

Genesis: Chapter 2

Opening Question: Scene 2 reveals God’s stated desire for His creation. What is it?

Key Takeaways:

1. Scene 2 (Genesis 2:4) begins with the word “Toledot” translated here as “account” but meaning “to bring forth” and tells what the heavens and the earth are bringing forth.
2. Man (adam) was formed out of the dust of the ground (adama) and placed/rested (noahed) in the Garden to serve (avad) and keep guard over it (shamar).
3. The rules of the Garden were given to Adam in verses 16–17 before the woman was created.
4. God is called the LORD for the first time in verse 16.
5. The woman is created as Adam’s “ezer” meaning “helper,” which is not an inferior term but notes her role in helping Adam carry out his mission, to be fruitful and multiply, which he cannot do alone.
6. God’s desire for “one man, one woman, one flesh” is established in verses 22–23 when God fashions the “isha” (woman) from the “ish” (man) and is the mandate to be followed going forward (verse 25) as the story continues.
7. At the end of scene 2 (chapter 2:4–25), the setting, the main character, and the main character’s desire have been established.

Discussion Questions:

1. Read aloud together Genesis 2:4–25 and identify the main character, the main character’s desire, and the setting of the story.
2. What else does the reader learn from this scene? Note as many details as you can.
3. How has beginning at the beginning of the biblical story and identifying the literary elements set forth by the author informed your understanding of the biblical narrative?
4. Discuss ways your group will continue reading Genesis “literarily” as you continue through this study.

Practical Application:

1. Reread Genesis 1:1 to 2:25 and identify all that you have learned from the first two scenes of this story. How will knowing these things impact your understanding of what comes next? How will the possibilities of what the author is saying be narrowed by knowing just the details of the first two scenes?
2. What questions do you have about the story so far? Write these down and see if they are answered as you continue reading, in much the same way that questions in opening scenes of a movie are addressed as the movie continues.
3. Consider how you will continue reading Genesis “literarily,” recognizing and applying the rules of the genre of narrative literature. List ways you will accomplish this goal.

Closing Prayer:

Father, Thank You that You have chosen to reveal Yourself to us through Your Word and that we have access to this revelation. Thank You that we may know You by knowing Your Word. We are humbled and grateful this opportunity. Amen.