

Same Reality, Different Viewpoint Garden Living - Genesis 2

vs. 3, God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy,

Exodus 20:8-11 Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy: **9** You are to labor six days and do all your work, **10** but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. You must not do any work—you, your son or daughter, your male or female servant, your livestock, or the resident alien who is within your city gates. **11** For the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and everything in them in six days; then he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and declared it holy.

Remember who they are.

- They are made in the image and likeness of God.
- Encouraged to embrace their dignity and join in praise of their Creator.
- The God of creation is powerful, creative, and intentional.
- The sabbath is set aside as holy.
- This God speaks life into existence and gives living creatures the power to reproduce.

Question: How can you engage in this invitation? What area might change your perspective and quality of shalom if you took steps to embrace the depth of its truth?

Remember: Chapter one is structured, using limited words and phrases which continuously repeat. It has a specific literary arrangement.

Chapter two is an ordinary form of spoken or written language (prose).

2:4-25, Act 1 - no shrub had yet grown, no plant had yet sprouted, there was no human to work the ground.

This circumstances quickly change...

vs. 7, the human was formed out of the dust from the ground.

vs. 8, a garden is planted / every tree grows

3:1-24, Act 2 - the peaceful relationships established begin to gradually unravel.

They use different names for God.

Elohim in chapter one. Elohim conveys transcendence, God speaks and creation is formed.

Yahweh in chapter two. Yahweh is the one who initiates, he is personal. God is immersed in the process, taking the role of an artisan, a surgeon, a scientist - he is present and available.

For Israel specifically: it is a reminder that the people of Judah/Israel will be preserved.

Their lives as exiles have a glorious purpose.

*Displacement is the very soil for formation.

Question: What specific life circumstances are giving you an opportunity to be shaped (formed) by the Holy Spirit into narrow-path follower of Jesus?

“We can describe the creation account as an artistic, literary representation of creation intended to fortify God’s covenant with creation. It represents truths about origins in anthropomorphic language so that the covenant community may have a proper worldview and be wise unto salvation. It represents the world as coming into being through God’s proclamation so that the world depends on his will, purpose, and presence.”
~ Henri Blocher

Notice:

1:1, the heavens and the earth

2:4a, the records of the heavens and the earth (summary)

2:4b, the Lord God made the earth and the heavens (perspective has shifted)

Storytelling utilized to convey tragedy.

- Speech between Adam and Eve that is meant for togetherness turns to isolation and accusation.
- The ground intended to serve Adam becomes his enemy.
- Eve's relationship as a coequal partner (helper) becomes oppressive.

vs. 5, no man (human) to work the ground

Rich and Ripe with imagery

- *Breath of life*
- *Garden*
- *Eden*
- *There he placed the man (human)*
- *Every tree* - Humanity lacks nothing. Humanity doesn't need anything else outside of the Creator's provision.
- *Tree of life* - Humans experience the fullness of life.

Proverbs 3:18 She is a tree of life to those who embrace her, and those who hold on to her are happy.

Proverbs 11:30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, but a cunning person takes lives.

Proverbs 13:12 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, but a cunning person takes lives.

Proverbs 15:4 The tongue that heals is a tree of life, but a devious tongue breaks the spirit.

- *Tree of the knowledge of good and evil* - This tree represents knowledge and power appropriate only for God.

"Unless we know everything, we only know relatively; unless we know comprehensively, we cannot know absolutely."
~ Bruce Waltke

Proverbs 3:7 Don't be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and turn away from evil.

Representing creation before God and as God's image they represent God to all of creation. Priests who embody God's heavenly wisdom and rule here on earth.

- *A River went out from Eden*
- *Temple*

Question: What is your reaction to the purpose of humanity?

In your everyday life do you view yourself as representing creation before God? Do you understand representing God to all of creation?

Take time this week to ponder the Tree of Life. Pray through each of the verses in Proverbs.

God has given us everything to experience the fullness of life.

Do you believe this?

If not, why not? What could be helpful for you to begin to believe this truth?