

Genesis 2 – 15 August 2019

“We Are Unique Creations”

Introduction –

Teenagers all think they each stand out as different or awkward or strange. (ie Chicken legs, funny nose, etc)

We are all unique & Gen 1 told us why.

Chapter 1 answered 4 eternal questions that we all ask. The last one was, “Do I matter?” The answer is yes b/c we’re eternal beings made in the image of God.

Because we’re made in the image of God, chapter 2 breaks this thought down further and tells us 3 things that make us a unique creation of God.

Chapter 1 finish the six days of Creation and chapter 2 begins with Day 7.

Read Vs 1-3 – Day 7 - Rest

1. God stopped creating new things b/c creation was complete, not b/c He was tired.
2. He was completely satisfied, it was good.
3. Now the Universe begins to be a closed system and wind down.
4. The Sabbath vs The Lord's Day
 - a. 7 Actual 24-hr days of Creation are modeled into the Law of Moses— Exo 20:10-11
 - b. Sabbath is instituted on Saturday
 - i. Designed to remind us of God's completed work!! (Come back to this later)
 - c. The Lord's Day in the NT is on the 8th day or Sunday b/c of the resurrection of Jesus
5. Genesis 2 gives us further detail of the events of Gen 1.
 - a. This is the method of Hebrew writing.
 - b. Jesus did the same thing in the Sermon of the Mount.

- i. Matt 5:20 – “...except your righteousness exceed....”
- ii. Matt 6:1 – “Don’t do you alms before men.”

Vs 4-6

1. These are the generations of...
 - a. Heavens and the earth (2:4-6:8)
 - b. Noah (6:9-9:29)
 - c. The Sons of Noah (10:1-11:9)
 - d. Shem (11:10-11:26)
 - e. Terah (11:27-25:11)
 - f. Ishmael (25:12-25:18)
 - g. Isaac (25:19-35:29)
 - h. Esau (36:1-37:1)
 - i. Jacob (37:2-end of Genesis)
2. God is now revealed to us as LORD God as He begins to relate to mankind.
 - a. LORD is the proper name YHWH
 - b. Jews wouldn’t even write it from respect

c. God is beginning to establish a relationship

Vs 7

1. Same elements in you as in rest of creation
2. God's breath made us a spiritual person
3. Will we be dominated by the earthly or the spiritual?
4. **The 1st thing that makes us a unique creation of God is that we're made for forever!**
5. **We're given the capacity to have a spiritual relationship with God!**
 - a. Only 3 things we know of that will last for eternity. (God, His Word and all people)
 - b. Animals aren't eternal, nor your iPhone!
 - c. New bodies
 - i. Eternal in the heavens
 - ii. Body reconstruction (supposed) dilemma
 1. Chemical from body transferred to plants, then animals, then other humans.

2. Did you get a heart transplant? Who gets the heart?
 3. Therefore, in the resurrection who gets these parts for they all had them?
- iii. Body reconstruction answer
1. Jesus would answer and say unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures nor the power of God.
 2. Turn to II Cor 5:1-9
 3. This was exactly Jesus answer when answering a very similar situation in Matt 22:29.
- d. Example of invincible forever
- i. Muhammad Ali on Airplane
 1. Attendant: Plz put on seat belt
 2. Ali: Superman don't need no seat belt.
 3. Attendant: Superman don't need no airplane.
 - ii. He thought he was invincible.

iii. You, Christian, really are invincible

Vs 8-9

1. Tree of Life and Tree of K of G&E was in the middle of the garden.
 - a. Not hard to find.
 - b. God is calling for relationship.

Vs 10-14

1. Gives you the feeling this was written by an eyewitness.
 - a. Adam would have passed this down (oral translation) until the time of Moses.
2. Useless to look for these places, this was the pre-flood world.
3. Interesting the God placed man in a God-made garden, not in a man-made building.
 - a. God desires fruit of a garden in our lives.
 - b. Not the labors of a factory with its burdens and timeframes.

- c. Just the natural by-product of abiding in God's love and grace!

Vs 15-17

1. Have dominion over the earth (chap 1:26) is here balanced with dress it and keep it.
2. "God took him" – moved him into a place of choice.
3. **The 2nd thing that makes us a unique creation of God is that we're made for free will!**
4. **We're given the opportunity to choose a spiritual relationship with God!**
 - a. Choice provides the opportunity to show rebellion/hate or obedience/love.
 - b. Love is choosing something (or someone) over something else.
 - c. Doing what God desires is only meaningful b/c we have the choice.
 - d. Forcing Christianity upon others

- i. Isn't it foolish that Constantine forced others to convert to Christianity in Rome?
- ii. Isn't it similarly foolish when parents raise their kids assuming that they're Christians w/o the child personally choosing Christ?
- e. Freedom is always the by-product of Christianity.
 - i. Quote by Dorothy Sayers (Christian Crime Writer from England) – “The divine scheme of things, as Christianity understands it, is at once extremely elastic & extremely rigid. It is elastic, in that it includes a large measure of liberty for the creature; it is rigid in that it includes the provision that, however created beings choose to behave, they must accept responsibility of their own actions and endure the consequences.”
 - ii. People say, how can God send someone to hell?
 - iii. If someone goes to hell, they choose to.

Vs 18-20

1. The journey to satisfaction, begins by understanding dissatisfaction.
 - a. Just like – To understand the good news of the gospel you must first understand the bad news of your sin and separation.
 - b. No animal was to be his mate.
 - c. Turn to Luke 5:1-11
 - i. Peter, “depart from me Lord”
 - ii. Brought to the height of his earthly goals, only to find...even that was dissatisfying.
2. **The 3rd thing that makes us a unique creation of God is that we’re made for fulfillment!**
3. **We’re given the ability to be satisfied and at rest in our relationship with God**
 - a. Only when we realize the emptiness of life apart from our Maker, can we find joy and fulfillment!

- b. Read Heb 4:8-9
 - i. Israelites thought, surely once they got into the Promised Land they would have contentment, joy, rest & satisfaction.
WRONG!
 - ii. There remaineth a rest (Sabbath). This is the rest that Jesus brings us.
- c. Jesus has become our Sabbath.
 - i. God completed and rested at Creation
 - ii. Sabbath pictures a rest from efforts to be right with God
 - iii. Jesus is the fulfillment of Christians being able to rest in the completed work of salvation paid for by Christ.
 - iv. Sabbath is just a shadow (Rom 14:5, Col 2:16-17)
 - v. Cease from our effort of trying to be acceptable to God & accepting that only Jesus is acceptable to God.

- d. Do you remember the vain goals we used to seek after?

Vs 21-23

1. Not from head or foot, but side
2. Equality with different roles starts right here
3. With both husband & wife fulfilling their God-given roles, this would be the epitome of the satisfying earthly relationship

Vs 24-25

1. This is the first “therefore” in the Bible.
 - a. You need to ask, what is it therefore?
 - b. B/c of the previous verse, God now institutes marriage!
2. Things that are “therefore” established in the OT and a shadow to picture even more important things in Christ!
3. Marriage was established to picture Christ and church!

Conclusion –

We've looked at 3 things that make us a unique creation of God.

1. **#1 - We're made for forever!**

- a. Sin has us born spiritually dead.
- b. We have the capacity to have spiritual life!

2. **#2 - We're made for free will!**

- a. This will bring great reward or great punishment.
- b. We have the opportunity to choose a loving relationship with God.

3. **#3 - We're made for fulfillment!**

- a. Are you done pursuing pleasures and goals under the sun that have no eternal value?
- b. We have the ability to be satisfied and at rest with God!