

Genesis 2:1-9; March 17, 2025 -Men's Monday Morning Bible Study

Review and Intro:

In chapter 1, we saw the 6 days of creation, culminating with the creation of mankind.

NT quotes of chapter 1:

-2Cor 4:6 "For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ." -Gen 1:3 God enlightened our hearts to believe the gospel.

-Matt 19:4 & Mark 10:6 "And He answered and said, "Have you not read that He who created *them* from the beginning made them male and female," -Gen 1:27 commenting about divorce and the prohibition.

Text:

V1-3 close out the overview of the days of creation commenting that God rested on the seventh day. Because of this, it says that He blessed and sanctified the seventh day. This is something embedded in creation, a sabbath day (third commandment Exodus 20:8-11 and Deut. 5).

The fact that God rested is associated with God's dwelling (temple). God's presence "rests" on/in the temple. In this case the earth itself is the temple of His dwelling. There is no separation yet between heaven and earth in the sense that there is today post fall. The idea is that God has made a place for Him to dwell and indeed He does.

The fact that there is no refrain of "evening and morning" can imply the continuation of this sacred day.

As reformed people, we believe the sabbath command is rooted in creation, and endures into the present time. Our calendar has changed from Saturday to Sunday being the Christian sabbath...

"He hath particularly appointed one day in seven, for a Sabbath, to be kept holy unto Him, ([Exd 20:8, 10-11](#); [Isa 56:2, 4, 6-7](#)): which, from the beginning of the world to the resurrection of Christ, was the last day of the week, ([Gen 2:2-3](#); [1Co 16:1-2](#); [Act 20:7](#)); and, from the resurrection of Christ, was changed into the first day of the week, which, in Scripture, is called the Lord's Day, ([Rev 1:10](#)); and is to be continued to the end of the world, as the Christian Sabbath, ([Exd 20:8, 10](#); [Mat 5:17-18](#))." -WCF 21:7

Genesis quotes in the NT:

-Heb 4:4 quotes Gen 2:2.

-1Cor 15:45, commenting on the future resurrection, quotes Gen 2:7.

- Matt 19:5; Mark 10:7,8; 1Cor 6:16; Eph 5:31 all quote 2:27; Jesus prohibiting divorce, Paul prohibiting fornication and adultery, and commanding husbands to love their wives.

Structure of the rest of ch2:

vV4-9 are a deeper dive into what God did in days 3 (plants) and 6 (animals and man).

V4-9 introduces the name for God "YHWH" 5x in 6 verses. Previously, the generic term "Elohim" for God was used. Now the covenant name of God is deployed. See the introduction to your Bible translation for the translation philosophy. Most English bibles translate the tetragrammaton as LORD following the Greek translation of the OT (LXX) or Septuagint, which rendered it "kurios" or "lord." In general, LXX did not differentiate between the Hebrew "Adonai" and "YHWH."¹

The point is that the transcendent God of chapter 1 is now made more personally identifiable and specific in chapter 2. He is Yahweh, not a general god.

V4 starts an 11 fold repetition of "generations." 5:1, 6:9, 10:1, 11:10, 11:27, 25:12, 25:19, 36:1, 36:9, 37:2.

V5 no plants or rain or man yet

V6 water source (water is a sign of life Jn 4:10, 7:37-39)

V7 is the reference to the dust where God made man from and the reference in the next chapter (3:19) about the curse of sin.

¹ "In the creation account of Gen 1 elohim "God" is the active agent. However in the restatement of the creation account in Gen 2 beginning with verse 4 the Hebrew original introduces YHWH elohim rendered "LORD God" in KJV. However LXX continues with only theos, "god" through verses 4-7 and only in 2.8 does it introduce the combined names as kurios ho theos, "lord the god". (It is also worth remembering here that neither Hebrew nor Greek make the capital versus lower case God/ god distinction made by English, French and Spanish.) Even elsewhere LXX often reduces YHWH elohim to only theos, as for instance in Ex 3.18." <https://translation.bible/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/loewen-1985-translating-the-names-of-god-how-european-languages-have-translated-them.pdf>

V8 God plants a garden (paradise in LXX) and places or puts the man there whom He presumably created from the dust somewhere else. God had “formed” man. See: Is 43:21 “The people whom I formed for Myself Will recount My praise.”

Jer 1:5 “Before I formed you in the innermost parts I knew you, And before you came out from the womb I set you apart; I have given you as a prophet to the nations.”

Ps 139:13-16 “For You formed my inward parts;
You wove me in my mother’s womb.

¹⁴ I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
Wonderful are Your works,
And my soul knows it very well.

¹⁵ My clframe was not hidden from You,
When I was made in secret,
And intricately woven in the depths of the earth;

¹⁶ Your eyes have seen my unshaped substance;
And in Your book all of them were written
The days that were formed *for me*,
When as yet there was not one of them.

V9 God created the trees and particularly two trees: the tree of life, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

For next week:

v18-25 Creation of woman. V23 is poetic (notice the typeset change).

Closing Prayer:

Father, thank You for Your word and the worldview it provides. Help us to trust you as the creator of all things. For Christ and His covenant... for a thousand years by the work of the Spirit. In Jesus’ name, Amen.