

God Creates Man (When I say man... I mean mankind... I mean men and women)

❖ Introduction

- **Genesis 1:1-2:4 forms the first section in Genesis...**
 - Genesis 2-3 are another section that goes together very naturally...
- **If you remember... we speculated on why Genesis is written and by whom and when and how**
 - We noted that it is a Polemic... It is an argument against other beliefs
 - A way of setting the record straight

Genesis 2:4-25 These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens. ⁵When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground, ⁶and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground— ⁷then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. ⁸And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁰A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers. ¹¹The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. ¹²And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. ¹³The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush. ¹⁴And the name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

¹⁵The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. ¹⁶And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

¹⁸Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”

¹⁹Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. ²¹So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²²And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.” ²⁴Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

❖ Outline:

- 1) God is Creator of Man in His Image
- 2) God Provides for Man
- 3) God Creates Man for Relationship
- 4) God Creates Man to Work (briefly)
- 5) God Reminds Man He is God (briefly)

❖ 1) God is Creator of Man in His Image

- ⁷then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.
- ¹⁵The Lord God **took** the man and put him in the garden of Eden ¹⁶And the Lord God **commanded** the man,

- **Biblically we must reject the idea of Evolution... it is not compatible with Scripture...**
- **When we say "In His Image"**
 - **From the text we gather immediately after the announcement to create in His image:**
 - "And let them have dominion"
 - So we could concur that one way that we are made in the image of God
 - Is our purpose to have dominion over all the creatures of the earth...
 - ◆ And over the land on the earth...
 - **We could also gather from Genesis 1-3 that we are in the image of God...**
 - As His **representative** on this earth...
 - Also that we are able to know Him in a **personal way**...
 - Outside of this... we can not make any concrete assumptions
- **Notice the Uniqueness of God's Creation of Man**
 - God spoke everything else into existence...
 - **He said let there be... and there was...**
 - He said let it bring forth... and it brought forth...
 - **Here with man we see an intimacy involved in our creation...**
 - We see great care being taken...
 - You can not walk away from this and think that man is little in the eyes of God...
- **Consider Psalm 139:13-16**
 - **For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. ¹⁵My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. ¹⁶Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.**
 - **God formed man from the dust...**
 - **Elsewhere in the Bible He is described as a potter at the potter's wheel...**
 - ◆ Forming and shaping us... this is the image we see when we consider God creating man
 - ◆ It is very purposeful... and intimate...
 - **And when we consider Psalm 139 written by David... a Man after God's own heart**
 - ◆ We see that God continues His forming of man... even after the first man
 - ◆ He is still knitting us together...weaving us into being...
 - ◆ Writing our days for us in a book...
 - ◆ Creating us for relationship with our Maker...
 - **David considers this... and it causes him to erupt into praise...**
 - And I think this should be our response this morning...
 - Praise and thankfulness that God would take such care to create us in this manner...
 - **David Praises God in this regard in Psalm 8:3-4**
 - **When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, ⁴what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?**
 - ◆ **David is blown away....! Are we? Do we consider our Maker?**
- **It Gets Even Better: Consider God demonstrated Love for Man in Jesus Christ...**
 - God creates man... yes... but more... He **LOVES** man... He **LOVES** man...
 - **Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**
 - As you will learn as we continue into Chapter 3...
 - Man will openly rebel against God
 - Man will attempt to take the place of God in a sense

- And when he does... he brings ruin on himself...
- That could have been the end of it...
- **But from that point on... all the way to the cross of Jesus...**
 - God puts in motion a plan He had prepared before He began to lay the foundations of the earth
 - To send His Son... to Send Himself to the earth to become a man...
 - And to die to save us....
- **God Created Man to Know Him Personally...**
 - Acts 17:27 that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;
 - Jesus is God coming to man that we may know who God is...
- **Consider One More Thing for Me: God Made All Men**
 - **I want to make a point about this... very clearly today...**
 - It pains me... it really does... in the core of my being...
 - **That Men of different skin tones hate, disregard or demean other men...**
 - ◆ Because they are a different skin color...
 - ◆ Or because they live in another nation...
 - **Now... I am not naïve to not consider that cultures are different**
 - ◆ and this uncomfortable for some
 - **But hear me this morning Christians...**
 - God has created us all from one man... And our Black and brown brothers and sister...
 - Are just as much brothers and sisters as our white and tan brothers and sisters...
 - Acts 17:26-28 And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth,
- **Even more than this... Heaven will be filled with people of all Nations...**
 - Revelation 7:9⁹ After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands,¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"
 - Men from every tongue... Worshipping God together... crying out to the Lamb...
 - If your god is a one type of person god... He isn't the God of the Bible...
 - ◆ Do you see what I am saying here?

❖ 2) God Provides for Man

- ⁸And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. ¹⁰A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers.
- **This section continues to tell us the names of the four rivers and where they go...**
 - Since no one is certain with certainty.... About their exact location...
 - I will not spend much time here... simply because it may not be for us to know now...
- **I will say... that the writer... he likely knows where it is located...**
 - And he probably assumes that his readers do as well...
- **The main point is this:**
 - That it is a real place... and God planted a garden there...
 - And all signs point to somewhere in Ancient Mesopotamia... (The fertile Crescent)
 - ◆ Which today is parts of Iraq, turkey and syria
- **At the time of Moses writing... the flood has already destroyed the earth...**

- Unless... this account was written before the flood... which in that case...
- There is no certainty of its location...
- But... there is so much more here to consider...

➤ **God Provides for man...**

- He plants a garden for man... and He puts them there...
- He made pleasant trees to spring up to provide food...
- He also placed the tree of life... which sustained their life...
 - giving them the possibility of immortality
 - There is also a river flowing out of this garden... and it waters the garden...
- **If you continue reading the text you will notice God provides even more...**
 - The animals are there.... Other plant life...
 - Also we see gold and precious stones...
 - ◆ So it is noticeable that man is given all the materials on the earth for their own use
 - ◆ This includes... diamonds and silver and rubies and emeralds...etc
 - ◆ **Psalm 115:16 The heavens are the Lord's heavens, but the earth he has given to the children of man.**

➤ **God is the Provider of All Things...**

- **Job 5:10¹⁰ he gives rain on the earth and sends waters on the fields;**
- **Consider how we can not survive without freshwater from above...**
 - What happens if God does not send the rain?
 - You may not be a farmer... you may not see the affect as quickly as they do...
 - But you will... when you can't find fresh water... when you can't find food...
 - Man in his rebellion is Ultimately dependent on God...
- **Even more than just our food and drink.... What about our money and possessions...**
 - How much have we as people profited on the buying and selling of the goods of this earth...
 - The gold, silver, iron, copper, precious stones, marble, granite, wood, oil...
 - ◆ Oil that we use for fuel and as a lubricant and to create plastics...
 - **Not only this...**
 - ◆ But the skills and abilities to do things like mine and invent...
 - ◆ And He gives us knowledge and wisdom...
- **Oh how dependent we are on God above to provide for us...**
 - Yet man continue to thumb their noses at God... and so many men...
 - ◆ They do not give back to God...
 - If you are a man or woman here today... And you do not give an offering to God...
 - **Shame on you!... God has given you every stitch of clothing on your body...**
 - ◆ The food you will eat today... the vehicle you will drive... the home you live in
 - ◆ The fuel that will warm your house...

➤ **O Praise God this morning for His provision for us....**

- **When He created man... He provided for them...**
 - **Genesis 1:29 And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food.**
 - **Genesis 9:3 Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. And as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything.**

❖ **3) God Creates Man for Relationship**

- **¹⁸Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."...**

- ...But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. ²¹ So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.
- ²² And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.
- **First of All... this verse is not saying... that if you are not married you are out of the will of God...**
 - We know from Paul that this is not the case...
 - But... God did create man and woman for each other...
 - There is so much we can say here... but not the time today to do so...
- **What is happening here?**
 - God has sent all the animals before Adam... And Adam is naming them... showing his dominion
 - He names all of them... Yet none of them is adequate to be a helper for him
 - So God says it is not good for man to be alone...
 - And God puts Adam to sleep and takes his rib and creates a helper suitable for him...
 - **Matthew Henry writes: ““Women were created from the rib of man to be beside him, not from his head to top him, nor from his feet to be trampled by him, but from under his arm to be protected by him, near to his heart to be loved by him.”**
- **Man was alone:**
 - **Consider this... Men and Women... Man was alone...**
 - I think this is meant to weigh heavy here... And... man needed help...
- **The idea of Helper here:**
 - The word is more complimentary... She would not be the same... nor is she greater... nor is she less
 - She is matching him... literally “like opposite him”
 - The idea is that they would compliment each other...
 - There is also the idea that she would make him happy... and vice versa...
- **Notice that this is clearly the first marriage... It is also the standard for marriage...**
 - We see God creating a Woman for Man...
 - And she is created very similarly... but not created identical...
 - She is created to compliment the Man...
 - **Notice... And I do not mean to poke fun or be cliché...**
 - But God creates man and woman here...
 - He does not create two men... He does not create two women...
 - **I am sympathetic to the struggles of men and women when it comes to Homosexuality...**
 - I am... But we must be careful to take God’s Word as it is...
 - Regardless of what the culture around us tells us...
 - And although I have nothing against Homosexuals... and I love them... I do...
 - I can not in good conscience say that God is good with it...
 - **God created man and woman for each other... to be married...**
 - Therefore... the only marriage in God’s eyes that is marriage... is marriage as God designed...
 - ◆ Man and woman...
 - **Now... let me also say this... for those of us in here that may be homophobic...**
 - It is not godly to be hateful to people with this struggle...
 - It is not right for you to place yourself above them
 - We are called to love and to take the gospel with love...
 - Doesn’t mean we must agree but we must love...
 - **The Bible mentions homosexuality along side many sins...**
 - ◆ **1 Corinthians 6:9-10 ⁹ Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor**

men who practice homosexuality, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

➤ Do you treat the greedy and drunkards in the same way?

➤ **Adam Get's Excited When He sees her...**

- We have man's first poem... It is like a song of praise...
- **Genesis 2:23 This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."**

➤ **Notice Man's Duty to His Wife**

- He would leave his parents... And his wife would be his family
- **Genesis 2:24-25 ²⁴Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.**
- **In this time... Men were supposed to be very loyal to their family...**
 - To helping out his parents... This was considered one of the greatest things a man could do
 - ◆ To honor and care for his parents...
- **But here... we see that man is called to put their wife first...**
 - The author interjects here... and He teaches...
 - Man shall forsake his parents and cling to his wife...
 - She is his first priority... she is his family...
- **The idea is not that you completely forsake your family...**
 - Rather it is much like Jesus talked about following Him... leaving family to follow Him...
 - Here... the man is to place His wife first in His life...
- **And even more so... They become one flesh...**
 - Sexual union is likely in mind here to an extent... but it is more than just sexual union...
 - It is a mingling of souls...

➤ **This is why marriage is such a big deal... and why divorce is so devastating...**

- I always counsel people... do whatever it takes to stay together...
- I recognize... just as God did... that this is not always possible...
 - Due to the hardness of man's heart...
- **But Jesus said this:**
 - **Matthew 19:4-6 ⁴He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, ⁵and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? ⁶So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."**
 - ◆ Let no man separate...
 - ◆ Men... treat your wives the way Christ treats the church...
 - ◆ Women... submit to your husbands as God commands...

❖ **4) God Creates Man to Work**

- **¹⁵The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.**
- **Notice here... interestingly... Man is made to work...**
 - Many think that there was no work to be done to begin with...
 - But this is not true... God created man to work... and to be creative...
- **Even here in Eden... In this beautiful and lush Garden...**
 - God expects man to work the ground...
 - After man sins... it becomes much more difficult...
- **Work is a part of God's plan for man...**

- “For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.” (2 Thessalonians 3:10)

➤ **Work is a blessing from God...**

- God is allowing us to take part in the work of His creation....
- And we should be thankful and diligent at our work...
- Proverbs 13:4 ⁴The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied.
 - God is pleased when we work hard for His glory...

❖ **5) God Reminds Man He is God**

- ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”
- **Finally we see God setting a limitation... And we will deal with this next week...**
 - But notice this:
 - God has provided man with all he needs... abundantly... yet He sets one limit...
 - To remind them He is God and they are not...
- **So we have this tree of the knowledge of good and evil...**
 - And they are not to partake of it... if they do... they will die...
 - And this tree represents being like God...
 - And to take of it... is in a sense to try to usurp God’s rule in our life...
- **And this is where we will leave Adam and Eve this morning...**
 - In the garden... and All is well... and they are in love and God has provided abundantly...

❖ **Invitation**

- Do you know God?
- Do you acknowledge God as your God?
- Do you know what God did for you in His Son Jesus on the cross?