

**I. Introduction: God ceased from His creative work and blessed it. He created a perfect paradise for Adam and Eve to rule over as His appointed vice-regents.**

**II. God's Image-Bearing Rulers (Gen 2:1-17).**

A. God Consecrated His Work (vv. 1-3).

1. God ceased working on the seventh day and consecrated it as a day of remembrance so that all people would take time to honor His creative work.

B. God Created His Ruler (vv. 4-7).

1. God created Adam out of the dust of the ground to demonstrate that humanity is a terrestrial creature whose reign is over every creature on Earth.

C. God Cultivated His Garden (vv. 8-14).

1. God planted a garden in Eden and placed Adam in it as His vice-regent who would care for it, cultivate it, and protect it.

D. God Commanded His Servant (vv. 15-17).

1. God put Adam in the garden to tend and keep it so that Eden would flourish and would benefit all of the creatures, but He established one rule.

**III. Conclusion: God created human beings as His rulers over Eden to cultivate the garden for their benefit and care for all the animals in God's creation.**

## Study Questions: God's Image-Bearing Rulers

1. Why did God create human beings? Why did God create the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? Why did God make Adam from the dust? What did God breathe into Adam?
2. What did God do on the seventh day of creation? (**Gen 2:1-3**) How did God indicate His universe was completed? (**v. 1**) What does it mean that God blessed the seventh day? (**v. 3**)
3. What was the first historical reference in Genesis? (**Gen 2:4-7**) How did God describe the land before the Fall? (**vv. 5-6**) What did the reference to rain foreshadow? (**v. 5; Gen 7:4**)
4. From what did God fashion Adam? (**Gen 2:7**) What is the significance of God infusing Adam with His divine life? (**v. 7**) How did this make him superior to the animals?
5. Where did God place Adam after he created him? (**Gen 2:8-14**) How did this indicate Adam's status as a ruler? (**v. 8**) What features did the garden possess? (**vv. 9-14**)
6. What does the word "Eden" mean? (**Gen 2:8**) What were the two unique trees God created? (**Gen 2:9**) Why did Moses give such detailed information about the garden? (**vv. 9-14**)
7. What was the reason God put Adam in the garden? (**Gen 2:15-17**) What do the words "cultivate" and "keep" indicate? (**v. 15**) How did Adam fail to do what God asked?
8. What did God indicate Adam was free to do? (**Gen 2:15-17**) What was Adam's one prohibition? (**v. 17**) How did the second Adam succeed where Adam failed? (**Rom 5:12-21**)

### Prayer

1. Pray that God will show you how He has created you to be His representative ruler.
2. Ask God to help you treat every person you interact with as God's image-bearer.