

Learn to Read Genesis Effectively

Distance Learning Programme

Session 2



All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from *The New King James Version*.
Copyright 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved

SESSION 2

Genesis 2 – God’s creation in relation to man	Page 1
v 4 to 7 – Creation summarised	1
v 8 to 15 – The Garden of Eden	1
v 16 and 17 – A law given	3
v 18 to 25 – The creation of woman	4
Summary of chapter 2	6
Optional assignment 2	7

Genesis 2 v 4 to 25 – God’s creation in relation to man



Read Genesis 2 v 4 to 25
before you start this session

v 4 to 7 – Creation summarised

Verses 4 to 7 are a summary of creation to serve as an introduction to the account of what was to happen to the man who was mentioned in verses 26 and 27 of chapter 1. Verse 7 gives us some very useful facts about the human race and its origins.



Read Genesis 2 v 7 again

This verse tells us three fundamental things about the man who was created:

- He was made from “the dust of the ground”
- God breathed into him the “*breath* of life”
- As a result of this breath he became a living being (or “soul” in the Authorised Version)

(Note: the Bible use of the word “soul” was considered in session 5 of the first course).

v 8 to 15 – The Garden of Eden



Read Genesis 2 v 8 to 15

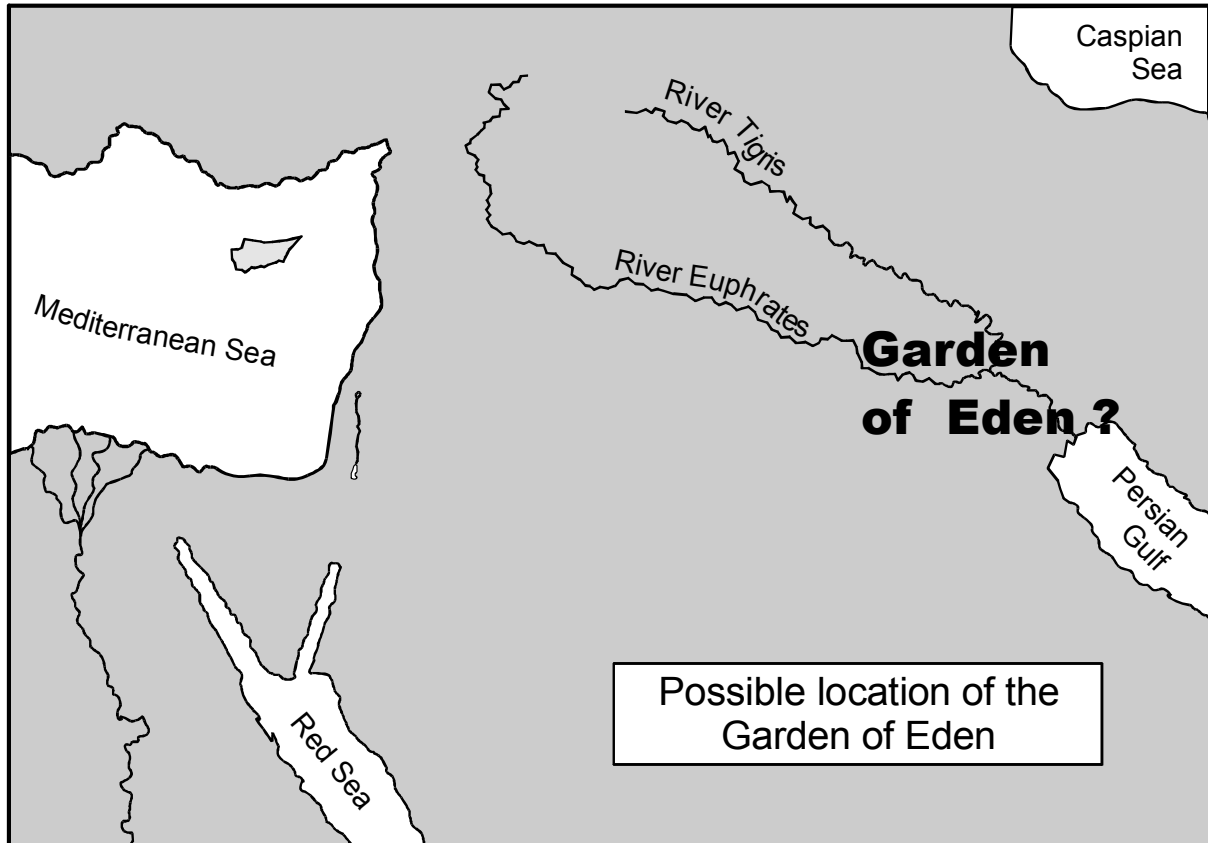
God did not make a man and then leave him to his own devices. The first man needed something to do which would be good for him both physically and mentally. So verse 8 tells us that God made a garden for him *eastward in Eden*. We cannot be sure where this garden was, or how big it was, but it is generally believed to have been in the region of modern-day Iraq.

The rivers mentioned in verse 14 give an idea of the extent of the garden:

Hiddekel, which we know today as the Tigris, and

Euphrates, which runs into the Persian Gulf.

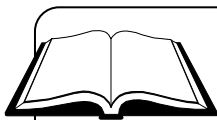
Opinions vary as to the location of the other areas and rivers mentioned. The map below shows the possible location:



Verse 9 tells us that in this garden God provided trees that were not only beautiful to look at but also good for food. Two are singled out for special mention:

*The tree of life ... in the midst ... and
the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*

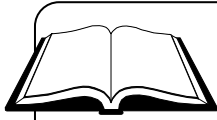
We shall look at these in more detail later.



Read Genesis 2 v 15

This verse shows the beginning of the relationship between the first man Adam and God. God provided Adam with something to occupy his mind and exercise his intelligence. Adam was to “tend” and “keep” the garden. In other words, Adam was given responsibility for the garden.

v 16 and 17 – A law given



Read Genesis 2 v 16 and 17

We saw in the first session that God saw all that He had made and said that it was “very good” and that included Adam. The animals obeyed the instincts given to them by God – they had no choice. But with Adam it was different, he had a choice.

God introduced a simple command which Adam could choose either to accept or reject, and verses 16 and 17 tell us what that command was:

“Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 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.”



- God gave Adam the choice either to obey or to disobey
- He was warned of the consequences of disobedience

The margin of the *Authorised Version* says “dying thou shalt die” as an alternative for “you shall surely die”. This implies that the process of dying would start from the moment the fruit was eaten, leading eventually to death itself. Unfortunately the command was ignored (see session 3).

v 18 to 25 – The creation of woman



Read Genesis 2 v 18 to 26

2 v 18 “ ... I will make him a helper comparable to him.”

Adam was in need of a companion, but he found no real companionship with the animals. The phrase “comparable to him” implies the other half of a real partnership. There was to be a difference between this relationship and the partnerships of all other animals. In the case of the animals, both male and female were made of the dust of the ground. In Adam’s case, the relationship with his wife was to be of a much higher order. She was to be made from a part of his body.

2 v 21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept ...

It has taken mankind approximately 6,000 years to discover and learn to use anaesthetics, yet here, right at the beginning of time, God was showing what could be done. While Adam was in that deep sleep God removed a rib from his side, closing up the wound afterwards. From that rib God made a woman and brought her to Adam.

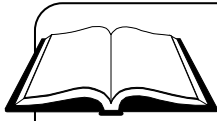
Adam’s reaction was to give her a name, as he had to all the other creatures, but with a difference. Verse 23 tells us:

*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."*

That was not the end of the matter, however. This partnership, unlike those of most of the other creatures, was to be lifelong. Verse 24 says:

Therefore [because of the way in which this partnership was set up] a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Jesus endorsed this idea. He showed his belief in, and support for, the Genesis record of creation.



Read Matthew 19 v 1 to 12 and
Mark 10 v 6 to 12



- Marriage is endorsed by the Genesis record and by Christ
- Marriage is for life

Verse 25 tells us that the man and his wife were both naked but were not ashamed. God had made them “very good” (see chapter 1 v 27 to 31). There was nothing to be ashamed of. Sadly that state of affairs did not continue – but that is the subject of our next session.

You may have noticed that all the way through chapter 1 the word used for God is “God”, but in chapter 2 it is always “LORD God”. If you wish to follow this up look at the section “The significance of “LORD” and “God”” on page 9 of the *Additional Notes* booklet.

Summary of chapter 2

We have considered the fundamental aspects of Adam's nature, and therefore our own:

- We were made from the “dust of the ground” (Gen 2 v 7)
- We are sustained by God's “breath of life” (Gen 2 v 7)
- As a result of this “breath” we are “living beings” or “souls” (Gen 2 v 7)

All the basic requirements of human life are put in place here in Genesis 2:

- Life itself (Gen 2 v 7) *Breath of life*
- Water (Gen 2 v 10) *Rivers in the garden*
- Food (Gen 2 v 9) *Trees in the garden*
- Work and responsibility (Gen 2 v 15) *Tending the garden*
- Holidays (Gen 2 v 3) *Sabbath, a day of rest*
- Friendship and companionship (Gen 2 v 18) *A suitable helper*
- Rules (Gen 2 v 17) *Adam and Eve knew what God expected from them*
- Love and marriage (Gen 2 v 24) *Someone for Adam to care for, who would in turn also care for him; someone for Adam to share life with*

Optional assignment 2

Bible teaching about marriage

The marginal references from Genesis 2 v 24 include the following:

Matthew 19 v 5; Mark 10 v 7; Romans 7 v 2; 1 Corinthians 7 v 10 and 11; Ephesians 5 v 31

Have a look at these verses and the surrounding verses and write down what they teach about marriage. Look at any cross-references and see where they lead you.

The Garden of Eden and the tree of life

There is a reference from Genesis 2 v 8 and 9 to Isaiah 51 v 3 and Revelation 22 v 2. Have a look at these verses and the surrounding verses and see what you can learn from them.

Notes