

**Genesis 2**

Genesis 2 completes the initial account of the seven days of creation. Explaining the 7<sup>th</sup> day as a day of rest. The chapter then gives us greater details in the creation process, in particular the circumstances around the creation of humanity, which all started with a man and woman.

**Genesis 2:1,2 The day of rest- the 7<sup>th</sup> day.**

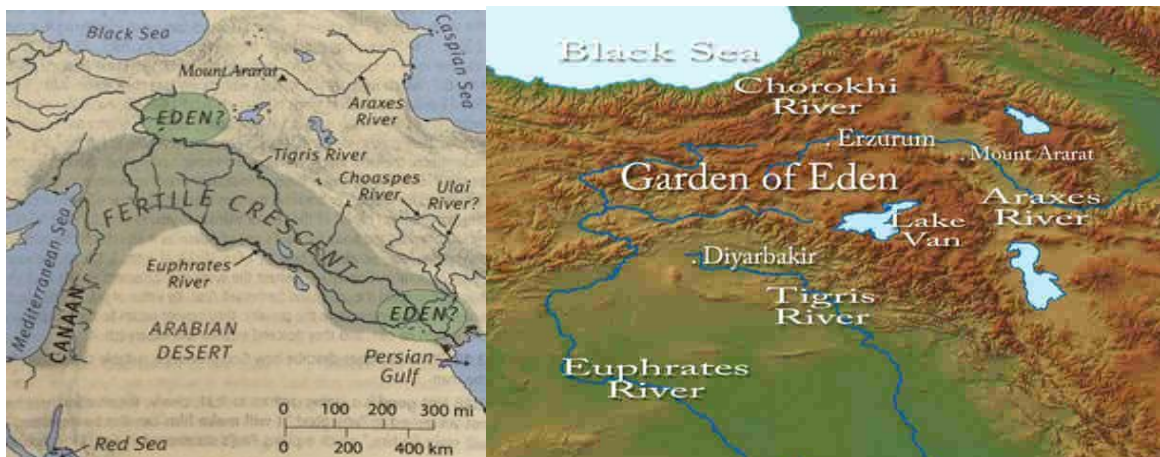
This is to be the pattern and set the rhythm of our lives. Keeping this kind of cadence is in keeping with that which God has blessed. It was later established as a commandment to the Israelites (Exodus 20:8). It is not a commandment for us today, however, the LORD did bless this pattern, and who knows the extent of the effect violating this rhythm has to us, our physical, mental, and spiritual health? The health of our communities and families? If we profess to be biblical Christians than we must believe that ignoring God’s example of rest is detrimental to our well-being.

**Genesis 2:4-7 The Breath of Life**

All life is from God. The LORD God breathed the breath of life into Adam- and he became a living being. The breath of God is often likened to the Holy Spirit. Adam awakened to become a living being. The act of God breathing into him and not the other creatures, may speak something to the man being triune (mind body spirit) and animals having just a mind and body. Adam was created without sin and therefore was fully alive and connected to God. After the fall, the spirit in mankind died and must be awakened by God’s action. (Eph. 2:1-5; Jn 20:21-23).

**Genesis 2:8-15 Not a Fairy Tale.**

Though the locations may be strange to us, these are real places. Because of the detail provided we can approximate where these events transpired and where Eden (Heb. Delight), was located. The narrative doesn’t happen in a “Long time ago in a galaxy far, far away....” Or “Once upon a time...” These events occurred in the area of the Fertile Crescent or the modern-day countries of Iraq, Syria and perhaps southern Turkey.



**The Bible is, among other things a history book.  
The narrative intentionally references known human history and geography.**

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**Genesis 2:15-17 The Man is given a purpose and commands.**

God created the world and planted the garden. He also placed the man in the garden- but with a purpose! He was to work the garden and to care for it. Man, though he was given authority over the creation (Gen. 1:28) was to be a servant of God and do HIS will. Adam was essentially a Vassal King. He was placed as ruler over the whole earth by the King of Kings- yet remained a subordinate owing obedience and loyalty to the one granting him the position. Adam was free- yet not autonomous as seen in **Genesis 2:16-17**. He was free to eat from any tree save one, The tree of the knowledge of good and evil. FACT: There is knowledge that God possesses we are better off not knowing. Why God would set up such conditions cannot be fully known, however the restriction would certainly have been a reminder to Adam that God is God, and he is not. It would serve as an ongoing test as to Adams loyalty and allegiance. It also teaches that boundaries are necessary to enjoy freedom. (1 Peter 2:16-17)

It was never in God's plan, nor is it now that his creation should live autonomously from him, though many in our culture attempt to do so.

**Genesis 2:18-20 No suitable helper.**

It is interesting that God did not just say, "Adam Here is your wife- she is your helper". The Lord God, knowing what Adam needed, allowed him to go through the process of seeing that all the other creatures had partners. God, in the assignment of naming the animals, gave Adam the opportunity to see his need for a partner, a helper in life. NOTE: I believe in the varying assignments God gives us, he is teaching us- primarily to recognize our need for HIM!

As helper, the woman would be the counterpart and complement to the man. They would complement each other.

**Genesis 2:21-23 The First Marriage**

The Lord formed the woman out of the man's rib- making them of the same substance. Forever united.

**Let us define some biblical terms:**

**Male-** Heb.: *zakar*. Emphasizes "maleness" as over against "femaleness".

**Man-** Heb.: *adam*: Man. can also be used of mankind.

**Woman-** Heb. *ishsh* Woman, out of man, wife, betrothed one, bride. From the root word for; *soft*

**Female-** Heb. *naqab*; female.

After the surgery, the LORD brings her to the man. This is the first marriage ceremony!

**Married-** Hebrew: *natan* : *to be given* (see *Genesis 29:26 KJV*) other words in the original: *to be taken, to take*.

The LORD God gave the woman to the man- and they were given to each other. They were intentionally created for one another and together give a fuller picture of the image of God.

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Upon seeing the woman, Adam waxes poetic! “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called woman for she was taken out of man.”

This emphasizes their oneness and the closeness they are to have. Adam was made from the dust- indicating the difference between he and God. The Woman was made from Adam’s rib indicating the similarities between them, and their shared differences with God.

Genesis 2:24 “That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

The husband/wife relationship is the foundation of human civilization, not the parent/child relationship. The writer inspired by God interprets the significance of the 1<sup>st</sup> marriage by stating that a man is to separate from his father and mother and depend upon his wife. She is to take the position of man’s most important human relationship.

**Worldview Implications of Genesis 2:**

1. All life including human life was intentionally created and blessed by God.
2. Humans were designed by God to labor 6 days a week. God created us in his image, and though God himself needs no rest, he set us an example for us by working 6 days and resting 1 day. Sometimes this is not possible, and certainly I don’t believe the day of rest must be either Saturday or Sunday- it could be another day. Though we as Christians are not under the OT law, the pattern was established long before the 10 commandments. It is for our good.
3. God created human beings to have a life of purpose. They are to serve. First, they are to serve God- second, though in authority over the created world they were to serve within it and care for it. Humans were not created to be lazy or self-centered, they were created to look outward beyond themselves.
4. The Bible is not a fairy tale. It is real stories about real people and their encounters with God. The creation account serves to teach us what our beginnings really were and what God is really like.
5. God created humans in his image and therefore he created them to be in relationship. Isolation is not good for humanity. Not even a human who was sinless was to be alone in the world.
6. Marriage was designed by God and He blessed it. He conducted the first marriage ceremony. Marriage as created by God is between one biological man and one biological woman. This is the only way they can carry out God’s commission to multiply and reflect His image. They are to walk side by side. They have different roles, but they are to complement one another and serve God together in the marital relationship. When one chooses marriage that relationship is the be the most important, other than one’s relationship with God.
7. God creates humans either male or female. The idea that one can become one or the other, or a mixture just by thinking it, is pure fantasy. It is not supported Biblically it does confirm to the realities of the universe. It cannot be backed up by science. I believe our current crisis sociologically has arisen from the mythical statement given by parents, teachers, celebrities and even preachers: “You can be anything you want to be.” Some have taken this literally. In a biblical worldview, God makes the rules. He defines reality. He draws the boundary lines. This is because He is the one who made it all and He is a God of order, not chaos.