

# GENESIS 2

## Here are the main features of Genesis chapter 2

- Creation is completed and the seventh day is a day of rest for the Lord our God.
- Everything is now poised to enable man to live on the earth.
- Man is created.
- A garden is planted with trees, including the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.
- Man is placed in the garden and clear instructions are given regarding what he can and cannot do.
- The earth is well-watered.
- God identifies that a helper is needed. A suitable helper is created and marriage is instituted.

### Sabbath Rest (verse 2)

This is a key part of Biblical teaching, and the basis for our lives finding rest is that having created the world, God rested on the seventh day.

To rest on the Sabbath is included in the Ten Commandments and Jesus spoke about the subject as well. Jesus taught that the Sabbath was not a matter of legalism and pressure, but an opportunity for collective worship and time off from the necessary duties that fill the other 6 days of life. It is generally recognised that we are more effective over the six days of work if we have taken the opportunity to pause and observe a Sabbath rest.

### Creation of Man (verse 7)

Man is formed from the dust of the ground. Curiously dust has 16 chemicals which is what our bodies would be reduced to after death.

We have life because of the breath of God. This breath makes us a living soul, giving us the potential to have a relationship with God.

We are made in the image of God: as spiritual beings, we are more than flesh and blood.

### Trees (verses 8-10)

The fruit-bearing trees are given to sustain us: they are very tasty.

The Tree of Life reminds us that we are eternal beings. To trust Jesus means that we live together with Him for eternity, but rejecting Jesus leads to eternal life without Him.

God commanded man not to eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

This is possibly because this fruit provided man with an opportunity to show that he would obey and trust God. The Lord needs to know we will follow Him by conscious choice. By obeying Him we show our respect and love.

**If God says no, I need no further explanation.**

### **Well-watered (verses 10-14)**

How refreshing is a cup of clear pure water!

Water is a symbol of life. One of our body's greatest needs is water.

When water is scarce and not valued, we will suffer.

Water makes a great difference to health and growth. In fact, without it, we will die.

### **Work and Taking Care of the Garden (verse 15)**

Man was called to work. Before man sinned, work was not a chore or unduly hard. It was a great joy and privilege. We do not know exactly what Adam did in the garden, but he was trusted with the responsibility to name all the plants and animals.

Today it is still good to work hard, but the sinful environment means it is far harder and causes much anxiety. Paul writing to the Thessalonians warns against laziness (2 Thessalonians 3:6-12).

### **A Helper and a Companion (verse 18)**

God said it is not good for the man to be alone. It was God's initiative to look for a companion for Adam, it was not Adam's decision.

God searched and saw that, despite all the wonderful creation He had made, the man needed a new creation, someone designed uniquely for Adam.

He therefore made Eve. She would provide friendship and companionship; she would be a helper and partner with him in his work.

I believe God found my 'Eve' for me, in Elaine my wife. She is God's gift to me, and He will also provide for you as you seek His will.

### **One Flesh (verses 19- 25)**

Eve was made from Adam. Humankind is made up of male and female, and both are greatly loved and valued by God. The intimacy of being one flesh speaks of the depth of union which is unique to a man and a woman. This

experience brings about a soul union, knowing one another in a deeply precious way. This should always and only remain within that couple's experience; it should not be sought after, or happen with anyone else. The promises we make in marriage are for life.

This experience is all part of a new start. We will always need to honour our parents, but marriage means that the husband and wife begin a new family and their accountability is to God first and then to one another.

Before man sinned, there was no shame in sexual intimacy and no selfishness.

**All of these themes could be much more fully explored, but Genesis is the book of beginnings and as you study Scripture, you will learn more.**

### **Points to Consider**

- \*How important is Sabbath rest in your life and ministry?
- \*How strongly do you teach that we are made by God and therefore accountable to Him?
- \*Why did God put a restriction on what they could or not eat?
- \*How important is the work ethic among Gods people?
- \*Why did God make Eve?
- \*What difference does that make to our understanding of women and sex?
- \*What principles of marriage do we see in verses 23-25?