's enjoyment and for food**. Of course, this included partaking from the Tree of Life!

- 1. The Nature of this Tree is for LIFE!** – But it would require **OBEDIENCE** to God's Law.
- Because **The Fall** has taken place, God has established **the same commandment** as requirement to Partake of this SAME Tree in the Future – **(Rev 22:14)** *Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may enter through the gates into the city. If you love God, keep His commandments!*

B. The NEGATIVE Mandate (17) – **DON'T** eat of the **Tree of the Knowledge of Good/Evil...**

- **The NATURE of the Tree:** Knowledge of good and evil, which **produced death's exclamation: DYING, THOU SHALT DIE!**

C. The CONSEQUENCE: "Separation." There are **3 kinds of death** mentioned in the Bible:

- 1. Physical Death** – *When a person's heart stops beating, he quits breathing, his brain ceases to function, his bodily functions cease, and life flickers away. **The soul is gone.** The body becomes but a corpse.*
- 2. Spiritual Death** – Can be defined as Man **SEPERATED** from God. It is instructive to observe the immediate consequences of Adam and Eve's sin in (Gen 3).
- 3. Eternal Death (or Second Death)** – The phrase is used but four times in the Bible, all in the book of **Revelation: 2:11; 20:6, 14; 21:8**. **Rev. 20:14** identifies Second Death as a location... "the **LAKE OF FIRE.**" **(Rev. 21:8)** confirms is as *"the lake that burns with fire and brimstone"* (sulphur). Second Death is a ghastly extension of Spiritual Death. Our definition of Second Death is as follows: **Second Death means Man Separated from God in the Lake of Fire FOREVER.**

CLOSING THOUGHT: DEATH was NEVER God's intention for Mankind... only LIFE! By faith we understand that God's MANDATE was NECESSARY for mankind in order to establish MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS... This will be climaxed in Part 2 of THE FOCUS OF CREATION, where we learn of **God's Special MATE for Adam, EVE.**