

Genesis Chapters 1-11

Summer 2010 Adult Bible Elective

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Structure of Genesis 1

Correspondence of days 1-3 and days 4-6 of creation

- **Location**
 - Day 1: Light & Dark
 - Day 2: Sea & Sky
 - Day 3: Fertile Earth
- **Inhabitants**
 - Day 4: Lights of Day & Night
 - Day 5: Fish & Birds
 - Day 6: Animals & Man
- Day 7: Rest

Genesis 2:4-24

- What is the relationship between Genesis 1 & 2?
 - Genesis 2 is an expansion of the 6th day
 - Genesis 2 is the creation of the land of Eden only
 - The creation account told from different perspectives
 - Genesis 1 is the creation of everything building towards humanity
 - Genesis 2 is the creation of the earth or land from the perspective of humanity
- Genesis 2 is preparing us for Genesis 3

Genesis 2:4

- “This is the account of” or “These are the generations of”
 - This is the first time this phrase appears
 - Acts as a separation from the 7 days of creation
- Genesis 2:4-4:26
 - The creation of Adam & Eve
 - The Fall
 - Cain & Abel

Genesis 2:4

- ‘the LORD God’
 - ‘God’ is the translation for Elohim
 - It is the standard word for the God who is over all
 - ‘LORD’ is the standard English translation for Yahweh
 - Yahweh is the personal name of God
 - Focuses on the covenant relationship between God and Israel
 - This is the 1st occurrence of Yahweh in Genesis
 - This phrase occurs frequently in Genesis 2 & 3
 - It occurs rarely elsewhere in the Bible
 - ‘the Lord GOD’ or ‘Sovereign LORD’ is a translation of Adoni Yahweh

Genesis 2:5-9

- Verse 4 is parallel with Genesis 1:1
- Verses 5 & 6 are parallel to Genesis 1:2
 - The earth is not a hospitable place for people
 - There is debate whether the land was too dry or too wet
- No plants yet
 - The ‘shrub of the field’ points to the thorns & thistles of the curse
 - The ‘plant of the field’ points to the crops that will grow as a result of human labor after the curse

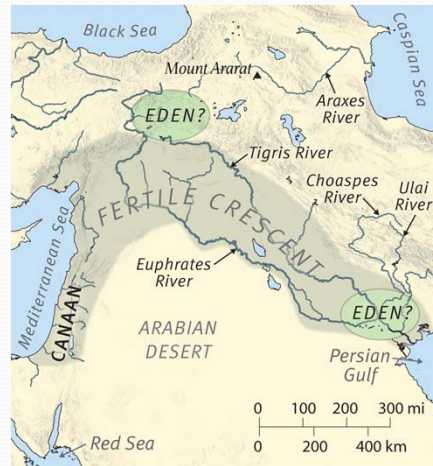
Genesis 2:5-9

- The creation of Adam
 - Man is formed from dust or clay
 - God breathes the breath of life
 - Humanity is a part of creation along with animals
 - Humanity also has a special connection with God
- God places Adam in a garden in Eden
 - Eden appears to be larger than the garden
 - The garden is in the east
 - The east is usually connected with judgment
 - The garden is more like an orchard

Genesis 2:5-9

- The tree of life
 - Appears again in the new Jerusalem in Revelation 22:2
- The tree of the knowledge of good & evil
 - This tree receives most of the attention in Genesis 2 & 3
 - It is not clear what 'the knowledge of good & evil' means
 - It may mean the power to determine what is good & what is evil
 - This is God's power alone

Genesis 2:10-14



Genesis 2:10-14

- Two of the rivers are known
 - The Tigris and the Euphrates receive the least amount of description
- Two of the rivers are unknown
 - Some people attempt to locate these rivers based upon the descendants of Noah listed in Genesis 10
 - There are dry riverbeds that have been detected below the current land surface in this general area
 - The land of Cush is usually identified with Ethiopia in the Bible

Genesis 2:15-17

- The man is 'put' in the garden
 - The word translated as put implies rest or safety
- 'to work it and take care of it'
 - Work is not a result of the fall
- 'you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil'
 - The man is given a choice to obey or disobey
- 'you will surely die'
 - There is debate whether this means physical or spiritual death

Genesis 2:18-25

- 'I will make a helper suitable for him'
 - 'I will make' is similar to 'let us make' in Genesis 1:26
 - God is a helper for humanity
- The naming of animals
 - The animals are introduced into narrative at this point to illustrate the lack of a suitable helper for Adam
- 'This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh'
 - These are the first recorded words of humanity
 - The woman is completely suitable for the man

Genesis 2:18-25

- ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother’
 - Added information for benefit of Moses’ audience
 - Adam had no father or mother
 - This verse is quoted by Jesus and Paul in speaking against divorce
 - ‘and they will become one flesh’
- ‘The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame’
 - Summarizes the current situation
 - Foreshadows the Genesis 3