

Genesis 2:1-25

"Creation's Crown"

Rather than recount each day of creation, let's fast forward straight to its crown. It was on the 6th day that the Divine deliberation spoke forth & said, "Let Us make *man* in *Our image*, according to *Our likeness*;" & we read in Vs 27 of Ch 1, "So *God created* man in *His own image*; in the *image of God* He *created* him; male & female He *created* them." ---

We spoke for a bit last week about the magnificent statement that's just sort of brushed over in Vs 16 of Ch 1, "He made the stars also" ... When you stop to consider the *magnitude* of that statement, 300 billion stars in our galaxy (give or take a few billion☺), 1-200 billion galaxies, each w/billions if not hundreds of billions of stars. The fact that it would take 100,000 yrs to get across our Milky Way galaxy at the speed of 186,000 mps (that's not stopping to smell the roses) & 2.5 million years to get to our nearest neighboring galaxy, Andromeda (at 186,000 mps)... BTW the bible declares, "***He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by name.***"¹ I can't even remember all of *your* names! Much lest the countless billions/trillions of stars in the universe. Yet God knows your name, the # of hairs (or lack thereof ☺) on your head. When you stop to think that 1 million earths could fit inside our sun & our sun is a relatively small star. Compared to the largest star discovered to date (VY Canis Majoris), over 9.2 billion suns could fit inside VY Canis Majoris, each of which contain 1 million earths! & Yet VY C.M. is just one star out there floating in the vastness of space (amongst countless billions of others). It's no wonder that the psalmist would say, "***When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained, What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him?***"²

He would gaze up into the night sky & just be lost in the beauty, the enormity & the vast magnitude of the heavens & think, "I'm just a spec of dust in this, what would seem to be an infinite universe, why would God even give me a 2nd thought?" "What love is this? It's too high for me, I can't apprehend it, comprehend it or understand it." It steals our breath to think on it... Here's my point, why recap all that about the stars? "Because it's super cool information? ☺" There is that, but that's not why ☺... Think it through, for information beyond our ability to comprehend, God gave us at most 3 words.

More literally it simply reads, "the stars also." Yet when it comes to the creation of man we have the better part of 2 Ch's dedicated to it! That should speak to you of your *significance*, your *value*, your *worth* in the eyes of God; you are the *crown* of God's creation.

¹ The New King James Version. (1982). (Ps 147:4). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

² The New King James Version. (1982). (Ps 8:3-4). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Throughout the creation week we read where God would say something to the effect of, “Let this be... & there was”, or “Let this happen... & it happened.” But that cycle breaks when we come to the creation of man, there’s Divine deliberation, intentional dominion & authority given to man, a likeness to God in his creation.

We spoke a few weeks ago about the Hebrew word “Bara”. It speaks of *creating* & it’s only associated w/God. God is always the subject of “Bara”, “Asa”, is used of man or God. But w/Bara, it’s only God. The word “Bara” is used 3xs in Vs 27. “So *God created* man in His own image, in the image of God *He created* him; male & female *He created* them.” I’m not seeing, nor sensing any room for evolution in that process. You are not of the animal kingdom, you are of a higher order altogether, you’ve been created in the image of God.

It’s no wonder Satan seeks to kill, to steal & to destroy your life, you’re created in God’s image, He’s reminded of the glory/majesty of God every time he sees you...

Now when we talk of God’s image/likeness; we’re not speaking of physical properties (God is Spirit). But you have His qualities, His character traits (if you will). You possess personality, knowledge, feelings, & a free will. You have morality, you alone have natural countenance that looks up, not down, you alone speak, you alone possess spirituality & have the capacity to commune w/God. Jesus said it, “*God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.*”³ So unlike any fish, any fowl, or any animal, you have been created in an altogether different order... you have the capacity to commune w/God because you have been created in the *image of God*.

& The 1st thing God did for man was to bless him (Vs 28). Apart from God’s blessing life wouldn’t only be unbearable, it would be impossible.

Vs 31; Vs 1-3

Of course this is the passage upon which the Sabbath day would be predicated for the nation of Israel, & in it is found the principle of rest that we enter into in Christ.

But what does it mean when it speaks of God *resting on the 7th day*? Is it that He’s just “worn out” from all the energy He’d expended? I mean, it’s pretty impressive to create, form & fashion everything in the entire universe in 6 days starting w/nothing, He must’ve been pretty tired, right? Wrong. *Isaiah 40:28, “Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable.”* God wasn’t all, “Whooo, VY Canis Majoris was a beast! That really wore Me out!”

³ The New King James Version, (1982). [In 4:24]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Why then did He rest? Look at Vs 1. Because at the end of the 6th day, “...the heavens & the earth, & *all the host of them, were finished.*” God had completed & was contented in all His creative works.

& We note in Vs 3 that God blessed the 7th day & sanctified it. Have you ever wondered why a 7-day week is ingrained into humanity, globally? Why does mankind, generally w/out exception recognize a 7 day week? Why not 14 days, or 10 days? Because God set the 7-day week into motion from the beginning, He structured time in this way.

& God would use *His* “rest” (or cessation from creation) as an example of the blessing of rest that He would give to the nation of Israel on the 7th day (the Sabbath day) as well.

Now perhaps you recall from our very 1st study in the book of Genesis that we established the fact that in the *volume* of the book (of the bible) it is written of Christ. **It’s not written so that we might speculate on “gap theories” or perhaps other curiosities. The bible has been written for man to lead us to the solution given to man for the “sin dilemma”, that being J.C.**

So to w/the installment of the Sabbath in the original creation; some people wonder why we as “the church” don’t observe the Sabbath as instructed in the law. Actually there are a # of reasons for that. 1 thing we need to realize is that as it pertains to the Sabbath we find that God’s instructions for observing it were limited to the nation of Israel. **We don’t find any instruction given to the Gentiles mandating that we keep the Sabbath. Also, as the church, we worship on the 1st day of the week because Sunday was the day Christ’s resurrection & we find the early church meeting on Sundays for that reason as well. But as for the Sabbath pointing us to Jesus, the bible teaches us that the Sabbath rest was actually just a foreshadowing of the substance fulfilled in Christ.** “What do you mean?” When Paul was writing to the Colossians he said this, **“So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.”**

⁴Listen, we don’t embrace shadows, we embrace the *substance* that *creates* the shadow. A shadow only testifies of substance, something casting a shadow.

And the shadow that Christ casts over the OT regarding the Sabbath is the rest that we will find in Him. Augustine was right when he wrote, “Thou hast made us for Thyself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee.” Someone has said that most people in our world are being “crucified between 2 thieves”: the regrets of yesterday & the worries about tomorrow.

⁴ The New King James Version, (1982). [Col 2:16–17]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

There's no real rest in their lives; but when you trust in J.C. you enter into a "new creation" (isn't that what the bible says, 2 Cor 5:17, Gal 6:15) & in so doing you find rest for your soul *in Him*. Remember what Jesus said? *"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."*⁵ So in Christ we cease from our labors, I'm no longer striving to be made *right w/God*, busy about works to gain acceptance in the *sight* of God. I rest in the finished work, the completed work of Christ upon the cross... What was it that He said regarding the work of redemption just before He released His spirit there upon the cross? Oh yeah, *"It is finished!"* John 19:30

So in Christ we enter a perpetual Sabbath, our souls have found their rest in Him & everyday is a day that is set apart, sanctified to Him, it doesn't really matter which day we choose to worship corporately (Rom 14:4-5). We choose Sunday, simply to honor the resurrection of J.C. If you want more info about this, write it down & look it up later, Hebrews Ch 4.

Vs 4-7

Again, just FYI this isn't 2 separate creation accounts, it's one w/a wide angle overview kind of lens (Ch1), now we zoom in for a more detailed account. & Again we see that prior to the flood, there was no rain. The vapor barrier in the outer atmosphere made for a rich system of evaporation & condensation, which would result in a heavy dew or ground-fog.

Vs 4-6 seem to be a summary of the 1st 3 days of creation, we're being shown how the stage was set for man to be formed & then in Vs 7 we receive that information giving us that answer to the question we might ask in Vs 27 of Ch 1 of, "How exactly did God create man?"

We read here that God "formed man of the dust of the ground." So don't be offended when you're called a "dirt ball" it's actually quite accurate ☺!

Now check this out, evolution says that you came from mutations, alterations, chance & random processes over millions if not billions of years.

The word of God says that you were fully formed in a day. Evolution says you came from liquid, some form of cosmic sludge, the word of God says you were formed from the earth.

⁵ The New King James Version, (1982). (Mt 11:28-29). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Evolution says that you changed slowly, gradually to become the complex machinery you are today. The word of God says that God breathed into man & he became the complex life that he is, instantly.

Listen, the idea that a slow, progressive evolution could produce a complex mechanism like the human body... it just doesn't hold up. It may be one thing if you're a 22 yr old naturalist in 1831 (Charles Darwin), but believe me when I tell you that today these theories are becoming increasingly difficult to try & defend.

In the 19th century Biologists thought that the cell was the basis of life & that the cell was really nothing more than a jelly of protoplasm. But over the last 50 yrs or so scientists have discovered that the "simple cell" is anything but "simple". Check this out, a thimble full of liquid can contain *4 billion* single cell bacteria, each *packed* with circuits, assembly instructions, miniature machines – things unfathomable in Darwin's time. **There are micro-machines that transport material from one end of the cell to the other. There are machines that turn sunlight into usable energy. For every function that the human body needs to accomplish, there are "molecular machines" that perform these functions.**

You want to read up on mind blowing molecular marvels check out the bacterial flagellum. This little thing contains a hook, a rotor, a propeller, a drive shaft & a motor. It's like a little outboard motor attached to the cell, spins at up to 100,000 rpm, is hardwired into a signal sensory mechanism & can change direction in an instant. **Yet you take away one part of this little microscopic engineering marvel & it no longer works. So its complexity (on a microscopic level) has to appear instantly or it can't function. Its purpose (basically) is to push the cell around in straight lines either toward favorable conditions (i.e. food) or away from less favorable conditions (i.e. wastes).**

Now Darwin wrote, "If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications, my theory would absolutely break down." **Professor Phillip Johnson of the University of California said, "To suppose that such a random event could reconstruct even a single complex organ like a liver or kidney is about as reasonable as to suppose that an improved watch can be designed by throwing an old one against the wall."** Listen, Science doesn't point to Darwin, it points to Design; incredibly intelligent design (which is a vast understatement).

Here's a little excerpt I pulled off the internet about your brain. "Indeed, there is something almost magical in the notion that all our mental processes, from perception to memory to consciousness itself, can be described entirely by cellular activity in the brain.

The basic functional unit of the brain is the neuron, a special cell that sends electrochemical signals to other neurons (across a "synaptic gap") and thereby creates those patterns that make up what we think of as the mind.

The complexity of the task requires a fairly inconceivable 100 billion neurons, interconnected via trillions of synapses. A single firing neuron might communicate to thousands of others in a single moment. No computer comes close to the complexity of these communicating bits of organic matter."

You have around 2 million sweat glands in your body regulating your temperature, (about 3,000 per sq inch), your heart pumps your blood about 12,000 miles a day... your stomach lining contains millions of microscopic glands secreting gastric juices aiding in your digestive process.

We haven't touched your muscular system, your skeletal system, reproductive system... Random processes, genetic mutations & natural selection??? The bible declares, *"I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well."*⁶

"The Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, breathed into his nostrils the breath of life & man became a living being." The word "Formed" is a word used to describe a potter forming a vessel from clay. Truly God is the Master Potter & we are the clay in His hands...

The physical matter for Adam's body came from the ground, but the life he possessed came from God. God "breathed into his nostrils the breath of life." The breath of God brought life to Adam, even as the Spirit of God brings eternal life to the one who will believe upon the Lord J.C., we become "born again" as by the Spirit of God.

Vs 8-9

So the garden of Eden was east of where God formed Adam (wherever that was). It was literally paradise, perfect climate, beautiful lush vegetation. Every tree that's beautiful to behold, every tree that brings forth fruit, lemons, mangoes, avocados, apples, cherries, bananas, oranges, pears, kiwis, plums... you name it, it was lush & thriving in Adam's backyard. As was the tree of life & the tree of the knowledge of good & evil (which we'll see again.)

Vs 10-15

One might wonder that w/all these specific details, could this place possibly be found? Probably not & here's why.

The flood radically altered the earth's topography, the odds of the rivers we call the Tigris & the Euphrates today being the same rivers referenced here are slim & even if they are we know little if not nothing of the other 2 rivers. However if you could find the land of Havilah, you could be incredibly rich because there's gold there & it's good gold!

Something else we want to note quickly is that work was not part of the curse. God gave Adam a job to do from the beginning. Now, the "toil/labor, sweat of the brow" kind of work, sure that's curse kind of stuff ☺. But God never intended man to be perpetually idle. This was Adam's vocation & recreation.

Vs 16-17

Sin free paradise, Adam had free reign, could go anywhere, do anything, it was bountiful, it was beautiful, only one restriction; "of the tree of the knowledge of good & evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

So comes the question right? "Why then did God even create that tree?" To which we respond w/another question. What's the point of having the capacity of choice if there is nothing from which to choose? In order for love &/or obedience to be meaningful there has to be the capacity of choice; freewill is pointless apart from the ability to invoke my will according to my own decision.

God could've put Adam in a perfect environment w/out any propensity to make any decision but a right one. Is that really freewill? I have no choice but to do what you want me to do, how is that my choice? So God creates this tree & it ratifies, it serves to legitimize the capacity of freewill, of choice.

You can eat of this tree, or not eat of this tree; it's up to you. Now my relationship w/God means something, it's up to me to honor Him, obey Him, or choose to sin & separate myself from Him. God wants your love *for* Him & obedience *to* Him to be your choice, He will not force your submission *to* Him that your relationship might be meaningful w/Him. Freewill is a privilege, but it carries responsibility.

Vs 18

For the 1st time God saw something that wasn't good, the aloneness of man. Isolation, being alone, it's not good... So God said, "I will make a helper comparable to him." It's God's plan, He'll cause the responsibility & accountability of being the leader to be given to the man (w/in the context of a marriage relationship) & the woman would be responsible & accountable to come alongside & help her husband; they'll work together.

It's not saying that the man isn't to help the woman; it means that the man will be accountable for his family for good or for bad & that the wife should aid in the process of ensuring the good.

As it pertains to being considered "help", that's not describing inferiority. As a matter of fact this same word is used more than once to describe God, "He is our *help & our shield*" (Ps 33:20, 70:5, 115:9). Believe me we want/need God's help, even so the man *needs* his wife's help. So God would make a helper comparable to him, they would share the same nature, & compliment/complete one another.

Vs 19-20

You get the idea don't you? God is preparing Adam, showing him his need. He begins to parade the animals before him to see what he would call them. Now Adam's IQ/cognitive ability would've been off the charts. He wouldn't be struggling to think of something. It was "Mr. Mrs. Dog, Mr. Mrs. Cat, Mr. Mrs. Giraffe, Mr. Mrs. Dinosaur, Mr. & Mrs. Orangutan, etc" you could name 3,000 species in 5 hrs if you took 6 sec each, I think Adam was much quicker than that. But I'm sure that a few hrs into it he was thinking something to the effect of, "Why do all these animals have a counterpart but I have no one? Mr. & Mrs. everything, but only Mr. me?" ... "There was not found a helper comparable to him."

Vs 21-22

Now where we read of God taking a "rib", more accurately it simply speaks of taking from his side. God used Adam's own body to create Eve, which would speak of their essential oneness. Exactly what God used we don't know; what we do know is that every cell in our body contains the body's entire genetic blueprint. So essentially God took some of Adam's cells, changed their genetic blueprint & created Eve.

His bride was formed from his side, even so we realize that the Bride of Christ was formed from *His* side as well as the blood flowed from the wound of the spear that pierced Him as He hung upon the cross... God took her & brought her to Adam...

Vs 23-25

Again we are at a place where we have much we could say & no time in which to say it. Suffice it for now to say that the idea of being naked & unashamed carries w/it much more than the idea of nudity. There was total transparency before God & one another, there was no sin, nothing to be ashamed of, nothing to hide. W/sin in the equation our lives are often filled w/shame, regret & worry. But through the blood of Jesus our guilt & shame are washed away, trust in Him, or be renewed in Him today...

Prayer Points:

God we thank You for Your word. We thank You that You love us; that You ascribe worth & value *to us*. So much so that You sent J.C. to Redeem us. Jesus, You shed Your blood that we might find forgiveness & be made right in the sight of God. Thank You for Your grace & Your mercy, the richness & clarity of Your word; we trust in You.

If you've not trusted in Jesus I want to invite you to do that today. You are the highest order of God's creation, created in His image. Yet marred through sin, don't lead your life between the 2 thieves of regret & worry, find forgiveness in J.C. enter into the rest that He offers, take His yoke & learn of Him, you'll find rest for your soul.