

# GENESIS

F O U N D A T I O N S

## Chapter 2 Study Guide

January 11, 2004

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## Genesis 2

### 1. BACKGROUND, CULTURE AND EXEGESIS

Genesis 2:7 teaches that man's nature is both physical and spiritual.

*7 the LORD God formed the man <sup>[5]</sup> from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.*

Currently the elements that compose our human bodies are worth approximately \$7.28

Eden = delight

The four rivers in this chapter have not all been discovered.

1. Pishon (lit – Gusher) has not been discovered
2. Gihon (lit – Spurter) has not been discovered
3. Hiddekel (Assyrian monuments refer to this as the Tigris) – in Iraq
4. Euphrates – in Iraq

**Where is Eden?** Since the Tigris and Euphrates are in Iraq there are those who believe that the Eden may have originally been located there. There is a tree stump in the area displaying a plaque designating that spot as the home of Adam.

Fellowship, friendship and intimacy are basic needs of every human being; remember it was God that said “it is not good that man should be alone”. (verse 18)

*18 The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."*

As Adam gave each animal a name he thereby demonstrated that he had dominion and was in control over them. (verse 19) In this act we also have further denial of the evolution process.

*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.*

**Note:** As of 1988, the total number of living organisms that have received Latin binomial names was around 1.5 million or so. Because not all species have been identified, the overall crude estimate of the total is roughly three times the number currently classified, or around 3 million to 5 million.

-Department of Biology, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ 08544



# GENESIS

## F O U N D A T I O N S

-May, R. M. 1988. How many species are there on earth? Science 247: 1441-49.

### **Rib – verse 21**

*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 <sup>[9]</sup> and closed up the place with flesh.*

“Woman was not made from one of the bones in the man’s head in order to make it possible for her to lord it over him, nor was she made from one of the bones in his foot in order to enable him to trample and crush her. On the contrary, she was made from one of the bones from his side so that they might share life together in mutual protection and concern and for love and care.”

“Rib” actually means “curved section” in the Hebrew. God may have made an incision in Adam and used his blood or to clone a cell to create Eve.

Marriage – First institution made by God. Christ based his teaching on marriage on this account found in Genesis 2:24.

*24 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.*

Jesus’ teachings are found in Matthew 19:3-9

*3Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?"*

*4"Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,'<sup>[1]</sup> 5and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'<sup>[2]</sup> ? 6So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."*

*7"Why then," they asked, "did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?"*

*8Jesus replied, "Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. 9I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery."*

We glean the following from these passages;

1. Heterosexual relationships
2. Permanency
3. Male as the head



# GENESIS

## F O U N D A T I O N S

### 2. THEME & AUTHORSHIP (same as chapter 1)

### 3. ATTRIBUTES

Some things God created from nothing (**Genesis 2:1**), some He used the earth (**Genesis 2:7, 9**)

God Rested (**Genesis 2:1-4**)

God wanted us to know HE created everything (**Genesis 2:2**)

God created the Sabbath (**Genesis 2:3**)

God is detailed (**Genesis 2...actually, where is He NOT detailed**)

God had/has a plan (**Genesis 2...again, He always had a plan**)

God gave us HIS breath for our life (**Genesis 2:7**)

God is specific in His warnings (**Genesis 2:16-17**)

God details the consequences of not following His warnings (**Genesis 2:17**)

God gives man choices (**Genesis 2:19-20**)

God created woman for man (**Genesis 2:21-25**)

God ordained man & woman becoming one. (**Genesis 2:24**)

God intended us to work (**Genesis 2:15**), even before the fall (**Genesis 3**)

God wanted us to have HIS image (**Genesis 2:7**)

Man & WOMAN both are representative of God's image (**Genesis 2:18-24**)

God allowed man to choose good or evil for ourselves (**Genesis 2:9, 17**)

### 4. WORD STUDIES

#### BREATH

Air drawn into the body to sustain life. Since breathing is the most obvious sign of life, the phrase "breath of life" is used frequently in the Bible to mean "alive" or "living" (Gen 2:7; 6:17). Breath is recognized as the gift of God to His creatures (Job 12:10). But since breath is usually invisible, it also may symbolize something without substance or a temporary state of existence (Ps 144:4).

In a different sense, the "breath of God" (Job 37:10) signifies God's power. This stands in striking contrast to heathen gods, which have neither power nor life. The word breath may be used figuratively, as when Jesus "breathed" the Holy Spirit upon His disciples (John 20:22).

(from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary, Copyright (c)1986, Thomas Nelson Publishers)

Genesis chapter 2 is the follow up of chapter 1 in regards to creation. The message is loud and clear that God is the creator of all things specially humans. It is worth mentioning that God spoke everything into existence except man. He formed man out of dust of the earth and then He breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being (Gen 2:7). God created us not only in His image, He also breathed His very existence into us. Why would He do that? The answer is very complex and yet very simple, He created us for FELLOWSHIP. God has created us



# GENESIS

## F O U N D A T I O N S

with a purpose in mind; we must seek Him daily and spend time with Him in His Word so that we may know His heart and purpose for us and our lives. How much time do you spend with God?

### 5. PROPHECIES

**Genesis 2:20** *“The man gave names to all the cattle and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field...”*

Although there is no direct prophetic promise in chapter two of the Genesis account, we do see the role that Adam had as God’s intercessor on earth. Having lost that mediating role in his fall to sin, Christ would be the one true intercessor that would regain that which was lost through His incarnation.

### 6. BIBLE DIFFICULTIES

**Why did God rest?** (2:2) It wasn’t because he was tired. An all-powerful God doesn’t need to rest. Perhaps he ceased working in order to mark a division between His work of creation and his later ongoing work in the world. Whatever the reason, it’s clear that he modeled a pattern he wanted people to follow – that they would rest one day out of seven, setting it apart as holy to the Lord.

**Why retell the creation account?** (2:4-7) Genesis 1 and 2 each add to the full picture of creation. Genesis 2 presupposes the completion of God’s work of creation. The first three verses carry the narrative of chapter 1 to its logical conclusion, then the passage moves on to detail the creation of humankind.

**Why did God make man out of dust?** (2:7) God’s power alone – his breath of life is the source of all living things. That humans come from the dust of the ground suggests their physical similarity to animals, in contrast to their spiritual similarity to God (1:26). It also hints at their destiny after the fall – they would return to dust (3:19).

**Why weren’t Adam and Eve created at the same time?** (2:18-22) God himself said it was not good for the man to be alone (2:18). While the animals and other creatures had been created in pairs, the Lord allowed Adam to come to the self-realization that he needed fellowship, friendship and intimacy from a creature corresponding to himself. Thus God made him a helper. This does not mean that women are inferior to men or that they are designed merely to be assistants to men. The word helper may more accurately mean strength or power, and thus women correspond to men. Often God himself is designated by the term helper or strength (see for example Psalms 33:20). God therefore, made women for the man as his partner in life.



# GENESIS

F O U N D A T I O N S

## 7. SOUL WINNERS SO WHAT

\* Man is created for fellowship – first and foremost with his Creator. It is impossible for us to comprehend what God gets out of this relationship, but we do know the cost he was willing to pay to have it restored.

\* Jesus' death on the cross gives us a second chance at the Tree of Life

\* For me the importance of chapter 2 lies in the origin of marriage and where mankind comes from. Without it we don't know where we come from or why we should truly be married to only one person or what the purpose of marriage really is.