

GENESIS 2:4-14

LESSON: MAN'S FIRST HOME — September 23, 2018

SYNOPSIS:

God beheld that everything He had made was **very good**. This brings about the close of the evening and morning of the sixth day. And God finished the creation of the heavens and the earth. All the hosts of creation had now been commanded and ordered, arranged, organized, and placed where they belonged, just as God willed. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had made; and He rested on the seventh day from all His work (1:31—2:1-3).

LESSON: I. HOW THINGS BEGAN GENESIS 2:4-7

2:4 These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens,— The Hebrew word "account" means generations, story, history. This is the true account of how the heavens and of the earth were made; created; how things began. It's a reference to earlier accounts that were passed on by believers and finally employed by Moses under guidance of God Himself.

This is not a separate creation. We know in chapter 1 *"In the beginning God (Elohim) created the heaven and the earth."* And in this chapter 2 *"the LORD God (Jehovah or Yahweh) made the earth and the heavens."* This is the same God operating in creation. Jehovah/ Yahweh /Elohim are titles used for the same Person who created the heaven and the earth. In this verse this is the name by which God revealed Himself. Just as I'm sister, aunt, mother, I'm still the same person, just operating with a different title. The name of God changes in Him being LORD. Jehovah/Yahweh is the name He used when He revealed Himself to Moses. God revealed Himself as *"I AM."* Now, He reveals Himself as *"LORD God"* in creation while laying the foundation for what is to follow.

2:5 And every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was not a man to till the ground. *"There were no plants or grain sprouting up across the earth at first, for the Lord God hadn't sent any rain; nor was there anyone to farm the soil"* (TLB). As we just left off from reading the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, it continues to say AND... "He" is understood. God made every plant of the field and every herb of the field before it grew. Can you imagine the power of God? Although God had spoken to the earth on the third day to bring forth plant life and vegetation, God didn't need rain because He created them by His Word and was able to sustain them without rain. There was no man to till the ground because He had not created man. God was still sustaining everything Himself for man. Plants, herbs, you name it—all from the LORD God (Jehovah Elohim). This is the history; the account of what happened before it was the earth; before the plant and herbs grew, and before the creation of man. God brought it all into existence for man to take over to sustain, that is, replenish; continue to fill the earth.

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

2:6 But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground. As we continue the stages of how things began, I believe that everything was there that was needed for the earth, God now causes water to come up as a mist from the earth for the plant and vegetation to grow. Most things don't grow without some water and some light, so this tells us "**But God**" caused this mist to come up from the earth at the right timing and water the whole surface of the ground. God continues to sustain all that He made from the earth

2:7 And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. Now, we come to the ultimate reason of God creating all He had created. This is the account of man and how he was created. It says, "*...the LORD God (Jehovah Elohim) formed man*"; molded, shaped him from the dust of the ground. This vivid picture is like no other creature God created. He breathed the breath of His life into his nostrils. Can you imagine again how personal that was?

1. It is the picture of a potter who has an image in his mind that he wants to create. Therefore, he takes some clay and molds and shapes it into the image of his mind. So it was with God. God is the Master Craftsman who had the idea of man within His mind. God is Omniscience (all knowing) and Omnipotent (all power) to create man in "*our*" image. Therefore, **He formed man** like a potter who forms a creation in his mind.
2. **The dust of the ground** was lowly stuff, that is, humble and base, of little worth and value. Isaiah and Job say clay (Is.64:8; Job 33:6). The point is: we come from the humblest of beginnings. Our origin is that of dust. Our bodies are frail and fragile. Therefore, we must depend upon God to look after us. We must seek the glory and dignity that God alone can give; no matter how much glory and dignity we achieve upon earth, for we again shall soon be nothing more than a handful of dust lying someplace within the ground of the earth.
3. **The Lord God (Jehovah Elohim)** is the One portrayed here. Therefore, a very special relationship, a personal relationship; a close bond would be established by the LORD God and man. Anything created has a purpose. God wants to be involved in all things.
 - God created man to know Him — Is.43:7, Ps.100:3.
 - God created man to worship Him — Jh.4:24, Ps.95:6.
 - God created man to serve Him — Prov.16:4, Gen.1:26-28.
4. God breathed **the breath of His life** into man's nostrils. Man is far more than just a physical body. Man is a spirit. God has given man **His** very own breath.
 - **The breath of God is the Spirit of God.** The Hebrew word for spirit is "*ruach*." The word "*ruach*" means wind, breath, air, spirit. When God breathed into man nostrils, He was not just breathing air into the lungs so that man could live. No, this symbolized and pictured for all generations to come where God connected himself to man in the most intimate way possible. God's Spirit is in man. Can you imagine? Man has within his body the very breath and Spirit of God Himself.
 - **The breath of God is the life of God.** When God breathed into man, God gave His very own life to man. What is the life of God? Well, it is the life that lives on and on eternally.

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

God's breath is not temporal. It is forever; never cease to exist. Can you picture this? God gave no other creature His breath, neither His Spirit, nor His life of immortality. This makes man's creation distinctive of the highest order, except when compared to dirt. On one hand man is formed with lowly stuff (dirt) and on the other hand man is of the highest order with the breath of life.

5. Man became a **living soul**. "*Soul*" (*nephesh*) means animated, breathing, conscious, and living being. Man is a living soul just like all the other creatures of earth.
 - Man is both a spiritual and soulish or animate being—Man is the only living spirit.
 - Animals are only living souls or non-spiritual beings—Animals are only living souls.
 - Vegetation is only an inanimate (non-living) being.

There's one thing man needs to know is that he has been created in the image, in the very likeness of God. He is an immortal creature; he shall exist forever and ever.

II. HOW THINGS WERE MAINTAINED GENESIS 2:8-14

2:8 And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. This passage describes the place where man had beginnings upon earth; the place where man was to live. It covers the features which God designed for man's residence or home. The LORD God (Jehovah Elohim) planted a garden eastward. The place is called the Garden of Eden, the most beautiful and bountiful paradise man could ever imagine. Man needed a place he could call home. And apparently, it was lush and perfect. The word "*garden*" means a place that is enclosed, protected, and sheltered. The word "*Eden*" means place of delight, of pleasure, of bliss; a paradise.

2:9 And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. The LORD God (Jehovah Elohim) caused every tree imaginable to grow out of the ground. They were both pleasant to the eyes and good for food. But in particular, two trees: **the tree of life** and **the tree of knowledge of good and evil** were designed especially to be in the midst of the garden.

1. The **Tree of Life** bears life-giving fruit; fruit that gives everlasting life; that keeps one from dying. This tree only exists in a perfect world, that is, in the Garden of Eden. God planted the tree of life right in the midst of the Garden
2. **The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil** was also in the midst of the Garden. It was good for food and pleasant to the eyes, but there was a restriction for this tree if they ate the fruit.

God is the One who gave life producing qualities to the tree of life, and death producing corruptible qualities to the tree of knowledge of good and evil. We will find out in 2:16-17 that there was a choice to be made after a commandment was given by God to man. Man was to choose God by obeying Him.

2:10 And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads. The LORD God (Jehovah Elohim) caused a river to go out of Eden to water the garden. It must have been a great river; large enough to irrigate the whole Garden and break out into four major rivers when exiting Eden.

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

2:11 The name of the first is Pison: that is it which compasseth the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold;

2:12 And the gold of that land is good: there is bdellium and the onyx stone.

1. Pison was the first river head which flowed through the land of Havilah. It's known for its gold, bdellium (a valuable gem), and the onyx stone.

2:13 And the name of the second river is Gihon: the same is it that compasseth the whole land of Ethiopia.

2. Gihon was the second river head which flowed through the land of Ethiopia (the land of Cush).

2:14 And the name of the third river is Hiddekel: that is it which goeth toward the east of Assyria. And the fourth river is Euphrates.

3. Hiddekel or Tigris is the third river head which flowed along the east side of Assyria.
4. Euphrates was the fourth river head which flowed from the highlands of Armenia down into the Persian Gulf. It was known as the great river, the most important river in Western Asia.

SUMMARY:

This is the "*generations*" or the "*accounts*" in the day of how the LORD God (*Jehovah/ Yahweh/ Elohim*) made the earth and the heavens revealing Himself in creation. God made every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew. It had not rained because God didn't need rain because He created the plants and herbs by His spoken Word and was able to sustain them without rain. There was no man to till the ground because He had not created man yet. God was still sustaining everything Himself for man. Most things don't grow without some water and some light, so now God causes a mist to come up from the earth to water the whole surface of the ground. And now we come to the account of man and how he was created. The Lord God (*Jehovah/ Yahweh/ Elohim*) formed man out of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul (2:4-7).

Man needed responsibility, so God planted a garden in Eden. In the midst of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. And a river flowed out of Eden that parted into four heads (rivers) — Pison, Gihon, Hiddekel or Tigris, and Euphrates) (2:8-14).