

# GENESIS

Why The Beginning Matters

Study 4

The Nature And Purpose of Man

Genesis 2:4-26

Part 1 of 3: Spiritual — Worship

## Verse 4

Genesis 2:4 (ESV)

These are the generations  
of the heavens and the earth when they were created,  
in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens.

**1) a) Objective question. Select the most appropriate. The word “generations” in verse 4 refers to:**

- A. the different generations of heaven and earth, there are many versions and generations of heaven and earth
- B. “generations” is *toledoth* in hebrew and is used in the beginning of story like a ‘chapter’, so the word in verse 2 refers to ‘the chapter of creation’.

## Verse 5-7

Genesis 2:5-7 (ESV)

When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground, and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground—then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

**2) a) Objective question. Select the most appropriate. Genesis 2:5-7 says that Adam was made before any plant had sprung up, whereas, in Genesis 1, plants are made on day 3, before men were made on day 6. Why is there this apparent contradiction?**

- A. The author is confused
- B. The bible is fake
- C. Genesis 1 is a poem genre, Genesis 2 is a narrative genre, you cannot take a poem genre literally (word for word) and compare it as a historical fact

**b) Reflection question. Verse 7 says man (*Adam*) is made from dust (*Adama*) using the breath of life. According to the video lecture, what happens when God’s breath stops being supplied to humans?**

**Verse 8-15**

Genesis 2:8-15 (ESV)

And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers. The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush. And the name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

**3) a) Fill in the blanks. From the lecture slides, fill in the blanks on the definition of Adam’s work/opportunity to worship in verse 15.**

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to	Work it	&	Keep it
Hebrew words	<i>Abad</i>		<i>Samar</i>
Definition	To serve		To exercise great care over/ to guard

**b) Objective question. Select the most appropriate. According to the video lecture, other than Adam, who also had to *Abad & Samar*?**

- A. Priests
- B. Gardeners
- C. Eve

### Verse 16-17

Genesis 2:16-17 (ESV)

And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 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."

**4) Objective question. Select the most appropriate. Which one is FALSE about the connection between priests in the temple and Adam in the Garden of Eden?**

- A. Garden of Eden is the first temple.
- B. Temple is a place where one has access to God
- C. Gold or precious metals can be found in the Garden of Eden, the Tabernacle, the Temple as well as the future temple/heaven described in Revelations.
- D. Both Adam and male Priests are supposed to choose to worship and obey, but Eve doesn't have to.
- E. It shows that all humans are spiritual beings, not just physical.

Part 2 of 3: Physical — Work

### Verse 15,19-20

Genesis 2:15, 19-20 (ESV)

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field

**5) Objective question. Select the most appropriate. Which one is FALSE about work?**

- A. Genesis 2:1-2 parallels God's 7-day work week with humans' 7-day work week
- B. The ancient Babylonian myths and Greek myths believed that work is not a bad thing
- C. Genesis 2:7-8 used words like 'planted' instead of magically snapping fingers to show that God thinks there is dignity in doing work
- D. Humans were tasked in Genesis 2:15 to start their work in the Garden of Eden, but their jurisdiction covers all of creation as described in Genesis 1:28
- E. When God asked Adam to garden, which included watering, weeding, & planting, it can be summarised as organizing, enhancing, and enriching the ground, which can be applied to cities or other jobs whether in arts & culture or science, technology, business, finance or academia.

### Quick References

“We are “gardening” the creation, drawing out the resources and powers of the material universe. We are supposed to do this to create a “city” that glorifies and reflects back to God his own richness and life and love and wisdom.” — Tim Keller

Ecclesiastes 3:22

So I saw that there is nothing better for a person than to enjoy their work, because that is their lot. For who can bring them to see what will happen after them?

Ecclesiastes 5:12

Sweet is the sleep of a laborer, whether he eats little or much, but the full stomach of the rich will not let him sleep

### 6) Objective question. Select all that apply. According to the lecture, which of the following is a biblical view on work?

- A. Work should be our identity, and we lose this identity when we retire
- B. Work is a necessary evil to earn a living
- C. We need to work as a sacrifice for others such as our children
- D. We should regard work as our calling and find fulfillment in it
- E. Paradise is a place where there is no work
- F. Work is necessary for our fulfillment as human beings. It was put in paradise (2:15) along with many other things to meet all our needs.
- G. Work is for the care and benefit of the world and others around us. The purpose of our work is to “care for” —to cultivate and protect —creation.
- H. Work is a duty.

### Quick References

“Work is permeated with purpose; it is intended to serve God, benefit humankind, and make nature subservient to the moral program of creation... Therefore we apply our whole being — heart and mind, as well as hand —to the daily job. As God’s fellow workers, we reflect God’s creative activity on Monday no less than on Sunday.” —Carl Henry

Part 3 of 3: Relational — Male and Female

**Verse 18-20**

Genesis 2:18-20 (ESV)

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him.

**7) Objective question. Select the most appropriate. According to the lecture, which of the following about the creation of man and woman is FALSE?**

- A. Even though a relationship existed between Adam and God, God declared it was not good.
- B. The word 'helper' in verse 19 means *kakak* (maid)
- C. The word 'helper' (*Ezer* in Hebrew) is also used to describe God

**8) Discussion question. What evidence from the passage was given in the video lecture as a support for the complementary view between men and women?**

**Verse 21-25**

Genesis 2:21-25 (ESV)

So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said,

"This at last is bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh;  
she shall be called Woman,  
because she was taken out of Man."

Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

**9) Objective question. Select all that apply. According to the lecture, which of the following is a biblical view on work?**

- A. Marriage is a covenant.
- B. Marriage is a public act of social accountability.
- C. Marriage is a supreme act of love-exclusive and is lifelong.

- D. Marriage is based on feelings, if you don't like him or her already, just divorce.
- E. Marriage is a binding socio-legal bond to help maintain a couple through the difficult times.

### Takeaway for Genesis 2:4-26

#### THE NATURE OF MAN

- Value and significance —Dignity, glory
- Purpose—Work-develop
- Moral Nature—Obedience
- Relational nature—Love (We cannot grow into the image of God without community)

### Case Study

#### Case 1 – Relation between Marriage and Sex

Wanda and James are a couple who have been living together for the past 2 years, are very much in love, attend the 3rd Baptist Church and are starting to feel as if they need to serve in the leadership. James is good at bible study and Wanda has a gift for teaching children. However, when the elders found out that they were cohabiting, they declined their offer to serve and suggested they get married. Obviously, Wanda and James were annoyed and answered “What is the use of getting that useless piece of paper? We are in love and that is the only thing that matters. We enjoy each other sexually with none of the conflict and issues of marriage we see in so many of our friends.”

- 1) Discussion question. Are they right? What do you think? Looking at Genesis 2:24 “Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh”. Can you explain why marriage is important rather than just living together?
- 2) Discussion question. How is sex related to marriage and covenantal unity?
- 3) Discussion question. What are the practical implications to our marriages if sex is the physical renewal of our marriage covenant?
- 4) Discussion question. What then is the problem of having sex outside of marriage?

### **Case 2 – Perspective of Marriage and Singleness**

Patrice is a single lady who had kept herself pure for marriage to the right Christian partner, but after years of praying and waiting, it is still a struggle for her and she is finding difficulty in coming to terms with her singleness. Bernice is married but rather unhappily as she finds her husband cannot really meet all her needs and there is often tension and quarreling and sometimes, she wishes she could get out and start all over again.

**5) Discussion question. Read Eph. 5:22-33 and 1 Cor .7:27-31. How do these passages put marriage into perspective for both these Christian women?**

### **Case 3 – Singleness and Loneliness**

Lawrence is a faithful Christian who is single and struggles with loneliness. He will not admit this to his parents or friends because it just makes him feel needy, weak, and unfulfilled. Sometimes he feels guilty because he is supposed to find all his satisfaction and pleasure in life in loving and serving God and yet in the quieter moments of his life he really feels lonely. He feels that maybe his character is so flawed that no woman would want to marry him and this constantly wears him down.

**6) Discussion question. Look at Genesis 2:18-25 and see how this passage can help Lawrence in his dilemma.**

### **Case 4 – Gender Roles in Marriage**

Ron is a new Christian who was recently taught in Bible study that marriage is heterosexual.

Ron struggles with believing that marriage is exclusively between a male and a female because he sees that same-sex marriage is just an expression of love between two human beings.

The Bible study taught that Eve was made as a “helper” fit for Adam. Ron sees that being of the same gender does not stop one man from being a helper to another man in marriage.

**7) Discussion question. How is a woman a “helper fit” for a man (Genesis 2:18) in a way that another man is not?**

**8) Discussion question. Does that mean that a wife is inferior to her husband in marriage?**

### **Case 5 – Dignity in Work**

Ali is a cleaner who is working in a big corporate office building. He feels sad that his work is less meaningful and dignified compared to other higher-ups in the company, like the CEO. He thinks being a cleaner is just a means to make a living and nothing more.

**9) Discussion question. Is Ali's view that manual labor is less dignified than other work correct? Why does all work have dignity? Hint: Consider how God "planted a garden" (2:8).**

#### **Case 6 – Work in Paradise**

Patrick wants to work very hard for 10 years with overtime and even on weekends so that he can retire early and not work for the rest of his life.

This is because he dreads work and thinks of it as a curse by God when sin entered the world. However, after attending a Gamma class, he learns that work was put by God in Eden, even before Adam and Eve sinned.

**10) Discussion question. If Patrick were to ask you why did God give Adam work in Eden, how would you answer him?**

**11) Discussion question. Is it possible for Patrick to feel fulfilled when he stops working altogether when he has accumulated enough money?**

#### **Case 7 – Naked and Unashamed in Marriage**

David and Alisson are both happily married for 10 years. As husband and wife, David is fully comfortable when he takes his shirt off (naked) on a hot day in front of Alisson.

However, there are deep dark secrets of David's past that he does not want to reveal to Alisson because he feels ashamed about it. Over time, David feels tired and exhausted because he is putting up a façade in his marriage with Alisson. He cannot seem to be fully transparent or fully vulnerable with Alisson.

**12) Discussion question. Genesis 2:25 mentions that "they were both naked, the man and the wife, and were not ashamed". Was David truly "naked and unashamed" in his marriage with Alisson?**

**13) Discussion question. What does being "naked and unashamed" in a Christian marriage reflect?**