

Genesis 2-3 – Thursday, October 11th, 2007

- In chapter two, we have a more detailed account of creation starting off with the completion of creation on the 7th day.
- In chapter one, we had sort of a wide angle lens on creation, now in chapter two we look through a zoom lens.

Chapter 2 - Verse 1 Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. 2 And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. 3 Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

- God doesn't rest because He is tired, He rests because He is finished and is now going to enjoy His creation.
- He models for us a time of rest to enjoy His creation. When the land had a Sabbath rest, it would become more productive.
- Hebrews tells us that the Sabbath rest points to our salvation where we rest from our works for salvation, because it is finished.
- Notice that this is the only day that does not end in the phrase, "so the evening and the morning were the seventh day."
- Some have seen this as God's eternal Sabbath rest for His people. It's not limited to a literal day of the week.

Hebrews 4:9-10 9 There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. 10 For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His. NKJV

4 This is the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the **LORD** God made the earth and the heavens,

- Some believe that this is an eyewitness account from Adam himself, written down then passed down for Moses to record.
- This is the first use of LORD (YHWH - Yahweh). The English word Lord comes from the Anglo-Saxon word bread. Ancient English men of high stature would keep a continual open house, where all could come and get bread to eat, so they gained the honorable title of lords, (dispensers of bread).

5 before any plant of the field was in the earth and before any herb of the field had grown. For the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the earth, and there was no man to till the ground; 6 but a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground. 7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

- God literally formed man from the ground. The same 17 elements found in dirt are the same 17 elements found in the body of man.
- Then God breathes life into his nostrils, "the breath of life," and the man became a living being.
- The Hebrew word for breath is "ruach" which is the same word for Spirit. The meaning of Aloha is "breath of life," Haole, breath-none.
- They were a living soul, triune in nature, body soul and spirit. Physical (Body) - Personal (Soul) - Spiritual (Spirit). (Light Bulb)

8 The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. 9 And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. 10 Now a river went out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it parted and became four riverheads. 11 The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one which skirts the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. 12 And the gold of that land is good. Bdellium and the onyx stone are there. 13 The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one which goes around the whole land of Cush. 14 The name of the third river is Hiddekel; it is the one which goes toward the east of Assyria. The fourth river is the Euphrates.

- Both the Tigris and the Euphrates River are in Iraq which is why it's considered by some to be the "cradle of civilization."
- Others suggest that Noah and his sons named the Tigris and Euphrates after the flood because they were familiar names prior.
- Some believe we can't know where the other rivers are because the geography of the planet was so drastically changed after the flood.

15 Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.

- Work was blessed before the curse of sin, in heaven we will enjoy the work of our own hands.

16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 but 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."

- Notice it says that God commanded the man, not the women, to not eat of the tree of knowledge of good & evil.
- Why would God put that tree in the Garden? He had to give man a choice.
- Notice what God doesn't say here. If you eat from this tree, I'm going to kill you. If you eat of the tree, it (sin) will kill you.
- Sin is its own reward. He's God the Father not the Godfather.

Numbers 32:23b ...and you may be sure that your sin will find you out.

18 And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.

- Everything God makes is good, but when He makes man he says it's not good. Man's not good, no, man being alone is not good.

19 And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. 20 And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.

- Isn't interesting that God would have Adam name all the animals before He make him his helpmeet.
- God knows Adam's need before Adam knew, then God makes him aware of his need.

21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place.

- God has Adam go into a deep sleep, then, God meets his need while he's sleeping.
- This reminds me how God had Abraham go into a deep sleep before He "cut covenant with him."

22 Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

- It's like the Father walks Eve down the aisle in verse 22.

23 And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man."

- Adam and the animals were all formed out of the ground, women was the only one of God's creation that was not.

- Bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh means "she is my exact counterpart". Eve is made from the rib of a man.

- It's like God tells Adam that Eve is going to cost you an arm and a leg, to which he responds with; "what can I get for a rib?"

Matthew Henry - "The woman was made of a rib out of the side of Adam; not made out of his head to rule over him, nor out of his feet to be trampled upon by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be beloved."

- From Adam's side is birthed Eve his bride, as from Jesus being stabbed in the side is His birthed the church as His bride.

- Our marriages are a microcosm of our relationship to Jesus Christ as our Bride Groom.

- Our families are a microcosm of our relationship to the Father.

Henry Morris - "The institution of monogamous marriage, home, and family as the basic medium for the propagation of the race and the training of the young is so common to human history that people seldom pause to reflect on how or why such a custom came into being."

24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they **shall become** one flesh. 25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

- Notice that it doesn't say that they become one flesh, rather, they "shall," become one flesh. It's over a process of time.

- Have you ever noticed that man is the only one of God's creation that is clothed? Animals don't wear clothes to cover their nakedness.

- The two essentials to marital fulfillment are found right here in verse 24. 1. Leave, 2. Cleave.

Genesis 3 records for us the detailed account of man's fall and sins entry into the world and the human experience.

1 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"

- Satan's most effective campaign has been launched in the "Has God Said," tour, if you will.
- When Satan gets us to question what "God has said", then the seed of doubt has begun to germinate in the fertile soil of our mind.
- When a thought comes into our mind that questions, doubts or accuses God, it's Satan. To entertain it is to deal with the Devil himself.
- It's been said that we can't outsmart the Devil, but we can overcome the Devil.

2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3 **but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden.** God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

- So far so good. Eve is battling the enemy with the Word of God. This is how Jesus responded when tempted by the Devil.
- One interesting observation. It may not be that significant. Eve doesn't call the tree by its name only that it's in the midst of the garden.
- Another observation is that Eve sort of adds to God's Word by saying "nor shall you touch it." God never said do not touch it.
- It's probably a good idea to not, as one said, to touch and massage the forbidden fruit your not supposed to eat from.

Adam Clarke in his commentary on "**nor shall you touch it**" says of "some Jewish writers who state that as soon as the woman had asserted this, the serpent pushed her against the tree and said, 'See, you have *touched* it, and are still alive; you may therefore safely eat of the fruit, for surely you shall not die.'"

The question is often asked; "How much of Eve's fall is Adam's fault?" The general consensus seems to me to be that Adam is the one responsible for sins entry into the world.

- He's the one who received the command directly from God before the sin.
- He's the one who receives the communication directly from God after the sin. God addressed Adam first then Eve, then the serpent.
- He's the one who was responsible to correctly communicate God's command to Eve.
- Perhaps the reason Eve said, that God said; "nor shall you touch it," came from Adam's communiqué to her which may have went something like: "Eve, you see that tree in the middle of the garden? Don't even touch it, or else, you will die!"

Another question that is often asked is; "Why would God use a tree as the axis of human destiny?"

- Possibly because it was God's way of saying I am God and you are not.
- Perhaps in addition to that it was God's way of saying you are accountable to me as your creator, and I require your obedience to me.

4 Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

- First, for Satan to tell Eve that she will be like God is an old lie packaged in the new wrapping paper Mormonism and the New Age.
- Satan will not only question the Word of God, he will question the Way of God.
- Is this God's way, can God be trusted? Is God holding out on you? Is God withholding good from you?
- Satan will not only question the Word of God and the Way of God, but ultimately the Goodness of God.
- Satan's ultimate lie has at its core that "sin is not bad, and God is not good." It's the other way around.
- It has been wisely said that; "sin is not bad because it's forbidden, it's forbidden because it's bad!"
- Satan turns everything around and makes it EVIL. EVIL is LIVE backwards.
- In the Satanic Bible, the reader is instructed to learn to talk backwards and recite the "Lord's Prayer" backwards.

6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

This is the anatomy of a fall...

- 1. I'm close in proximity to the temptation:** Satan tempts her when she is at the tree. Big boo boo, Eve shouldn't be anywhere near the one thing that is prohibited by God.
- 2. I dialogue with the Devil:** Why is Eve even talking with the serpent? Why is she even entertaining the temptation? It's been said that if the Devil comes knocking on the door of temptation, don't invite him in for dinner! No dialogue, it's a monologue; "Lord rebuke you."
- 3. I don't stick with the Word of God:** Eve fails and falls because she doesn't keep responding with the Word and now focuses on the one thing that God forbid. We can focus so much on what we are to NOT do, that we lose sight of what God tells us in His Word TO do.
- 4. I am alone when nobody's looking:** Notice that she is alone when Satan tempts her. In Ephesians 6 we have the armor where we "above all take up the shield of faith."
- 5. I cooperate with the Devil:** Eve is making Satan's job very, very, easy. She is in full cooperation with the Devil. The Devil can't make us do anything. Eve could have ran and escaped but she chose to stay and be enticed.
- 6. I'm deceived and believed there are no consequences:** Satan has successfully convinced Eve that she shall surely not die, and in so doing completely removed any potential consequences for the sin of disobeying God. The fact of the matter is that "the bitter consequences of sin, linger on long after the short and sweet taste of the pleasurable forbidden fruit from sin."

Sin's Big Three

- 1. IT TASTES GOOD** – The lust of the flesh. Eve is thinking only about how much she could please her appetite.
- 2. IT LOOKS GOOD** – The lust of the eyes. Eve is thinking only about how much it could satisfy her.
- 3. I AM GOOD** - The pride of life. Eve is thinking only about how much she doesn't need God.

It's interesting how that in Matthew's Gospel chapter 4:1-11, this parallels the same three-fold way that Jesus was tempted:

1. It tastes good – The lust of the flesh. He had been fasting for 40 days and 40 nights and could have turned the stone to bread to satisfy his physical appetite.
2. It looks good – The lust of the eyes. It sure would have looked good to them if they could see with their eyes Jesus throwing Himself from the highest point of the Temple and not “dashing His foot against the stone,” when the angels given charge concerning Him” protected Him, proving Him to be the Son of God.
3. I am good - The pride of life. It would sure be fitting to who I am if I were exalted to rule over all of the kingdoms of the world.

1 John 2:16-17 – 16 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 17 For all that is in the world -- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life -- is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever. NKJV

- Notice that in the last part of verse six Eve “also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.
- Eve was Deceived, but Adam was Decided.

Why didn't Satan deceive Adam instead of Eve? Because Eve was more vulnerable to the deception by virtue of the fact that she wasn't the one who received the command directly from God, rather it was indirectly through Adam.

Why did Satan want Eve to sin first, then, get her husband to disobey after? Perhaps it's because if Adam sinned first, and then gave the forbidden fruit to Eve, she may have been justified because she was simply obeying her husband as the head.

Notice also how Satan deceives Eve by misquoting what God hath indeed said which implied “God won't let you eat of every tree.”

7 Then **the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked**; and they sewed **fig leaves together and made themselves coverings**. 8 And **they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day**, and **Adam and his wife hid themselves** from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

- Notice first that they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden, is it possible that God assumed some human form?
- Everything had changed now that they had sinned. Isn't this what happens to us? Everything changes once we sin?

1. I focus on myself (eyes were opened)
2. I lose innocence (I am naked)
3. I cover it up (Sewed fig leaves)
4. I hide (hid themselves)
5. I fear (I was afraid v.10)
6. I blame (v. 12 -14)

9 Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?" 10 So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."

- One has noted that God didn't say “Adam why did you?” or “Adam how could you?” but rather, “Adam where are you?”
- God is looking for confession not information. Confession looses sin's grip on us.

Proverbs 28:13 He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

11 And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?" 12 Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate."

- God questions Adam.
- Adam is blaming Eve and God, and excusing himself. God if you hadn't put _____ there!
- Eve, plays the blame game too, as we'll see in the next verse, when she says it was that snake. God if you hadn't put the serpent there.

13 And the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." 14 So the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life.

- It's interesting to note that Satan isn't even asked any questions. The reason for this is because there's no redemption for the Devil.
- The serpent is cursed and even in the Kingdom age will still be cursed, Isaiah 65:25.

Isaiah 65:25 The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, but dust will be the serpent's food. NIV

15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

- This verse has been called the protevangelium. It's where the Gospel is first mentioned, foretelling the One yet to come.
- Notice it says her seed, not his seed. This is a prophecy of the virgin birth. From her seed will come the One Who'll crush you Satan.

Romans 16:20 The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you. NIV

16 To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you."

- The curse comes to the women in a way that strikes at the core of who she is, because her identity is in her husband and children.
- Eve will have unspeakable pain in childbearing; and her desire will be for her husband who will rule over her.
- Some understand this to mean that her curse will be that she will desire to rule over her husband and usurp his God given authority.
- It's been said that the man is to be the head of the home, and the women is to be the heart of the home.

17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. 18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. 19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return."

- I was thinking about Adam on Monday when I was doing yard work.
- Now, this curse to Adam strikes at the core of who he is because his identity is in the work of his hands, his career, his occupation.
- The responsibility to rule over & work hard will take away from his time with her. That creates a problem because of her desire for him.
- There is an interesting parallel between this first Adam, and Jesus the second and final Adam.
- The first Adam brought forth thorns & thistles, the second Adam wore them as a crown.
- The first Adam brought forth sweat, the second Adam sweat blood.

Jesus bore these curses in their totality.

1. Did sin bring pain in childbirth? No one knew more pain than Jesus did when He, through His suffering, brought many sons to glory (Hebrews 2:10).
 2. Did sin bring conflict? Jesus endured greater conflict to bring our salvation (Hebrews 12:3).
 3. Did thorns come with sin? Jesus endured a crown of thorns to bring our salvation. (John 19:2).
 4. Did sin bring sweat? Jesus sweat, as it were, great drops of blood to win our salvation (Luke 22:44).
 5. Did sin bring sorrow? Jesus became a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief, to save us (Isaiah 53:3).
 6. Did sin bring death? Jesus tasted death for everyone that we might be saved (Hebrews 2:9).
- Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (Galatians 3:13).*

20 And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

- At first Adam calls her woman (Isha from the man) now he calls her Eve, the giver of life. This is basically the same word in Arabic.
- This is the first mention of the Savior. From Eve will come the "Life," the way, the truth and the life, in the person of Jesus the Christ.
- Adam, names his wife Eve, (the nature is the name), knowing that now out of their fallen nature, will come the Savior, the redeemer.
- There is life after a fall. There is life after failure. There is life after death, this is where God is at His best, He's a God of restoration.

21 Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.

- The fig leaves they used to cover themselves sort of represent their own efforts and works at dealing with their sin.
- Hebrews 9:22 says that there is no remission of sin without the shedding of blood.
- The blood of this innocent lamb had to be shed, and the skin clothed them and covered them.
- This lamb is a picture of The Lamb of God that would take away the sin of the World.

The question is asked; "will we see Adam and Eve in heaven?" I believe that yes; we will. Here's why, two reasons:

1. Adam named Eve, by faith, according to the nature of who she was; "Isha," meaning The Life/Savior would come from her.
2. They received the sacrifice of an innocent lamb whose blood was shed for their sin, and were clothed with the lambs covering.

22 Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever" –23 therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. 24 So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

- Man now has an experiential knowledge of evil along with the good.
- Verse 24 says He drove them out. What a loving thing to do. He didn't make them walk, He drove them.
- Cherubim are placed at the east of the garden to keep them out for their own good.
- This is a loving God protecting his creation from living forever in this fallen state.

Cherubim are always associated with the presence and glory of God (Ezekiel 10, Isaiah 6, Revelation 4). When cherubim are represented on earth (such as in the tabernacle, Exodus 25:10-22), they mark a *meeting place* with God. Though Adam and Eve and their descendants were prohibited from eating of the tree of life (by God's mercy), they could still come there to meet God. This was their "holy of holies."

Damian Kyle lists three "questions of life:"

1. How did we get here?
2. Why are we the way we are?
3. Is there any hope for us?

All three of these "questions of life" are answered in these first three chapters of Genesis.