

## School of the Bible, Genesis Program #16

### I. Mankind's Greatest Challenge-The Two Trees of Genesis 2

A) The Two Trees represent the incredible choice set before Mankind. Mankind is given the choice between unlimited knowledge and power or God's understanding, wisdom and life eternal. The choice in the Garden was a temptation then and now.

B) Knowledge is important, but it must lead to understanding and ultimately wisdom.

C) Knowledge alone only tends to puff us up, as Scripture teaches ( I Corinthians 8:1). Human beings tend to become proud and "godlike" when they seek knowledge alone. This is the error of our society today. People look for knowledge and power without God.

D) The Bible is interested in all three issues.....knowledge.....understanding.....and wisdom. When all three are found together in our lives we glorify God and reflect Him more fully to the world.

Example: Seeing that a car is able to drive people around from one place to another is knowledge. Knowing how the engine and transmission function operate is understanding of how a car works. Knowing how to drive a car responsibly is wisdom. These three aspects of knowledge, understanding and wisdom are a part of every issue we face.....in the Garden .....and today.

F) Satan's Deception comes from leading Mankind to trust in their own reason.....to trust in SELF. When we leave the Lord's wisdom and life we die and watch our lives destroyed by our attempt to be "god". Mankind's limited reason, knowledge and understanding is simply unable to see the "Big Picture". This leads to broken and empty lives.

### II. God's Authority over Creation is Given to Mankind to Rule on His Behalf.

A) Mankind is the crowning of God's glory in Creation. Man is given the authority over the Creation as signified by his power to name the animals in verse 19.

18 The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." 19 Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. 21 So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. 22 Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. 23 The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman' for she was taken out of man."

B) Understanding the place we have in the Creation dignifies Mankind. Mankind is not just another animal or a product of chance/evolution. Mankind has authority over all the animals. This wonderful truth should elevate Mankind on His own mind. Mankind is special and needs to see this truth. Mankind is called to use this power and dignity for God's glory.

C) The Lord Jesus Christ is the Fulfillment of Mankind's Call to Rule over the World. Our Lord Jesus will one day come to rule and reign over this world as the Lord of Glory, but also as Man. Our Lord's Second Coming will be the ultimately fulfillment of what the Lord intended in Genesis 2 in given Mankind dominion and authority over Creation. Revelation 20:6 reflects this truth of our Lord expressing dominion and authority over the world to restore it to the original blueprint and intention in Genesis.

6 Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

III. The Creation of Woman.....More Than a Woman....A Love Story of God and His People.

A) The Creation story of Genesis 2 regarding "Woman" is often misunderstood, ignored or belittled as some sort of "male myth". The Creation of "Woman" is loaded with rich teaching about the Lord's love for us. We need to look at the story as the Lord intends and not get lost in our cultural misunderstandings of what we think the story may be teaching.

B) The 1st Adam is a picture of the 2nd Adam, our Lord Jesus Christ. When the 1st Adam is put to sleep in Genesis 2, we see a story of what will one day happen to the 2nd Adam. Sleep in the Bible is a picture of death throughout the Bible. As a result, when the 1st Adam is put to sleep by God, in order that the Woman is created, it gives a wonderful picture of our Lord's future "sleep" or death on the Cross and the creation of His Woman, the Church or Body of Christ. In John 19:32-34 we see our Lord's death....and the amazing piercing of His side that brought forth blood and water.....ultimately His Woman/Bride/Church/Body.

32 The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. 33 But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. 34 Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water.

C) When we understand that the Church or Body of Christ is taken from the side of the 2nd Adam it changes our view of the Genesis 2 story and allows us to see a greater story at work. This story also helps us to reinforce our understanding of the authority of Scripture.

VI. The Male/Female Story in Genesis 2 is the Ultimate Picture of the Lord's Love for the World.....Adam and His Wife Opens and Closes the Bible in Genesis 2 and Revelation 21. To God be the glory great things He has done.