



Note

Genesis 2 – Part 1 - 4

Era	Characters	Chapters
In the beginning	God create world	Gen 1 
Before 4000 BC	Adam Eve	Gen 1~3 

Summary

Genesis 2 - Part 1 of 4..... 3

God's blueprint for life: six days of work, one day of rest. God gives us his personal name, Yahweh, reflecting His eternal, unchanging nature.

Genesis 2 - Part 2 of 4..... 6

God's purpose for man: To work in tandem with Him, with God's breath in us, to maximise the amazing potential God has originally designed.

Genesis 2 - Part 3 of 4..... 9

The sacramental truths behind the two trees in the Garden of Eden: God makes the rules and He knows what's truly good and evil.

Genesis 2 - Part 4 of 4..... 12

God's creation of woman shows how a husband should relate to his wife. God's leaving and cleaving principle for marriage.

Transcript

Genesis 2 – Part 1 of 4

We now come to Genesis chapter 2.

Here we see God takes a rest after six days of creation. The question of course is: does God really need to rest? He is omnipotent, almighty and powerful. Is he exhausted? Of course not. The reason He takes that rest is to set us a role model. We, who are made in His image - He knows us, He created us in a certain way, He says we should labour hard for 6 days, and take a day's break. Now, today, we know the human body needs a rest. Whether you're a management consultant, you know productivity will go down if you keep working non-stop; whether you are an agriculturalist, you know the land also needs rest. So basically God is telling us in this creation He had made, He gives us the owner's manual. You can run this machine, this human body for 6 days, then after that, you need to take a break, otherwise you will break down. So basically God was giving us some very sound advice that actually no culture ever really has. In almost all cultures there is no 6 days and one day break. People just work the ground until cannot produce any more. Work the cow until the cow get sick and die. Work the human until the human gets exhausted. So most cultures don't have this, so many days then one day break. But God instituted it. So we know this is the right thing to do.

Now I want you to notice the word 'holiday' which has been used in English. Actually the correct spelling should not be h o l i but h o l y, it's holyday - That day of rest unto the Lord Our God. In other

words, we take a rest from our labours and be refreshed, not just from resting, but be refreshed with spiritual refreshment. I think that's what should be done. In other words, you don't just do the same thing over and over again, you need to reboot and recharge ,and the best way to reboot and recharge is spiritual refreshment. So I hope we understand that this is another beautiful part about God -orderliness.

God in Genesis 1 - He introduces Himself with the generic name El, El - is just the word God. Elohim plural for El. Here in Genesis 2, He introduces a new name. Now the name we use in English 'Jehovah' that's probably not the right way to pronounce it. The correct Hebrew word that God introduced Himself was Y W H W. In Hebrew there is no a,e, i, o,u (these vowels) - there is none of them. So in Hebrew you have to fill up whatever the a, e, i, o, u goes between, and so you have to guess. So actually nobody really knows the correct way to pronounce it. My guess is something like YAHWEH. And that's commonly most people's guess. And of course when you anglicize it, it became Jehovah, and sounds totally not even His name. Anyway that name is now no more the generic name. Generic name is God, but this is His personal name YAHWEH. Just like me, generically I am man. A dog generically is dog. But one day you call the dog Blackie, Brownie, so that's the personal name for the dog. So God is telling I'm God, but I am a personal God, this is my personal name. In Hebrew what does YAHWEH , Y H W H, what does it mean? It means 'Always'. That's all , it means, 'Always'. Shall we say, Eternal. When God came and talked to Moses at the burning bush, Moses said, What's your name? I need to know your name. And God said, I AM THAT I AM. What's that? That's basically, ALWAYS, I'm always the same. No human, no one else can say 'I am that I am'. Before I was younger, now I'm 72, and one day I'll be 73. That's how I have to talk. But God says I am ALWAYS. So YAHWEH is God's personal name, and it is telling them I'm always the same awesome God that made the heaven

and the earth. I will always be this God, I will always be with you. You don't have to worry. So names are generally descriptive. For example the dog is brown, we just call it Brownie. Something is cute, we call it Cutie. So in that same way, names in Hebrew are often descriptive.

So I hope you begin to see that God's name is ALWAYS. And that would really help us to understand something more about God. Eternal God, eternally is our God, eternally always with us. We are sometimes like this, we keep changing and everything in this world is changing. Change is part of life, but not part of God. God is consistent, His character is consistent.

Genesis 2 – Part 2 of 4

Let us now see what God intends for men to do on Earth.

The Bible tells us in Genesis 2, Adam's job was to till the ground, cultivate the ground. Now we know the Garden of Eden was perfect, there were no weeds, everything was perfect, beautiful and perfect. But it was not fully potentialized. Men's job was simply to take this beautiful earth and maximize it.

Another important seed principle -same with ourselves, God gives us potential. I believe the average Christian, maybe the average human uses maybe 5% of his brain potential, 5% of its creative potential, average Christian uses maybe 5% of a spiritual potential. In other words, we have a lot of potential, the Earth has a lot of potential. We cannot imagine what the plants can do. How we maximize the ground, how much it could produce, like Israel for example, how they can make the ground produce enormous amount.

God is teaching us another seed truth. We are to work with God. We're not to come in this beautiful paradise, sit down and relax and do nothing. We are to maximize the potential of what God places in our hands. The talents that God give, we are responsible for that. You know many people's idea of religion, God is sovereign, everything depends on God, I do nothing. Whether there is a disease, I don't have to protect myself. I just trust God. The Prosperity Gospel people just believe: you just pray, God would take care of everything, God will do everything. We have to work with God.

There's another interesting truth here in Genesis 2. He elaborates on the creation of man. Genesis 1 said God made man on day 6. But here it tells us how God made men. So it's not chronological, it's not adding details to the seed truth planted in Genesis 1. It tells us that God created man from the dust of the ground, and then He breathed into him the breath of life. So we see here God made part of us actually from the dust of the ground. But that life force came from God. So now we know, I mean medically speaking when we die, and you cremate our body, what do we get? Actually we get dust, we get carbon, we get calcium, we get nitrogen, whatever. It's just nothing, it's worth a few dollars, that's all our body is. But the life force that made those dust become life, he breathed the breath of life, and the Bible says man became a living soul. I want you to know the word 'soul'. For many of us the word 'soul' seems to be like the spirit. So many people's imagination, just picture it, the body is like the envelope, the useless cheap envelope. And then the soul comes into the body. Like the soul is inside this worthless envelope. That's many people's ideas. The word 'soul' here doesn't mean that spiritual part, the word 'soul' in Hebrew is the word 'nephesh', nephesh simply means a living being. The dust became a life, the cells that were made from dust, became live cell. That's what it means. So in other words, all these calcium put together in some amazing cell configuration, then the life force came in from God. The breath of God, pneuma, breath, pneumonia, that word pneuma. So what's a human, a human is a living being, a living soul. You know soul is not that thing. For example when you say, save our soul. You know when you're in a deserted island and you're helpless, you put SOS, save our souls, it doesn't mean just save my spirit, and my body died. Nobody thinks that way. Save my soul means save me. I'm the living being.

So I hope you understand this because it's very important. Man is very special, none of the other animals, the breath of life came into

man. So that makes men unique. Otherwise when we die and we say that our soul leaves us. Then the body, they are just dust. Why can't we eat it? We eat dead pigs, we eat dead cows, why can't you eat dead man? The soul is gone already. No culture I know, very few cultures dare to eat a dead man. They eat a lot of dead animals, we love them, they are so tasty. The dead man's flesh probably is better than wagyu because it's so tender. But yet people dare not to eat because we know man is different from other animals in creation. There's breath of God, and it's something sacred about men, they are afraid to eat.

Now what's the lesson here? Breath of life comes from God, makes things alive, makes us like God. In the New Testament, the Holy Spirit is called Spirit Pneuma. That's the word for Holy Spirit breath. And when God breathes into us and when we are born again, we have spiritual aliveness, spiritual life. I hope you understand this word. The soul (nephesh) is nothing more than a breathing being. God breathed and we became living beings.

Genesis 2 – Part 3 of 4

Let us examine the Garden of Eden.

What does the word 'Eden' mean? It's simply means in Hebrew 'delight'. So can we say the Garden of Eden was called delight. Location - from one river called the Euphrates, you can guess that the river is in North East Turkey. And that's where the world began and that's where the focus of the world , the end of the age will come back. The Middle East area of focus will come back there. Now in this land called Eden, there were two trees. Tree of life and the Tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil. Tree of life is very easy to explain. You take it, you'll live forever. Tree of knowledge of Good and Evil is harder. Now what's the purpose of them? They are what we called sacraments. Just like the bread and the wine in Holy Communion. A sacrament is a physical thing you hold that helps teach you a spiritual truth. You see the bread, you realize Christ broken body, you see the wine, His shed blood. Now the tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil is a sacramental tree. It teaches us an important truth.

Truth number 1 - God, being our creator has the right to make rules. That's why evolutionist hates it .Because if we are chance beings, we are not created by God, then we can make our own rules, we are responsible to nobody. Number 1, God can make rules. So He tells us who decides what is good and what is evil. So the first day He made the rule, you don't touch this tree. Because when you touch this tree, you will have knowledge of Good and Evil. After this point they only had knowledge of good, everything was blessed. The knowledge is different from our understanding of knowledge.

We know knowledge is something I know, the Hebrew word for knowledge is bigger than that. It's not only I know but I've experienced. So the moment you eat that tree, you not only experience good, you also will experience evil. You'll lost your innocence. You are now a practical experiencer of evil. So Adam had sin.

What else does this Sacramental tree teach us? Principle No 1, God makes the rules. Landlord can make rules for his tenants. Nobody argues with you about that.

Lesson No 2 - God is the one who really knows what is good and evil. What do you mean by that? Don't I know what is good and evil? Let me tell you when men chooses what is good and evil, they don't choose usually the right thing. They say "wow the more money I have, that is good". You say "more popularity I have, that is good. The more women I have, that is good. The more servants I have, that is good". Wow, can we just say, This is bad? You know when man is allowed to choose what is good for himself he often chooses the wrong things. And so you see when man says I know what is good, what does he do? He accumulates lots of money, lots of power, lots of popularity, lot of servants. You know what? He has accumulated a lot of misery. And you know people who have all that usually have very lonely miserable lives. They take pills to sleep at night. They take alcohol in the day, and one day they hang themselves or overdose themselves. We read it all the time. The stars, the celebrities, we look at their life, so good, they have everything. And then we'll realize at the end they didn't know what was good and what was bad. I choked on that because to some extent that was my life before, I love doing all these things. And I thought the more I had the happier I would be. It didn't work out that way. So I hope that we will begin to see that God alone knows what is good for us. Even too much good health may not

even be good. You can get arrogant, you think you're Superman. You think that I don't need God. Once in awhile God allows some problems in our life to help us remember Him.

So what are these two trees? Sacramental trees - teaching a spiritual Truth. Listen to me - I'm your Creator, I tell you what is good, I tell you what you can do. Eve broke the rule, and paid the price. Secondly, I made you, I know what's good for you. Too much of anything is not good for you. You have money is not good, too much of health, too much of anything is not good for you. It will kill you. We know too much of good food will kill us. Too much of drinking water, just plain water, will kill you. Too much oxygen will kill you. Those are good things. But we don't know our limits, right? And so God says I know.

Genesis 2 – Part 4 of 4

We now see how woman was created.

God could easily have taken her and created her from the dust of the ground. But instead, God chose to take a rib from Adam, and then create woman from that rib. There are some seed truths here. God could have taken a toe bone of Adam and created woman. And many other religions have stories somewhat like that. And that accounts for how they can treat women so badly. They can trample on women because women are inferior. But taking from the rib signifies right from your heart, someone a partner, someone equal to you. Furthermore, instead of creating Adam as one being from the ground and Eve, another. He created Eve from Adam. Because later on He's going to teach that when husband and wife come together they become one flesh. And then in Ephesians 5 on the passage how to treat your wife, teaches us that we must love our wife as our own flesh.

Now that's very important, because if you understand this seed truth that your wife is your own flesh, when your own flesh is not in good shape, example, you have a toothache. Now the tooth is misbehaving, in that sense ,causing you problems. If it's not a part of you, you would just hit it and throw it away. But it's part of you, you have to take care of it until it gets well. So the principle here is the seed truth - if your wife is not what you expect her to be, what is your response? If it's your flesh, what do you do? You take extra care to make sure that tooth comes back to good shape. So when your wife is not doing as well as you expect her to do, then you take effort to help her improve because she is your own flesh. These are seed truth. That's how a marriage should work. Not , I don't like my wife, such a disappointment. Pastor, I'm so tired of

my wife". Are you ever tired with your tooth, tired with your nose that is not functioning? You don't get tired of it. You do everything you can to get it well.

Now here is another principle - the leave and cleave principle. This is also another seed principle in marriage. When you get married, you join another person, and the two of you would leave your previous family. What do you mean by that? It sounds almost so unfilial. That's why most cultures that don't understand this don't have what we call nuclear families. Husband and wife start a new family, but the husband and the wife now become part of the extended family as long as the father is still alive. This new couple is under the father. And if his grandma is alive, then all of them are still under the Grandma. It sounds very good, sounds very filial. But in reality, the outward appearance is not quite as good as the inward reality. Such families usually seem to have unity. But there is resentment inside - for example, the wife will feel ,this guy married me, but his loyalty is not to me, his love is not to me, his love is to his mother. So no choice, tolerate it, she is still the boss. But one fine day that bossy mother-in-law is going to get old and helpless. And then we read endless stories of Revenge. You used to treat me so badly, now old lady you're so helpless, you want my help right? So we see here, what looks like a very nice structure of extended family, actually breeds a lot of resentment, a lot of jealousy that comes up when that one up there lost her power, so to speak. But in the nuclear family, it sounds so disloyal. You leave your family? Your father and you mother take care of you, don't you have..... No, we are not saying you abandon them. But generally when you get married, Dad and Mom are still young and healthy. I mean typically you get married, your parents in the forties. They can really take care of themselves. So then you leave and build a strong nuclear family where husband and wife love one another, wife is not jealous of mother-in-law ,wife enjoys husband's love. And then being so secure in love, one day mother-in-law gets old, she is eighty and she really needs help. You know what

daughter-in-law would like to do? Of course, take good care of her. She's been such a good mother-in-law, she's never interfered with our marriage. She let my husband love me and then that produces what is really a logical and loving relationship. So the nuclear family is the Christian family. The extended family is typically cultural; most cultures have extended families. And that's why we have extended family problems. There's a lot of infighting, daughters-in-law with daughter-in-law, jealousies and all kinds of stuff. Now two people just coming together is already a lot of problems. So you want to keep the whole extended family happy is a lot more difficult than you think. So I hope this gives us some seed truth to think about it. We go slowly through Genesis 1-3, then we can speed up. So I would suggest you all read Genesis 1-3, and read it with underlining and think through, and then we can speed up after that. We can start jogging after that and start to fly when you have all the foundation laid out.