

In the Beginning

Part 2

The Garden



I. God's Power Displayed in Creation

God's power, wisdom, and goodness are displayed in His creation. The more we learn about God's creation, the more we stand in amazement and awe of who He is.

Take some time and read and meditate on the following passages of Scripture.

It would be a good idea to have your Bible notebook handy so that you can write down your thoughts and insights as you spend time listening to God through these passages.

Psalm 19:1-6; Psalm 104; Job 26:7-14; Job 38:1-12; 19-26;
Isaiah 40:12-17; Prov 3:19-20; Jer 10:12-13; Psalm 147:4-5; Isaiah 44:24; Psalm 33:6-9; Psalm 136:5; Psalm 119:90

II. God's Rest – The Sabbath

Genesis 2:1-3

1. Genesis 2:1 tells us that the heavens, earth, and their host were **finished**. What does that mean to you?

Think about all that it means to say that God finished something? Does that remind you of any other occasion when God finished something?

Meditate on the following passages:

John 4:34; Philippians 1:6

2. What are the four things the Bible says God did in Genesis 2:2-3?

3. Read Exodus 20:9-11. This is the fourth of the ten commandments.

To whom was the commandment given?

Summarize the requirements of the commandment.

What does the Bible give as the reason for the Sabbath commandment?

4. Read Exodus 16:1-30. This is the incident about the eating of manna. Notice that even though this incident took place before the giving of the law, there was already an observance of the sabbath (see vs 22-30). What are your thoughts?

Jesus and the sabbath

1. Read Mark 2:23-28 – What do you think about Jesus’s comments about the true meaning of the Sabbath?

Jesus uses an incident in David’s life to illustrate His point. You can read about that in 1 Samuel 21:1-6. Do you think Jesus was giving His approval to what David did? Why or why not?

2. What was the question Jesus asks in Mark 3:1-6? How do you think this fits in with the 4th commandment?

3. What was Jesus’s additional point in Luke 13:10-17?

4. What did Jesus mean by “For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath” in Mark 12:8?

The New Testament Sabbath Rest

Read Hebrews 3:1 - 4:11 then consider the following questions for meditation and reflection:

Verse 3:7-11 is taken from Psalm 95:7-13. What rebellion are both texts referring to in this section?

Because of the rebellion, God swore an oath. What was it?

What is the warning to us in Hebrews 3:12-13?

Why the emphasis on “Today” in verse 3:13?

How many were there who rebelled and how many of them did not enter God’s rest? (3:16-19)

The author of Hebrews assumes that a promise of rest still exists. He does this because the text still says, “Today, if you don’t harden your hearts....” Who is it who enters God’s rest according to Hebrews 4:3?

Notice, we’re talking about entering into God’s rest. Which rest is that? Verse 4:9 gives us a tremendous promise. Write it out and memorize it!

According to Hebrews 4:12, the person who enters God’s rest has rested from his works just as God did from His works. What works has a believer rested from? See also Heb 9:14

What kind of works is the phrase “dead works” speaking of in Hebrews 9:14?

What is the admonition, then, in 4:11?
(Note: unbelief = disobedience Heb 3:19).

There is liberty regarding Sabbath

Paul lays this out for us in Romans 14:5. Some people observe one day above others, and some people think of all days being alike. Everyone should be convinced in his own mind.

In Galatians 4, Paul writes about a Christian's freedom from the ceremonial law of the Old Covenant. In Galatians 4:9 he asks why anyone would want to be back in the bondage of law-keeping. He charges them with observing days and months and seasons and years and then speaks of being afraid for them because of their departure from the life of faith. We need to be careful of the same thing. (Notice the reference to days, months, and seasons, and think back to our discussion about what the sun, moon, and stars are for as listed in Genesis 1. In the gospel, all of that has changed because our worship is in Spirit and Truth related to the indwelling Spirit and Son.)

Since worship is different under the New Covenant, let's investigate that a little more.

1. What did Jesus tell the woman at the well about worship? (John 4:19-24). What are the implications of his statement?
2. In the Garden of Eden, God was in the garden with Adam and Eve. Where was His dwelling place in Old Testament Israel?
3. What does Paul tell the Corinthians about the temple in these passages: 1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:9; and 2 Cor 6:16?
4. Read Ephesians 2:19-22. What do we learn about the dwelling place of God in this age, and what is this dwelling place made of? (See also 1 Peter 2:5. I think there is more here than we usually think.) Thoughts?
5. According to Jesus in Matthew 18:20, where will He show up?

III. Creation – The Details – Genesis 2:4 – 25

(This section is not a contradiction of chapter 1. It is a fleshing out of the details.)

Basic details – (Read 2:4- and ask yourself the following questions.)

1. What material did God make man from?

Notice the Bible uses the word “form.” In the creation story we have seen create, form, make, and divide/separate.

Verse 2:4 is the first introduction to the phrase “The LORD God” (Note the all caps). Some translations will use the word Jehovah. In Hebrew it is a four-letter word YHWH pronounced yah-way. It is called the tetragrammaton because it has four letters.

Read Exodus 3:13-15. God’s name is basically “I AM.” At the end of verse 15 God says, “This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations.”

About 5th century BC, Jews began substituting “Adonai,” their word for “Lord” so as not to violate the commandment regarding taking the Lord’s name in vain. English translators have routinely done the same thing in order to make the text easier to read and to avoid stepping on Jewish sensibilities.

2. What brought Adam to life? (Gen 2:7).

This action of God made man a living soul.

(Gen 6:17 refers to animals having breath of life. What thoughts do you have on that?)

3. YHWH Elohim planted a garden. Where? Where is that location today?
4. What did God cause to grow in verse 9? What do you think the word “every” indicates – every what?
5. What other trees were there and where were they located?

God and Man

1. What did God put the man into the garden to do (2:5, 15)?
(tend= work or cultivate it; keep = watch over or guard)
2. What does that tell you about our tendency to think that any work is because of the fall?
3. In 2:16, what were the two parts of God’s command? What could he do and what was forbidden?

What was to be the consequence of disobedience? Did God ultimately follow through on that punishment?

Where was Eve during all of this conversation?

4. What did God say was not good? (verse 18)

And God's solution?

(Help=helper, assistant; meet or suitable= opposite, corresponding, contrary, against, in front of)

5. Do you think God bringing out the animals was so that Adam would find his helper among them?

6. How did God create – or I should say, “make” Eve? The word there is “build.”)

7. Adam's response?

8. Verse 24 – Leave, cleave, become one. This verse is used in the New Testament in the following locations: Matt 19:5; Mark 10:7, 8; 1 Cor 6:16; Eph 5:31. Read over these verses. What New Testament applications does the Holy Spirit bring out from this verse in Genesis?

Thoughts Here:



IV. The Fall – Genesis 3

1. What do you think was the purpose of the serpent's question in verse 1?

What do you make of the fact that he asked the woman who had not been present when the command was made?

2. Do you have any problems with her answer?

Was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden? What other tree(s) were in the middle? (See Gen 2:8-9)

3. What about the serpent's response in verses 4-5? Was any of it true? (See 3:22).

4. Compare Eve's three-fold temptation in 3:6 to what John teaches us in 1 John 2:16. What similarities do you find?

5. They made coverings for themselves because they knew that they were naked. Adam says in verse 10 that they were "afraid." Why do you think fear rather than shame was the predominant emotion?

6. Doesn't God know where we are? If He does, why did He ask this question?

7. Let the blame begin! What do you make of all the "passing the buck" that went on?

8. Pay close attention to the punishments. Which ones involve a curse?

Serpent's Punishment (3:14-15)

What is the promise in verse 15?

Eve's Punishment (3:16)

Read Genesis 4:7 which has God's admonition to Cain. The language structure is exactly the same as God's statement regarding Eve's punishment in 3:16.

What does that tell you about the meaning of her punishment?

Adam's Punishment (3:17-19)

10. In verse 18, is there any change in food source for man?

11. Why did Adam give Eve the name he did?

12. What is the significance of God making clothes for them rather than just using the leaves they had used?

13. Read verse 22 very carefully. What is God's concern? How had the couple become like God? Isn't that what the serpent said would happen?

14. What was YHWH Elohim's response to His own concern?