

## Genesis Chapter 2 - Commentary By Mike Wells

### Chapter 2 Overview:

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Chapter of Genesis is a summary of the creative week that adds in details concerning the creation of man and woman. It also makes the first mention of the Garden of Eden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Details of the creation of the first woman and the first marriage are described. This is the first “dispensation” of human history during which there was no sin. Many theologians call this the “dispensation of innocence”.

**Genesis 2 : 1** – *Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.*

- Notice the emphasis on the fact that the heavens and earth were **finished**.
- No ongoing evolution is possible – It is **finished**
- God **finished** His creative work on the 6<sup>th</sup> day.

**Genesis 2 : 2** – *And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made*

- Again notice the emphasis on God **ending** His creative work.
- God didn't rest because he was tired or weary – Isaiah 40:28  
**Isaiah 40 : 28** – “*Creator of the ends of the earth fainteth not, nor is weary*”
- His creative work was complete “en toto”
- God sat back satisfied with His work.
- Notice how the principle of the Sabbath extends all the way back to the creation week.
- God ordained one day out of seven for rest from the beginning of time long before the Law of Moses.

**Genesis 2 : 3** – *And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.*

- God bless the 7<sup>th</sup> day and sanctified it. Sanctified comes from (**qadash**) which means set apart.
- The principle of one day in seven being set apart is developed here.
- The most important thing is not which day, but rather having one day out of the seven set apart for rest and the things of God.
- This is why after the resurrection of Jesus Christ, that the early church changed its weekly holy day from the seventh day to the first.
- Which day is less important than ensure there is a day each week.

**Genesis 2 : 4** – *These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens*

- This verse is just a summarized re-statement of the first chapter
- The word LORD here comes from the word (**Jehovah**)
- In the first chapter the word God comes from (**Elohim**), which is more of a title
- Here we are introduced to the Lord God (**Jehovah God**).
- **Jehovah** means “the existing One”, or “the eternal one” and is a derivative for the verb “to be”
- God always has been, is, and always will be.

**Genesis 2 : 5** – *And every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was not a man to till the ground.*

- New details of the creation are noted here, like how it hadn’t rained yet.
- This is due to how God separated the “waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament”
- This created a canopy of water above earth with just a enough perfect moisture that rain wasn’t needed.

**Genesis 2 : 6** – *But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground.*

- Here is a picture of the greenhouse like earth
- The heat of the sun drew moisture up during the day, and the coolness, of the night caused condensation in the form of a heavy dew-like mist each night
- There was a constant watering of the earth daily from the mist that continued until the catastrophic climate changes that came from the flood or deluge later.

**Genesis 2 : 7** – *And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul*

- Further details of the creation of man are noted
- The word translated as “**formed**” (**yatsar**) has the sense to form as a potter would shape clay
- God formed us from “**dust**” (**aphar**) which literally means the dirt or soil of the ground
- The type of dirt or soil may have been clay some believe.
- He breathed life into man and man became a living soul (nephesh).
- Man became a living being, a person created in the likeness of God.
- Spirit is derived from the idea of breathe, so when God breathed into us we became a spirit.

- God didn't mention breathing into the animals when he created them, only Humans have a spirit and a soul.

**Genesis 2 : 8** – *And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed*

- Here is the first mention of the garden of Eden
- The word “eastward” (**qedem**) has the sense of before or earlier
- It is evident that God had created the garden earlier on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> creative day.
- God placed the perfection of His creation Man in that perfect garden

**Genesis 2 : 9** – *And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.*

- The garden of Eden was a place of breathtaking beauty plus a place of gourmet natural food
- God gave Adam the best of everything – It was truly paradise
- The first mention of the “tree of life” as well as “the tree of knowledge of good and evil”
- There are 10 mentions made in the bible to the tree of life (Genesis, Proverbs, and Revelation)
- In Revelation 2:7 and 22:2 – it is implied that once again there will be a tree of life in heaven which will have a fountain of youth for those who are born again believers
  - **Revelation 2 : 7** – *He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God*
  - **Revelation 22 : 2** – *In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations*

**Genesis 2 : 10** – *And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads*

- God placed a river in the garden for its watering or irrigation
- In contrast to rivers that we know that flow into larger rivers, then to the sea
- The rivers around Eden did the opposite
- The source of the river apparently was within Eden
- As it flowed out of the Garden, it flowed into four smaller rivers which flowed in four separate directions

## **Genesis 2 : 11-14**

*11The name of the first is Pison: that is it which compasseth the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold; 12And the gold of that land is good: there is bdellium and the onyx stone.*

*13And the name of the second river is Gihon: the same is it that compasseth the whole land of Ethiopia. 14And the name of the third river is Hiddekel: that is it which goeth toward the east of Assyria. And the fourth river is Euphrates.*

- It is important to understand that these rivers and countries were all pre-Noah and prior to the flood
- The face of the entire earth was radically changed in the flood
- Continents, mountains, oceans, and river valleys appeared after the devastating and tectonic results of the flood
- The geography and topographically was totally different prior to the flood
- The rivers and countries mentioned here then are most likely different than the one with the same names today – post flood
- We really don't know where the garden of Eden was
- It has been assumed that it was in the region of Mesopotamia based on the rationale that the Euphrates River was mentioned with the Hiddekel which is another name for the Tigris River
- It is very likely that the post-flood river basins of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers are in a different location as they would have bear no resemblance to the pre-flood ones
- It is possible though that the Ark based on it's size, etc didn't travel very far meaning that Noah's sons named the same areas and rivers the same names again as well.

**Genesis 2 : 15** – *And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it*

- The idea is that God took Adam on the sixth day and placed him in the Garden of Eden to take care of it
- God gave a then sinless Adam work to do, he was to be a servant of God
- God created man with the purpose to serve Him and praise Him in His creation.

**Genesis 2 : 16** - *And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:*

- God also gave Adam his first command
- God's first command through a to Adam so they applied to Eve as well
- It is unclear if Eve was there when this command was given or not, but if she hadn't been created yet, then Adam's job was to pass the command to her

- Eve isn't mentioned until a few verses from now, but she most likely was already alive as she would have been created in Chapter 1 even though the details weren't mentioned until Chapter 2 of her creation

**Genesis 2 : 17 - *But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die***

- God gave Adam and Eve full permission to eat freely of every fruit of every tree in the garden, but one.
- They were not supposed to eat of the Tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil.
- There most likely was not any supernatural or spiritual things of the fruit from the Tree of Knowledge.
- It was rather a simple boundary for man as a test of His obedience
- Obedience or lack thereof to God's command would in itself define the knowledge of good and evil.
- God said don't, they later did, and God promised they would surely die.
- Shalt surely die is literally "dying, thou shalt die- forewarning"

**Genesis 2 : 18 - *And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him***

- God understood the needs of the man whom He had created and knew he needed a companion for fellowship and help.
- The phrase "**an help meet for him**" is actually translated from the word (**ezer**) which simply means "**help**"

**Genesis 2 : 19 - *And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.***

- Adam was given the task of naming every animal and creature in the air and the land
- He must have gotten tired as time went on as the names got less creative (joking)

**Genesis 2 : 20 - *And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him***

- Note that that no mention is made of the creatures of the sea
- The name Adam is used for the first time here (aw-dawm) – literally means man

- Eve may or may not have been alive here again – notice how He says there was not found an help for him

**Genesis 2 : 21 - *And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;***

- Though God created both woman and man, He clearly created man first
- Later on the sixth day, God created woman by removing a rib from Adam's side
- It is suggested that God taking a rib implies that the woman was created to be at a man's side implying companionship and help not inferiority
- Different roles but neither more or less important, just different

**Genesis 2 : 22 - *And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man***

- Something as simple as a rib contained all the genetic code God already had created in Adam
- He supernaturally transmitted the genetic code into the first woman

**Genesis 2 : 23 - *And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man***

- The foundation of the first human institution was born
- The home and marriage are both a God Ordained institution
- Also note, that this was the first institution formed by God clearly implying it's importance
- The home and the marriage are the most basic building block of society

**Genesis 2 : 24 - *Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.***

- It has always been God's will for man to grow up, leave home, find a wife, and cleave to her
- Jesus quotes in **Matthew 19 : 5** - *And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?*
- The word cleave is like to be glued or welded together
- The idea is the permanency of the bond of marriage which was established right at the beginning of time
- The reference of one flesh applies to both the sexual union and the overall unity between a husband and wife.

**Genesis 2 : 25 - *And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.***

- The fact that they had no shame over their open nakedness implies the innocence of all of mankind before the entrance of sin