

Genesis 2:4-17 – God Creates the first Man

In Genesis 2, God goes into more detail on the creation of man (both male and female) that is first covered in Genesis 1:26-28. It is not a different or conflicting account. Think of this as a “magnifying glass” to take a closer, more detailed look into Day 6 when God creates the crowning achievement of His creation. This week we look just at the creation of the first man (called “Adam”). Next week we will look at the creation of the first woman (called “Eve”).

⁴ This [is] the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens,

“the day” – not a numbered day, but in a general sense, in the day – the time – that the LORD God made the heavens and the earth.

⁵ before any plant of the field was in the earth and before any herb of the field had grown. For the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the earth, and [there was] no man to till the ground;

*“before any plant of the field...” still connecting it to when the heavens and earth were created (Day 1), which was before the plants and herbs were created (Day 3).
 “not caused it to rain” – more of a timing comment and letting us know that the phenomenon of the rain cycle was later than the time of creation. (see verse 6)
 “no man to till the ground” – Timing term. Now it focuses on the 6th day in particular, before man was created.*

⁶ but a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground.

As opposed to the rain, which apparently did not occur until the flood God sent in Noah’s time.

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 being.

1. Formed man out of the dust of the ground.
2. Breathed into his nostrils the breath of life.
3. Man became a living being.

⁸ The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed.

4. God planted a garden inside of an area called Eden.

⁹ And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life [was] also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁰ *Now a river went out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it parted and became four riverheads.*

¹¹ *The name of the first [is] Pishon; it [is] the one which skirts the whole land of Havilah, where [there is] gold.*

¹² *And the gold of that land [is] good. Bdellium and the onyx stone [are] there.*

¹³ *The name of the second river [is] Gihon; it [is] the one which goes around the whole land of Cush.*

¹⁴ *The name of the third river [is] Hiddekel; it [is] the one which goes toward the east of Assyria. The fourth river [is] the Euphrates.*

[Eden was a real place! – Though the earth likely changed a great deal during the Flood, you can still find two of these rivers!]



- In the garden were many trees which were pretty and good for food. There were **lots** of choices of trees to eat from!
- In the garden were also two special trees:
 - a tree called **the tree of life**, and
 - a tree called **the tree of the knowledge of good and evil**.

¹⁵ Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.	5. God put the man in the garden to tend and keep it.
¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷ "but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."	6. God allows the man to eat of any tree in the garden but one tree, and commands him not to eat of it (the tree of the knowledge of good and evil). 7. God promises that the man will die the day he eats of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

1. God Created the Man (2:7)

- a. Formed man out of the dust (God designed us!)
- b. Breathed into his nostrils the breath of life (Only God has the power to bring something to life!)
- c. Man became a living being (what God formed was now a living man!)

2. God Placed the Man (2:8,15)

- a. in the garden of Eden (8) – that God had planted
- b. to tend and to keep the garden (15) – God gave him a place (home) and a purpose (work)

3. God Commanded the Man (2:16-17)

- a. God made many trees, but He made two special trees (9)
 - i. Tree of Life
 - ii. Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil
- b. God gave Adam many choices to eat: Every tree of the garden (9, 16)
- c. God commanded Adam that he could not eat from just one tree: Tree of the Knowledge of Good & Evil
- d. God warned Adam that he would die on that day he ate of the Tree of Knowledge of Good & Evil
- e. [The woman, eventually named "Eve," was not yet created.]

This all happened on Day 6.

More to learn about Day 6 next week.