

Let's pray...

Last week we covered the first six days of creation.

I made the point using scriptures to demonstrate God's purpose in creating you and me.

We were created with a purpose in mind by the Creator and that was so that

He can share His love with us, as we were created in His image.

The question we must ask ourselves is... do we really believe the account of creation as detailed in scripture.

In the great chapter of faith it says the following...

[Heb 11:3 CSB] 3 By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

This tells us that Genesis 1:1, which Hebrews 11:3 points us to, is a faith indicator. The Bible states Genesis 1:1 as fact. It is up to us to either accept or reject that fact.

Those who reject this inspired and revealed fact of God are exposed as **faithless** according to Hebrews 11:3.

Why is this important?

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Without Faith we can't please God because if we don't believe that God exists, how could we be in a position to please Him or even care to do so?

Furthermore, if we don't believe God exists, how could we pray to Him and expect Him to reward those who diligently seek Him?

You see, Genesis is the beginning of God's revelation of Himself to humanity and it begins with a call to accept that God exists. If we can't do that, then brothers and sisters, we are truly lost.

Listen to these words spoken by Jesus, [turn to John 5](#)

John 5:46-47 - 46 For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. 47 But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"

If we don't believe Genesis, a book inspired by God and written by Moses, then according to Jesus, it isn't likely we will be able to believe in Jesus either.

And this is a major problem because if we can't believe in Jesus, then we can't be saved because this is a necessity toward for Salvation.

“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14:6

So again, it is important that we believe by faith, these accounts that we are studying as we go through the book of Genesis.

[Gen 2:1-3 CSB] 1 So the heavens and the earth and everything in them were completed. 2 On the seventh day God had completed his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. 3 God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, for on it he rested from all his work of creation.

Genesis 1 covered the first six days of creation, the beginning of Genesis 2 states, that on the 7th day, He rested.

The question we must ask ourselves is why did He rest? Was He tired?

The answer of course is no.

After all, He is Almighty and All Powerful.

In the book of Isaiah the scriptures tell us the following,

Have you not known?

Have you not heard?

The everlasting God, the LORD,

The Creator of the ends of the earth,

Neither faints nor is weary.

That is in Isaiah 40:28

...

Listen, the only reason that God rested on the seventh day was the He was finished with creation. There was nothing else to create. Everything that God needed to create was created in the first six days.

This doesn't mean that God has stopped working.

Because He is still sovereign and He is still working in our lives and moving pieces together around the world according to His will.

This rest (Genesis 2) is only in reference to creation.

The reason God rested was to give us an example for the work week. To work six days and rest on the seventh – God didn't create us so we could work 80 hours a week. Work six days and rest one day.

In doing so, God was laying down the foundation to what the scriptures reveal to us later as the Sabbath. **Turn to the book of Exodus**

[Exo 20:8-11 NKJV] 8 "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day [is] the Sabbath of the LORD your God. [In it] you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who [is] within your gates. 11 For [in] six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that [is] in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

One way the Sabbath was to be marked distinctively was that no menial or unessential work was to be done on the Sabbath: e.g. No household work - Exodus 35:3; no buying and selling - Nehemiah 10:31; 13:15; no doing as you please - Isaiah 58:13-14; and no acting greedily - Exodus 16:27-28.

A consequence for failure to obey the Sabbath was death. Turn to Exodus

31

[Exo 31:12-17 CSB] 12 The LORD said to Moses: 13 "Tell the Israelites: You must observe my Sabbaths, for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, so that you will know that I am the LORD

who consecrates you. 14 "Observe the Sabbath, for it is holy to you. Whoever profanes it must be put to death. If anyone does work on it, that person must be cut off from his people. 15 "Work may be done for six days, but on the seventh day there must be a Sabbath of complete rest, holy to the LORD. Anyone who does work on the Sabbath day must be put to death. 16 "The Israelites must observe the Sabbath, celebrating it throughout their generations as a permanent covenant. 17 "It is a sign forever between me and the Israelites, for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, but on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed."

In the book of Numbers 15, there is the account of a man that was collecting wood – on the Sabbath. The people find him, they hold him and they bring the man before the rest of the tribe of Israel.

Do you know what happened next?

God commands the people to take the man outside the camp and stone him to death and they did.

God's intention for the Sabbath from the beginning was for Children of Israel to set aside one day out of the week and devote it strictly to Him. It was a

time to draw close to Him and also a time to demonstrate their trust in Him that He would provide their needs. It was a time of consecration.

If you remember in the wilderness, God provided manna for them for six days of the week. They were only allowed to pick the manna on the sixth day and they could only pick as much as they needed. If they decided to hoard it, it would become infested with maggots and smell. God provided for them

Later on they were instructed to allow their fields to rest every seventh year as well. They were only allowed to work the fields six years and allow it to rest every seventh year. The children of Israel would have to depend solely on God to provide for them every seventh year.

The Israelites failed to do this.

The 70 years that the Israelites spent in captivity were as a result of the 490 years that they spent without honoring the Sabbath. One for every Sabbath year that they ignored the commandment of God.

After the 70 years of captivity, keeping the Sabbath again strayed from its initial intent and became more of a legalistic burden on the people.

We saw the way that the Pharisees reacted to Jesus performing miracles on the Sabbath.

After all, performing miracles is work.

Jesus also taught, did good works and healed on the Sabbath. This is why the Pharisees wanted to kill Him.

I read an article recently where in some hospitals and hotels in Israel they have installed Shabbat elevators – these are elevators that have a switch that on every Sabbath, they will travel up and down every floor in the building so that the person riding the elevator would not have to push the button (after all that is work) on the Sabbath.

There are other rules regarding how many steps they can take and so on.

Again, this was never the intent of the Sabbath.

Now as believers, we observe our Sabbath on Sundays. This is the day that our Lord Jesus Christ resurrected; Sunday is also the day that He first

appeared to His disciples and so following the examples of the early church we meet on Sundays instead of Saturday.

However, the Sabbath has a deeper meaning for the believer. You see, God has given us eternal rest based on what Jesus Christ did for us on the cross. Remember His words on the cross. "It is finished"

There is nothing that we can add to the work on the cross. Salvation is a gift of grace.

Read the entire chapter of Hebrews 4.

There is a rest that we must enter into as believers and that rest is in Jesus Christ.

The problem that so many of us face is that many times we fail to enter the rest and feel that we have to do something on our part to add to what Jesus Christ did on the cross.

That is what is called religion... Religion is man's attempt to reach God while Christianity is God's attempt to reach man.

God rested because He was finished with creation and now we can rest because of the work that His only begotten Son did on the cross as He died for you and me. Amen.

[Gen 2:4-6 CSB] 4 These are the records of the heavens and the earth, concerning their creation. At the time that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, 5 no shrub of the field had yet grown on the land, and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, for the LORD God had not made it rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground. 6 But mist would come up from the earth and water all the ground.

In verse 4, we see the word Jehovah or Yahweh for the first time in the scriptures. That is why most of the translations use the word LORD in All Caps.

Also in verse four we see that the scriptures reveal to us that the Lord had not made it rain on the land. There was no rain on the land as we know today. It was a constant mist that fell upon the ground.

This is the result of when God separated the waters on day two of creation, that thick canopy of water that covered the earth up until the time of the flood.

[Gen 2:7-14 CSB] 7 Then the LORD God formed the man out of the dust from the ground and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, and the man became a living being. 8 The LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he placed the man he had formed. 9 The LORD God caused to grow out of the ground every tree pleasing in appearance and good for food, including the tree of life in the middle of the garden, as well as the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. 10 A river went out from Eden to water the garden. From there it divided and became the source of four rivers. 11 The name of the first is Pishon, which flows through the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold. 12 Gold from that land is pure; bdellium and onyx are also there. 13 The name of the second river is Gihon, which flows through the entire land of Cush. 14 The name of the third river is Tigris, which runs east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

Starting in verse seven, Moses adds details into what occurred on day six of creation.

Many people get confused and believe that there are two separate accounts of creation. Chapter two does not contradict Chapter one, it actually compliments it by filling in some of the details.

Now, we get the name of a few rivers here. We don't really know where the original Garden of Eden was located because the flood pretty much rearranged the geography from preflood times.

We also see these two trees that God placed in the garden, **the tree of life and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.**

The tree of knowledge is the one that Adam and Eve will eat of the fruit in chapter 3.

The tree of life is a tree that we will see again in the last chapter of the bible.

Next week when we study chapter 3 after the fall of man, we will see that God places a cherubim with a flaming whirling sword to protect man from eating of the tree of life.

[Gen 2:15-17 CSB] 15 The LORD God took the man and placed him in the garden of Eden to work it and watch over it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree of the garden, 17 "but you must not eat from the **tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for on the day you eat from it, you will certainly die."**

God created this beautiful garden for man to work and watch over, He provided abundance of food and provisions for man.

From every tree they could eat except from the tree of life and the tree of knowledge.

Some of you might be asking? Why did God have to place the two trees in the garden?

Why not build a fence around them or put them out of reach or even why didn't God place the cherubim in front of the trees in order to keep man away.

This all points back to the reason that God created us church. Remember, God created us, He created the universe for us so that He can share His love with us. But, in order to demonstrate our love in return, He had to give us free will.

We have the choice to love Him back or to reject His love.

And the only way we demonstrate our love back is by being obedient to His word.

This is why God didn't create us like robots. He wants us to love Him and obey Him willingly.

[Gen 2:18-20 CSB] 18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper corresponding to him." 19 The LORD God formed out of the ground every wild animal and every bird of the sky, and brought each to the man to see what he would call it. And whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. 20 The man gave names to all the livestock, to the birds of the sky, and to every wild animal; but for the man no helper was found corresponding to him.

At the conclusion of Genesis 1, God looks at what He created and said it was good. Yet here, when it speaks about Adam's loneliness, it states that God said it is not good. Contradiction?

No, God said it was good at the end of the sixth day, while chapter two is again giving us the detail of what was happening during the sixth day. The day is not over yet.

As I read the text, you could picture the animals coming before Adam to be named maybe in pairs and maybe Adam wondered why he doesn't have a partner.

Adam needed a partner. A suitable partner, a corresponding partner.

So, God created woman for Adam. This is the institution of marriage.

[Gen 2:21-23 CSB] 21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to come over the man, and he slept. God took one of his ribs and closed the flesh at that place. 22 Then the LORD God made the rib he had taken from the man into a woman and brought her to the man. 23 And the man said: This one, at last, is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh; this one will be called "woman," for she was taken from man.

God put Adam to sleep does a little surgical procedure and creates Eve of Adam.

Beware of myths that are made up by people. I remember growing up hearing references to this verse and people concluded that this is why women have one more rib. You guys heard that one?

That is nonsense.

The word utilized here “rib” in the Hebrew doesn’t necessarily mean rib – it could mean side.

Some old guy had this observation regarding Eve, “Woman was not made out of his head to rule over him, nor out of his feet to be trampled upon by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be beloved.”

In verse 23, **This one, at last, is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh**

In a healthy marriage relationship, the husband realizes the essential union he has with his wife, and he soon will realize that he cannot bless her without blessing himself and he cannot mistreat or neglect her without mistreating or neglecting himself.

This is why so many marriages fail even within the church. The percentage of failed marriages in the church is about the same as in the world.

One of the reason for failed marriages is the unwillingness to sacrifice by either or both parties.

How many of you guys ever saw the original Rocky movie?

In the movie Sylvester Stallone's character Rocky is dating a real shy girl names Adrian.

She has a goon of a brother who one day asks Rocky, "What is the attraction?"

Rocky's response was, "I dunno – she fills gaps"

Paulie's response with "what gaps?"

And Rocky responds with "She got gaps, I got gaps – together we fill gaps."

In his simple way, Rocky is stating that without him, Adrian has empty spaces and without Adrian, he has empty spaces. But, when they are together, they fill those empty spaces with one another.

Isn't this the reason that God formed Eve? To fill the empty space Adam had – and Adam would then fill Eve's empty space.

Marriage is a wonderful picture of the relationship between Jesus Christ and the church.

Let us not forget that in the same way that Adam was put to sleep to give life to Eve, Jesus Christ also had to be put to sleep in order for the church to have everlasting life.

This is why marriage is so important in God's eyes.

[Gen 2:24-25 CSB] 24 This is why a man leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife, and they become one flesh. 25 Both the man and his wife were naked, yet felt no shame.

Verse 24 is a verse that many today ignore. We are called to leave our mommies and daddies and become one with our wives. Yes, there are some that God gave them the gift of celibacy. The rest of us, we get married.

Our priorities should be

1. God

2. Our Spouse
3. Our Children
4. Work
5. Other family, etc.

We should not put anything other than God in front of our spouse. Many of us put our jobs ahead of our spouse. Our children before our spouse – Our own parents before spouse.

Not only do we become one flesh physically but it is also a spiritual union as well. Like-mindedness with one heart.

This is what marriage is.

Marriage was born in the loving heart of God for the blessing and benefit of mankind.

No matter what the courts may decree, or society may permit, when it comes to marriage, God had the first word and He will have the last word.

Amen.

The chapter ends with both Adam and Eve standing there naked and feeling no shame. Why no shame? Because they had yet to eat of the tree of

knowledge of good and evil. Nothing to be ashamed of as they lived a life of innocence. That is until next week.

Let's pray...

Lord Jesus, I know that I have sinned against you. I know that I am not perfect and that I cannot please you through my own efforts. I know that I deserve to be judged according to my sins. And, I know that I have nothing to offer you.

Lord Jesus, I ask you to forgive me of my sins. Please cleanse me and make me right before you. I trust in what you have done on the cross. I do not rely on myself but only on you and I receive you as Lord of my life and as savior of my soul. Lord Jesus, save me. I look to you alone.