



Genesis 2 – God Created Mankind

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Introduction

Last week we looked into Genesis 1, which describes how God created the world and mankind.

Genesis 1:26 – 27: *Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*

“Jordan Peterson has described this statement as the cornerstone of civilization, which we neglect at our peril.”

Now, in the second chapter of Genesis, we’re given specific information as to the timing of God’s creation of mankind.

Genesis 2:4 – 9; 18 – 25 (ESV)

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens.

5When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground, 6and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground— 7then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. 8And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. 9And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

18Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” 19Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. 20The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. 21So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. 23Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.”

24Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. 25And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

The Creation of Adam—Mankind

The world was created from God's spoken word, nothing else. Genesis 2:7 tells us that man was created out of dust. And in verse 19 we see that God also created other creatures out of dust. So, God took this lump of dirt that he had created and he shaped it into a man. And then God breathed into this lump "the breath of life through his nostrils."

We are made of two parts: our human body that God created from dirt and our spiritual body directly from God's breath.

Psalms 139:13-14: *For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.*



What does this tell us about God's creation of mankind?

- God personally made you.

Ephesians 2:10: *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

- You come from very humble beginnings.
- Every time you breathe, it is because God breathed life into the first man—it is God's breath in you.
- You are his workmanship; he didn't make a mistake when he formed you.
- God created you for a purpose—to walk in the good works he created you to do.

Isaiah 64:8: *But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.*

We were made in the image of God

Genesis 5:1 – 2: *This is the book of the generations of Adam. When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. Male and female he created them, and he blessed them and named them Man when they were created.*

No other creatures were made in the image of God – only human beings. It is one of the most remarkable truths—one we should cherish and give thanks for continually.

We see in these first chapters of Genesis that we bear God's image in many ways:

- God talks; we talk.
- God creates; we create.
- God works; we work.

"Rather, if this is God's universe and we are made in his image, then as we work, our work too reflects him and is offered back up to him with integrity and gratitude. Work is significant because we are made in the image of God." (D. A. Carson, *The God Who Is There*, p. 22)

- God rules with authority; we rule in this world.
- God is in a relationship—as a Triune God; we were created to be in relationships.

Of course, there are wide differences in God's image and ours. Only God is self-existent. So, there are many characteristics of God that we will never have in these earthly bodies. Yet, there are many ways we are like God, because we have been created in his image. God says, "Be holy for I am holy."

2 Corinthians 3:18: *And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.*

Romans 12:2: *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

1 Peter 1:15: *But as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct.*

Are you holier today than you were last week; last month; last year?

Creation of Woman: An Ezer-Warrior

Jesus affirmed that God created mankind in two forms: male and female. Only two.

Matthew 19:4 – 5: *He (Jesus) answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’?”*

Genesis 2: 20b – 23: *But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.”*

Hebrew translation: *but for Adam there was not found an ezer fit for him.*

Ezer means helper and *fit* is the word *kenegdo* which means suitable.

Ezer appears 21 times in the Old Testament:

2 times - Referring to the woman (Genesis 1:18, 20)

3 times - Referring to nations to whom Israel appealed for military aid

16 times – Referring to God as Israel’s helper

In each of these passages, *Ezer* is used consistently in a military context. With this understanding, this word *ezer kenegdo* in Genesis 2 needs to be upgraded to *strong helper*.

A more accurate translation would be: there was not found a suitable/strong helper for him.

We were created to be strong helpers in the battlefields of life. We were meant to be ezer-warriors, right alongside the men in our lives. This is not only intended for marriage but for every aspect of life.

Only the man and the woman were created in the image of God. We can work; we can have authority; we can love; we can create—all because we are created in God’s image. No other creatures can do those things.

The Devaluation of Human Life

As mankind decided that they didn’t believe in God’s creation of man, but rather that we evolved in some mysterious way from animals, from that belief has come all kinds of destruction. For example:

- The value of human life has been demeaned leading to the acceptance of abortions and euthanasia.
- Taking human life—murder—is often downplayed or people try to justify it at times.
- Self-identity is hard to come by. If a person does not believe they were created in God’s image, where is their identity? What is the distinction between them and other creatures?
- And believing that God didn’t create mankind in his image—in two categories: male and female—has led to the incredible notion that our culture has forced on us, that a person can declare that his or her birth identity is not what they want to be, and they can simply declare that they are another gender, rather than either male or female. Or—they’ve taken it a step further—they can declare that they are an animal: a cat or dog or whatever.

The Christian doctrine and principles of God’s Word, especially as relating to creation, have been mostly abandoned by our culture. We have lost the cultural war! But we must remember that this world is not our home, and we will never find comfort or acceptance in this culture.

“Christians are the true exiles, living in a world to which they do not belong and with which they are not to fall in love (1 John 2:15) while they long for a world which they do not yet see but to which they look forward in hope. They live in a world that is seduced by the political economic attractiveness of ‘Babylon.’” Dr. Iain Duguid

2 Timothy 3:12 – 14a: *Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed.*

“When the world sees believers living in relationships of love that surmount the barriers that divide the nonbelieving world, it will witness striking evidence of God’s supernatural power in action. And as a result, Jesus will be glorified, the gospel will gain fresh credibility and the great commission can progress.” Thomas A. Tarrants

Evolution and Creation

Theistic evolution, also called evolutionary creationism, is the belief that religious views of God are fully compatible with modern scientific findings on biological evolution. God is seen as the primary creator who works through the secondary, natural laws of physics and biology. Is this a biblical truth?

Note that on Day 6 of Creation God speaks more than once:

Genesis 1:24: *And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so.*

Genesis 1:26a: *Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.*

“This surely deliberate repetition is a clear indicator that... according to Genesis, you cross neither the gulf between nonlife and life nor the gulf between animals and human beings by unguided natural processes. . . The image of God in man was not produced as a result of blind matter fumbling its unguided way through myriad different permutations.”

(John C. Lennox, *Seven Days that Divide the World*, p. 99)

Evolution is an impossibility. The genes in every organism limit that organism to whatever it is. Science has tried to tell us that evolution is a process of mutation. Mutations do not change the nature or the kind of any organism. Mutations are always a loss of genetic information. There is never a gain of information. Mutations are not a mechanism for upward evolutionary process.

Why do scientists continue to advocate this theory? To avoid God; to push God out of their lives. Evolution is “the long war against God.” The Bible says that “the fool says there is no God.”

Romans 1:18 – 19: *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.*

This passage shows the cyclical history of the long war against God. Men suppress the truth. Evolution is a suppression of the truth about God.

Were Adam and Eve real people?

The story of Adam and Eve has been discussed, dismissed, and ridiculed through the ages, and most certainly during our lifetimes. Believing in the literal interpretation of this passage is essential to other major doctrines of our faith. Consider the following passages that refer back to a historic Adam and Eve.

Jesus affirms the special creation of Adam and Eve at the beginning:

Mark 10:6: *But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’*

Luke connects the human lineage of Jesus to Adam.

Luke 3:38: *the son of Enos, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.*

Enos and Seth were real historical people, and so was Adam. There are no ghosts, no mythical figures, no “representative figures” in the genealogy of Jesus. Included in this long genealogy are people of history: David, Jesse, Jacob and Abraham, for example.

Jesus links the doctrine of marriage to Adam and Eve.

Matthew 19:4–6: *He (Jesus) answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”*

Paul shows how sin came into the world through Adam.

Romans 5:12 – 14: *Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.*

Again, the Bible gives testimony that Adam and Eve were in fact people who lived in time and space. Adam was just as historic as Moses.

Paul makes it clear there were two “Adams”—the one created by God in Eden and the second Christ himself.

1 Corinthians 15:22: *For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.*

Throughout the New Testament Adam is presented as historically real, as real as Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:45; 47: *Thus it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. . . The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven.*

“If we take away the historicity of Adam, we are left rather breathless! If we tamper with this ordinary way of understanding what is written in the Bible, the structure of Christianity is reduced to only an existential leap.” (*Genesis in Space and Time*, by Frances A. Schaffer, p. 43)

If you do not accept the Bible's truth of how God created man and woman, these doctrines are left without understanding or foundation:

- *Original sin.* If Adam did not sin, where did sin come from? How would we have inherited a sin nature if there were no real Adam who really sinned?
- In Romans 5 and 1 Corinthians 15 *Paul explicitly links Adam and Jesus.* Sin came through Adam; atonement and redemption came through Jesus (the second Adam). They are both literal people.
- We see the *first mention of death*, which came because of the sin of Adam and Eve.
- *Marriage was established with Adam and Eve*, and Jesus defends it in Matthew 19:4 – 5: “*He (Jesus) answered, ‘Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’?’*”

We have a strong testimony to the historicity of Adam and Eve. The authority of Paul and Luke, as well as that of Jesus, confirms our belief in a historic Adam and Eve.

Closing Thoughts

- The Bible doesn't begin with people. It begins with God.
- The Bible isn't primarily the story of human beings trying to find God. It is the story of God revealing himself to humanity.
- Genesis 1 and 2 introduce the God who creates, speaks, rules, blesses, gives purpose, and desires relationship.
- Everything else in Scripture unfolds from these opening words: "In the beginning God..."

This study of how God created you in his image should leave you infinitely humbled, blessed, and in awe that the God who spoke this amazing universe into existence—much of which we still haven't explored—that God, the true God, not only created you in his image, but he created you for a purpose—to do good works.

- You are his workmanship, his masterpiece.
- He knows your name.
- He puts your tears in his jar.
- He knows your thoughts before you think them.
- He knows the number of hairs on your head.
- He loves you more than you can possibly comprehend—like no one else does or could love you.
- Nothing and no one can separate you from his love.

1 John 4:9 – 10: *In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

Books: *Seven Days That Divide the World* by John C. Lennox
Genesis in Space and Time by Francis A. Schaeffer
The Long War Against God by Henry Morris

Video by John MacArthur: www.gty.org/sermons/90-210/god-creator-and-redeemer