

GENESIS CHAPTER 2

by Charles Dailey NIV used. Revision of 10/14

Tablet 1 ends in 2:4 - Unsigned
Tablet 2 ends in 5:1 - Signed by Adam

- James E. Smith writes, “Woman was created to be the perfect supplement to Adam’s incompleteness physically, intellectually, and socially. In man’s need, and woman’s power to satisfy that need, is laid the foundation for the divine institution of marriage.

“Three basic ingredients of marriage are present in Genesis 2:

- (1) the Father’s consent - he brought her to Adam (2:22);
- (2) the woman’s consent - she willingly came to her husband; and
- (3) the man’s consent - Adam received her as his bride.”

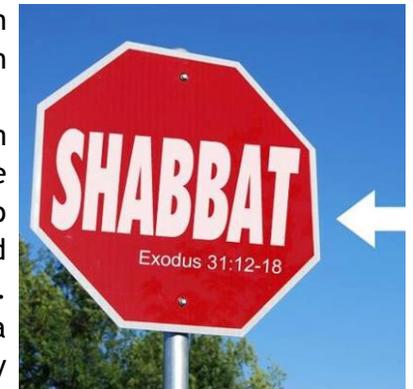
For a sweeping view of the Genesis story and man’s origin, read the late Francis Schaeffer’s *Genesis in Space and Time*. It is available from Amazon.

This lesson available for printing at: <http://goo.gl/rlpzUY>

Chapter one unfolds the first week of God’s work. We call it Creation Week, but actually the creation word is only used about the entire universe in 1:1, about the creation of animal life in 1:21 and the creation of man in 1:27. In the other instances, God made or differentiated previously created material. All that came *before* man was designed *for* him. This chapter begins the unfolding of man’s role.

(1) Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. (2) By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work.

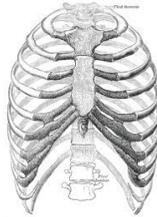
- An *array* is a group in marching formation as in Deuteronomy 4:19.
- God did rest (shābbat) from his creative work. Not that he was weary, but he chose to stop the development that had consumed the previous six days.
- Because God had made a clear distinction between day and night (see 1:14), he could now mark one day of the week as “sacred.”
- The idea of a seven-day cycle called a week came from this passage. Those who reject the Bible cannot escape its influence.



(3) Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he

- The Lord gave the naming rights to man. Adam must have had a incredible vocabulary by now. The naming was a part of Adam's rulership over the world.
- David speaks about this in Psalms 8:5: **You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor. (6) You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet: (7) all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild, (8) the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.**

(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 and then closed up the place with flesh. (22) Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.



- This was the first surgery, complete with anesthetic.
- The woman was not created from the dust of the earth, but from man himself. There is no way she could be an inferior kind; she was made of more precious materials than was Adam.
- She was created as a mature woman.
- Woman was the final creation of God and at the top of the creation pyramid. She was the crown of God's creation.
- Commentator Matthew Henry wrote, "She was not made out of his head, to rule over him; nor out of his feet, to be trampled on by him; but out of his side, to be equal with him; under his arm, to be protected; and near his heart to be beloved."



(7) Then the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

- Man's connection with the ground is established. He had been created in 1:27, but now the focus is on Adam as he connects with the soil.



(8) Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. (9) The LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground - trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. (10) A river watering the garden flowed from Eden; from there it was separated into four headwaters.

- Adam was placed in a park that required cultivation to produce eye-appealing food.

had done. (4) This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, when the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.

- God blessed the seventh day (Saturday) and made it holy, but there is no indication that man was expected to make it a day for religious observance. Sabbath keeping was incorporated into the Law of Moses later.
- The first six days ended with “there was evening and morning, the xx day.” There is no equivalent statement about the seventh day, perhaps a foretaste of the eternal Sabbath for the children of God. Hebrews 4:9 “There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God. . . .”
- This is the first colophon of Genesis. Like the others yet to come, it denotes the ending of a record, a stone tablet.

Next the focus is on a section of earth that requires rain for plants to grow and a man to work the ground. Most of creation does not require cultivation. This is the Garden of Eden according to verse 8 (note that God *had* planted a garden).

(5) Now no shrub had yet appeared on the earth and no plant had yet sprung up, for the LORD God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no one to work the ground, (6) but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground.



- The words *shrub* and *plant* are translated by other versions as *shrub of the field* and *plant of the field*, not just any kind, but something that must be cultivated by man. Therefore, we are talking about a specific location on the earth.
- Natural springs watered Eden and the writer knew of rain.

(23) The man said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man.”

(24) That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh. (25) Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

- It did not take a revelation from God for Adam to know what role she was to play and where she came from. Even her name *woman* showed her origin.
- Just as Adam loved Eve, so he loved God for providing her. This is the essence of mankind’s ideal relationship with our Creator. Love for his Creator must include obedience and this was about to be tested in Adam’s case. Jesus stated this relationship clearly in John 14:15 “If you love me, keep my commands.”
- The writer spoke for future generations when he spoke of *father and mother*. The man was to leave his parents and unite with his wife in a garden ceremony. The Father provided the bride and Adam made a commitment to her.
- Consider Jesus comment in Matthew 19:4-5 “Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ (5) and 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?”
- The Matthew quotation shows that Jesus tied chapter one and chapter two together and considered them one harmonious account.
- Wearing clothing was not an issue yet. It became so in chapter three.

- God made large quantities of other forms of animal life and told them to reproduce. Here he focuses on just Adam and Eve. The cohabitation of a single male and female is clearly set forth.



- Two special trees were there also. The *tree of life* and the *tree of the knowledge of good and evil*. These will be discussed later in the sacred text.

(11) The name of the first is the Pishon; it winds through the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold. (12) (The gold of that land is good; aromatic resin and onyx are also there.) (13) The name of the second river is the Gihon; it winds through the entire land of Cush. (14) The name of the third river is the Tigris; it runs along the east side of Ashur. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

- We are unable to establish where these locations were because of the Flood of Noah's time. Some of the river names were re-used following the flood, but that is a work of memory and not a statement of where the rivers were first located.

2 Peter 3:5-6: But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water. (6) By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed.

- A strong tradition places the Garden at the head of the Persian Gulf.

The detailed location description that is no longer useful is evidence that the tablet was written long before the flood of Noah and not by a later writer who knew of the flood. Notice that its descriptions are in the present tense.

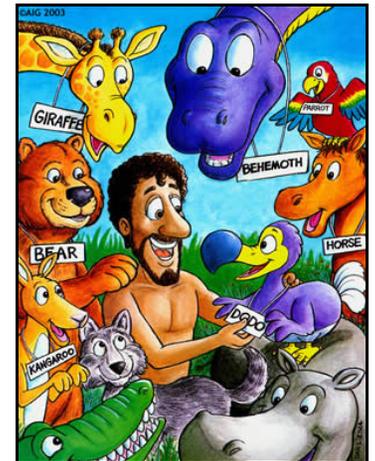
- In chapter 14, the editor, probably Moses, made quite a number of edits, but there are none at all here, indicating that the editor didn't have any special insights, either.



(15) The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. (16) And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; (17) but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."

- God was in communication with man. The failure that followed was not because of lack of communication.
- Adam was a tenant farmer and orchardist by direct assignment from the Lord.
- The Garden required care. Without it, things would run down, not up as required by the teaching of evolution.
- His diet was unrestricted except for one fruit.
- Man was a free moral agent. There was only one way to disobey God.
- Adam needed faith in God on this one restriction. He had no other way to know how eating that fruit would turn out.

(18) The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." (19) Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. 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. (20) So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals. But for Adam no suitable helper was found.



- While the animal world had mates, Adam was alone. God determined to make a helper that was suitable.