

# GENESIS

## Lesson 2

Let us make man ...

### THE CREATION OF MAN

**Genesis 1:26 - 2:25**

The six days of creation reached their climax on day six, when God created the animals and then man. Of all God's creation, man is unique. God even uses a different phrase when He creates man. God says, "Let **us** make man..."



1. Who is the "us" of Genesis 1:26? (See also Gen 1:2; John 1:1-3; Col 1:16)
2. In what way or ways is man made in the image of God? (Gen 1:26,27; 5:1; 9:6; James 3:9)

For further research into how man is made in God's image see: Jack Cottrell. The Faith Once For All: Bible Doctrine for Today. Joplin, MO: College Press, 2002. pp. 134-158.



Man is made of both body and spirit. God designed man's body as He wanted it to be and afterwards observed His creation that "it was very good" (Gen 1:31). Our bodies are important, and are a part of our nature, but it is our spirit that is made in the image of God. The Creator does not have a body of flesh and bone for God is Spirit (John 1:18; 1 Tim 6:16).

Man is both a physical and spiritual being. Our spirit cannot be observed with our eyes, and it cannot be measured by size, or shape, or weight, but it is just as real as our physical body. The God who made our body also created our spirit. In Gen 2:7, God creates the physical body and then "*breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.*"



In Genesis 1:27, God created both male and female. From God's creation of gender and in the reading of Genesis 1 and 2 we can learn some important lessons about human sexuality.

1. Gender was God's idea and the way He wanted man to be. Furthermore, God expected the male and female to "*be fruitful and multiply*" (Gen 1:28).

2. God does not mention the sex of any other part of this creation though the animals are also made male and female. This tells us that human sexuality is of a different quality and nature from the animals. While animals only pair for the purpose of mating; the human sexual relationship has a deeper meaning and more profound purpose than procreation alone.

3. God is not a sexual being, so this is *not* one of the ways that man is made in God's image. God created male and female and both are made in the image of God which tells us that both genders have equal value and worth. After their creation as man and woman God blessed them (Gen 1:28).

### 3. What is man's relationship to the rest of creation (Gen 1:26-29)?

In Genesis 2:2-4 God institutes the Sabbath Day (or seventh day). On the seventh day God "*rested*" from all the work He had done. We understand that God did not rest because He was tired or needed a break. We could translate this simply as God "*ceased*" creating. God also "*blessed*" the seventh day and "*made it holy*." This day was to be set apart from the normal six days of work. This is also the origin of the seven day week.

There are two major implications of God blessing the seventh day: 1) By making the seventh day holy, God shows that rest as well as work can be noble and holy. 2) By resting on the seventh day, God establishes a pattern of work and rest for those who are made in His image.<sup>1</sup>

In Genesis 2:4-25 we have a second recording of the events of creation and primarily those of day six. These accounts are complementary and not contradictory. The amount of space in the Scriptural account of the creation of man compared to all other parts of creation show us that man is at the centre of why God created.

In Genesis 2, the Creator is referred to as the LORD God. This is Yahweh Elohim. The word *Yahweh* means "he who is" or the Eternal, while Elohim means "all powerful."<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Smith, *Biblical Protology*, pp. 174-176.

<sup>2</sup> Smith, *The Old Testament Survey Series*.

#### 4. How was the earth watered prior to rainfall? (Gen 2:5-6)

Man (Hebrew word *adam*) was formed from dust of the ground (Hebrew word *adhamah*). In this respect man is like other living creatures (Gen 2:19). Where man greatly differs is that God breathed into man the breath of life. This is the creation of the spirit or soul and is unique to man on the earth.

#### 5. How does Genesis 2:8-17 describe the Garden of Eden?

The geographical area described in Genesis for the Garden of Eden would place it in present day Iraq. The garden itself could be described as a place of great beauty and bounty. While in the garden, man was to work and care for the garden (Gen 2:15) providing man with useful activity. God placed plants in the garden that were suitable for food showing His provision for the man (Gen 2:16)

#### 6. What was the one prohibition in the garden? (Gen 2:17)

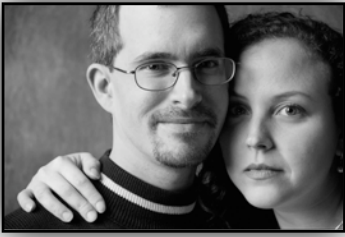
The choice to eat (or not eat) of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil serves two purposes. First, man is given the free-will to obey or disobey God. Second, this choice gives man the opportunity to trust God.

#### 7. Adam is told that he would die on the day he ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. What does this mean?

God saw that it was *not good* for the man to be alone (Gen 2:18) and He made a suitable companion for the man. Prior to receiving the woman, God brought the created creatures to Adam to be named. This indicates man's superiority over the animals. Adam also saw clearly that there was no suitable helper for Him in all of creation.



The woman is called man's helper (Gen 2:20), but this does not indicate inferiority. The Hebrew word used here is *ezer* and is used elsewhere of God himself as our helper. This shows that Adam needed her and that they were interdependent.



The way in which the woman was created was unique since she was made by God from the rib or side of Adam. The Hebrew word for made in Gen 2:22 is *banah* which is used only here in all of creation. “The verb is frequently used in the Old Testament for completing an unfinished structure. Man was incomplete without his mate.”<sup>3</sup>

When God brings the woman to Adam he immediately recognises her as his proper mate (Gen 2:23-24). In this passage we also see the establishment of the institution of marriage. We learn these truths about marriage: 1) God designed marriage and brought the woman to the man; 2) marriage is designed to be between a man and a woman; 3) a man and woman together form an independent unit (apart from their previous family); 4) marriage is to be permanent; 5) marriage is to be monogamous as God made only one woman for the one man; 6) God, the man, and the woman consented to the marriage (God brought her to the man; she comes willingly; and the man gladly received her.) 7) Marriage includes a sexual component or union (the two shall become one flesh).

### **8. What is the significance of Gen 2:25?**

There is complete equality between man and woman as both are created in the image of God. Within the equality of the marital relationship there are reasons to see the husband as the leader within the family. 1) The man was created first and the woman brought to him to be his helper (2:18, 22; 1 Tim 2:13; 1 Cor 11:3, 9); 2) Man has the responsibility to initiate a new household (2:24); 3) the woman receives both her generic and personal name from her husband (2:23, 3:20).

---

<sup>3</sup> Smith, James E. *The Old Testament Survey Series*.