

Genesis 2 (starting at 2:4)

While Chapter 1 is the 30,000 ft view of creation, Chapter 2 is the 1,000 ft view. Chapter 1 painted a picture of all 6 days of creation. Chapter 2 takes a close look at day 6 and specifically the creation of man.

Note: vv. 4-6 provide a description of what the world was like prior to the creation of man, but there are no time references. These verses are topical not chronological.

How did God make Adam (v. 7)? Did He speak him into existence like the rest of creation? He formed him from the dust of the ground and breathed life into his nostrils.

What observations can you make about the Garden (vv. 9-10)? What did it look like? There were all kinds of trees – fully grown and bearing fruit including the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. A massive river is described which separated into four rivers (headwaters), two of which are known to us today by name. The Garden must have been very large.

Where are those rivers today? The names of these rivers cannot be used to determine the place of the Garden of Eden because the flood dramatically changed the earth's landscape and "erased" these rivers. Otherwise we could trace them back to Garden of Eden. We know modern rivers today such as the Tigris and Euphrates because some rivers in the post-flood world were named after familiar pre-flood rivers by Noah and his sons.

What was Adam's primary responsibility in the Garden? It was a vertical role -- to worship and obey and love the Lord his God and enjoy the relationship with Him. **What was Adam's secondary responsibility (v. 15)?** A horizontal role -- to work the Garden and take care of it.

Work was essentially a good gift of God....part of this perfect world....to be enjoyed....not drudgery nor a punishment for sin. Note that work is established before the fall in this perfect world – it was not part of the curse. Work is a source of joy and fulfillment; sin will soon change all that.

What command did God give Adam (vv. 16-17)? Do not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God gave Adam great freedom of choice. He only forbade one of all the trees. Other than that one tree, it was an all-you-can-eat buffet smorgasbord. As humans, we seem to naturally desire and gravitate to that which God forbids.

Note Adam's advantages compared to ours. He only had *one way* he could sin and we have countless ways. Everything was on the table for him to enjoy except one thing. There are many trees of temptation in our lives, but Adam had only one. Even though he was created without a sin nature, he stumbled.

Why was he forbidden to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (v. 17)? God gave Adam great freedom of choice. Adam was denied access to the tree of the knowledge of good and evil to test his obedience and prove that he was willingly under God's command. The very name of the tree shows the sole purpose of the precept was to keep him content with his lot and to prevent him from becoming puffed up with wicked lust.

Why didn't God want them to know how to distinguish between good and evil? He wanted them to remain innocent, pure, unjaded, in a perfect relationship with Himself.

Why did their relationship with God change after they ate the fruit? Was it because they now became aware of good and evil? Because they sinned by disobeying. Their sin ruined their intimate relationship with God. They were now officially sinners and became separated from God who cannot tolerate the presence of sin.

The presence of this tree – the presence of a choice for Adam – was good, because for Adam to be a creature of free will, there had to be a *choice*, some opportunity to rebel against God. If there is never a command or never something forbidden, there can then never be choice. God wants our love and obedience to Him to be the love and obedience of *choice*. He wants hearts that choose Him.

What would happen if Adam ate from the forbidden tree (v. 17)? He would surely die.

But we know they didn't die when they ate. Why not? There are two types of death...physical and spiritual. They died spiritually. They were now separated relationally from God because of their sin. And actually, the physical death process started as well. But it took 900+ years for the first natural death to occur.

In what ways were Adam and Eve, as they were created, different from us? They were created without a sin nature. They had no belly button...they were created, we were born. They were created to be eternal beings.....to live forever.

For the first time, God saw something that was not good (v. 18)? What was that? The aloneness of man. The garden, with its pleasures and provisions for food and meaningful activity, was not sufficient unless these delights could be shared. God never intended for man to be alone, either in the marital or social sense. He has to have a partner.

How did God describe the woman before He even made her (v. 18)? Suitable helper. Adam's creation was not complete because he lacked a "helper" who corresponded to him.....who was like him, a condition that was not fulfilled by any of the animals. This deficiency led God to pronounce Adam's condition as "not good."

Does "helper" imply an inferior position? It means to work alongside. It means a needed ally; scripture uses this word for military allies. She was God's last and greatest gift to man before the Fall. It does not imply inferiority in any way. The term "helper" does not mean a servant – more like a partner. In this sense both are to rule over God's creation (1:26). Eve complimented him socially, intellectually, spiritually and emotionally. He is worthless and dysfunctional without her.

There is a Jewish tradition saying: Note that woman was made for the man not the other way around. But woman was not taken from Adam's head to dominate her, nor from his feet to be trampled upon, but from under his arm to be protected and from near his heart to be loved.

However, there was a headship element in their relationship..... God created Eve specifically for Adam, brought Eve to Adam and gave her to him. He was first - the source and the head. Thus, the subordinate relationship of wives to husbands is found *before* the curse, not only after it. And they didn't have a problem with it; they were ruling together (v. 26). One other clue to headship being in place before the fall --- Note that God held Adam responsible for Eve's sin. Headship will become a contentious issue after the fall. The Fall would redefine the husband-wife relationship. Pride entered the picture.

God paraded all the animals before Adam who named them (vv. 19-20). But no suitable helper was found. So, what did God do (v. 21)? God performed an operation; He took a rib from Adam and made Eve. **What did Adam name her (v. 23)?** Woman. She was taken out of man. She is part of him.

What does it mean for the husband to leave his father and mother (v. 24)? Cut the apron strings, but don't terminate the relationship. Man is to leave his parents in the sense of being dependent upon them financially, emotionally, and in every sense of the word. He must cease to live under their headship/authority and begin to function as the head of his new home. God has defined the family -- and there is no prominent place for in-laws.

Why is the woman not told to leave her father and mother? Because she simply transfers from one head to another – like a lateral transfer. While she once was subject to her father, now she is joined to her husband. She is under a different authority.....a different subordinate relationship.

How could they be naked and at the same time unashamed? They didn't know they were naked. The naked condition of Adam and Eve does not just describe their unclothed nudity; it also refers to the physical and psychological oneness and transparency that existed in their relationship. Physically they were naked; they shared their bodies with each other openly. Psychologically they were not ashamed; they hid nothing from each other. They were at ease with one another without any fear of exploitation for evil. To be naked and not ashamed means you have no sin, nothing to be rightly ashamed of, nothing to hide. Pride was absent.