

## School of the Bible, Genesis Program #14

I. The Old and New Testaments Give a United Witness to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. This is no Disunity in Scripture.

II. The Structure of Genesis 1-2:3

The Biblical purpose of the 1st Creation Story in Genesis 1-2:3 is to provide a succinct literary unit that contains the entire work of Creation. This allows the reader to see the Lord's "Big Picture" in a short time. The Creation Story in Genesis 1 centers on the Sabbath as the culmination of God's work. Sabbath becomes the focus of Creation and Redemption.... a time when God and Man will live in fellowship together.

III. The Structure of Genesis 2.....The "Second" Creation Story

Genesis 2 provides us with a "second" story of Creation. However, the Lord's purpose is not to contradict Genesis 1. Rather, the reason for Genesis 2 is to focus on the center of God's purposes in Creation, namely the relationship between God and Man. Therefore, Genesis 2 gives us fuller detail about Man and his specific details of Creation.

A) We notice in the early verses of Genesis 2:4-7 that no rain has fallen. The world is watered and life is sustained from a hidden source in the deep

This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created. When the LORD God made the earth and the heavens-- 5 and no shrub of the field had yet appeared on the earth {[5] Or land; also in verse 6}and no plant of the field had yet sprung up, for the LORD God had not sent rain on the earth {[5] Or land; also in verse 6}and there was no man to work the ground, 6 but streams {[6] Or mist}came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground..

B) We see that water is a picture of the Lord's provision. The Lord is the One Who gives all life to the Creation, including Man. The fact that no rain has fallen is because we have no sin in Genesis 2 yet. Rain will 1st appear later in Genesis during the story of Noah and the Flood. For now God and Man are in harmony together.

C) The concept of water flowing through the Garden is repeated in Revelation 22. The Lord tells us at the close of Biblical revelation that Creation has been restored from sin. The Creation returns to a Garden, flowing water and rest or Shabbat. Revelation 22:1-5 states...

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb 2 down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. 3 No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. 4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5 There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

#### IV. The Creation of Adam In Genesis 2:7

7 the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

A) The name Adam is chosen by the Lord because it is related to what Adam means in Hebrew. The Hebrew word for ground is "adamah". The Lord wants to remind Adam and his descendants that they are nothing more than dirt or ground without the Lord. This is a way for the Lord to work humility into the human condition. This also relates to the Latin word for soil "humus" is where we get our word "humility". The Lord wants Man to be humble, lest he seeks to leave fellowship and become a "god" unto himself.

B) Modern science has shown that the chemical composition of the human body is close to that of typical soil found in the earth. This is an exciting connection to the Genesis account of Man's creation.

C) Adam is introduced as the 1st character of Creation out of the ground as an early picture of the Lord Jesus Christ. Our Savior would also come out of the ground as the Savior of the world through His glorious resurrection on the 3rd day. The Lord Jesus would one day come as the New Adam, Who comes to restore the world back to sinless beauty of the Genesis. This relationship between the Two Adams is given by the Apostle Paul in I Corinthians 15:45-49...

45 So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being" {[45] Gen. 2:7}; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. 46 The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. 47 The first man was of the dust of the earth, the second man from heaven. 48 As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the man from heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. 49 And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven.

B) The Two Adams also contain the Two Images of God. God originally created Man in His Image (Genesis 1:26). We see in the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ that this desire to restore the Image of God remains. The Bible tells us in Romans 8:29 that the Lord desires us to be "conformed to the Image of His Son". This is a return to the original intention for Adam...now in the New Adam, the Lord Jesus Christ.

C) The Christian Life flows out of focusing on the Lord Jesus Christ and having the Holy Spirit shape us back into the Image of the New Adam to fulfill our original intention in Genesis. The Apostle Paul speaks well of this goal and purpose in II Corinthians 3:17-18...

17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect {[18] Or contemplate} the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

#### V. The New Genesis of Adam's Creation Story is Found in the New Testament

The exciting thing about our story in Genesis 2 is how the Lord repeats it in the New Testament. The Lord Jesus meets the disciples in His post resurrection appearance in John 20 and "breathes" on them through the sending of the Holy Spirit. This pattern is connected to Genesis 2 and shows us that the Lord Jesus Christ is the God, Who breathed on Adam in the Garden to give him life. Our Lord is giving life eternal to the disciples and commissioning them to share the life giving Gospel with the world. The passage in John 20 helps to confirm our Lord's Divinity as well as His humanity. Our Lord is the New Man or Adam out of the ground or resurrected that also sends life as the Creator to His people. John 20:21-23 shows us this...

21 Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." 22 And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

#### VI. Life Has Meaning and Purpose. The Lord's Original Intention of Creation is Maintained as we are Conformed to His Image Again and Forever