

Genesis 2

Verses 1 - 3

And so the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their heavenly lights.

² By the seventh day God completed His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. ³ Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because on it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

² By the seventh day God completed His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.

God finished all the work of creation in 6 days and then rested on the 7th day.

God set the example of setting aside a day of rest long before it was incorporated into the Law. The creation took place in 5340 BC and the Law was given in 1446 BC, a difference of almost 3900 years.

There is no mention of evening and morning on day 7 but the 4th commandment makes it clear that it was a normal day.

See Exodus 20:8 - 11

⁸ “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. ¹¹ For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

³ Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because on it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

The Sabbath day was meant to be a day of refreshment but the Jews of Jesus day had turned it into a burden.

See Mark 2:23 – 28

²³ And it happened that He was passing through the grainfields on the Sabbath, and His disciples began to make their way *along* while picking the heads of grain.
²⁴ The Pharisees were saying to Him, “Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?” ²⁵ And He *said to them, “Have you never read what David did when he was in need and he and his companions became hungry; ²⁶ how he entered the house of God in the time of Abiathar *the* high priest, and ate the consecrated bread, which is not lawful for *anyone* to eat except the priests, and he also gave it to those who were with him?” ²⁷ Jesus said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.” ²⁸ So the Son of Man is Lord, even of the Sabbath.”

Verse 4

⁴ This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made earth and heaven.

The word “account, book, or records” are used to introduce the 10 sections of the Book of Genesis.

1. Genesis 2:4: Additional creation facts

⁴ This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made earth and heaven.

2. Genesis 5:1 Adam’s family

This is the book of the generations of Adam. On the day when God created man, He made him in the likeness of God.

3. Genesis 6:9:29 Noah’s family

⁹ These are the records of the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God.

4. Genesis 10:1 Noah’s son’s family lines

Now these are the records of the generations of the sons of Noah: Shem, Ham, and Japheth; and sons were born to them after the flood.

5. Genesis 11:10 Shem’s family line

¹⁰ These are the records of the generations of Shem. Shem was a hundred years old when he fathered Arpachshad, two years after the flood;

6. Genesis 11:27 Terah's family line

²⁷ **Now these are the records of the generations of Terah. Terah fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran fathered Lot.**

7. Genesis 25:12 Ishmael's family line

¹² **Now these are the records of the generations of Ishmael, Abraham's son, whom Hagar the Egyptian, Sarah's slave woman, bore to Abraham;**

8. Genesis 25:19 Isaac's family line

¹⁹ **Now these are the records of the generations of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham fathered Isaac;**

9. Genesis 36:1:1 Esau's family line

Now these are the records of the generations of Esau (that is, Edom).

10. Genesis 37:2 Jacob's family line

² **These are the records of the generations of Jacob.**

The second part of verse 4 says **"In the day that God made earth and heaven"**.

Here the word day means days 1 thru 6. We know this from the context. In the first part of that verse it says, **"This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created.**

Verses 5-6

⁵ **Now no shrub of the field was yet on the earth, and no plant of the field had yet sprouted,** for the Lord God had not sent rain upon the earth, and there was no man to cultivate the ground. ⁶ **But a mist used to rise from the earth and water the whole surface of the ground.**

This chapter is not a second account of creation as some people think but rather some supplemental facts concerning certain events in chapter 1.

Verses 5 and 6 refer to the third day, before vegetation appeared. Since God was about to create all kinds of vegetation and there was no rain yet how would the plants and trees be able to survive? God provided a mist to water the earth.

Verses 7

⁷ 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 person.

The Lord God

The word for Lord God in the Hebrew is [~Yahweh] and it means to "mold," or "to form."

Formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living person

As we learned in chapter one the creation of plants, animals and mankind involved a complexity that is hard to comprehend as one looks at the most basic level (the cell). Despite the complexity there is a humbling aspect to the human body. Adam, the father of the human race was made from the dust of the ground. Looking under our bed and seeing all the dust there must be somebody either coming or going. 😊

When God breathed life into Adams body he became a living person. We can assume this was the spirit of life that Adam was receiving. This is what separates man from the animal kingdom. Despite all that we have learned about the physical body in the last 200 years we know very little about the "spirit" that God has given us. For now it is a mystery and probably will be until Christ returns.

Verse 8

⁸ The Lord God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed.

Unfortunately, Adam and Eve nor any of their family members ever took a pic of Eden or the garden with their phones. 😊 On a more serious note it is described as being located in the Middle East, near where the Tigris and Euphrates rivers meet. This will be discussed more in just a few verses.

Verse 9

⁹ Out of the ground the Lord God caused every tree to grow that is pleasing 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.

The Lord God caused every tree to grow

The trees were created on the third day of creation. We can assume that two of the trees were one of a kind.

The tree of life

Adam and Eve could have eaten of this tree and lived forever but it seems this wasn't their highest priority. There are two reasons why this may have been the case.

1. They already possessed immortality. Adam and Eve had not sinned, and there was no death.
2. When you're young, death seems like a very distant thing and it is not something you think about very much if your healthy and things are going well.

The tree of the knowledge of good and evil

This tree became a test for Adam and Eve. This was the only command that we know of that Adam and Eve had from God. Don't eat of this tree. Of course we always seem to desire the thing that we are denied.

Verses 10-14

¹⁰ Now a river flowed out of Eden to water the garden; and from there it divided and became four rivers. ¹¹ The name of the first is Pishon; it flows around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. ¹² The gold of that land is good; the bdellium and the onyx stone are there *as well*. ¹³ The name of the second river is Gihon; it flows around the whole land of Cush. ¹⁴ The name of the third river is Tigris; it flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

¹⁰ Now a river flowed out of Eden to water the garden;

Verse 8 says that God planted a garden eastward in Eden but this verse seems to indicate that the Garden was outside of Eden.

And from there it divided and became four rivers

The one river split into 4 rivers. Let's talk about the last 2 rivers first.

¹⁴ **The name of the third river is Tigris; it flows east of Assyria**

Some versions use Hiddekel, which is the ancient name for the Tigris. One interesting fact about the city of Nineveh is that it was located to the west of the river until about 1300 B.C. Then the city was moved to the east side of the river.

See pic 205



And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

See pics 205 again.

The Euphrates and Tigris rivers give us a general area for the Garden of Eden but the location of the other two rivers is not known so a more precise location cannot be given.

So how did Moses know where the Garden of Eden was located? There are only two possibilities. Either from oral tradition that had been passed down to him or it was a direct revelation from God. The second option seems more likely since the land masses that existed after the flood were quite different than before the flood and the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers had to appear after the global flood. This doesn't prove it was direct revelation but it appears to be more likely than oral tradition.

¹¹ The name of the first is Pishon; it flows around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. ¹² The gold of that land is good; the bdellium and the onyx stone are there *as well*. ¹³ The name of the second river is Gihon; it flows around the whole land of Cush.

The location of these rivers is not known and they may not exist any longer. They may have dried up or been redirected by some catastrophe. After all, it has been about 3500 years since Moses wrote.

Verse 15

Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to cultivate it and tend it.

The ideal state of man was not one of idleness, but one of labor and responsibility.

Verses 16-17

¹⁶ **The Lord God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷ but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for on the day that you eat from it you will certainly die.”**

As far as we know Adam only had one commandment to keep. Don't eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam received this command before Eve was created (see the next verse).

We know that God was referring to spiritual death here because Adam & Eve was separated from God right away but their spiritual death also led to their physical death which came about 900 years later.

Verse 18

¹⁸ **Then the Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.”**

God made Man to be both a social and a sexual creature. In both cases it was not good for him to be alone so God created a woman that could fulfill both of those needs. In general is not a good idea for men or women to be alone except for those who have a gift to do so.

Verse 19

¹⁹ And out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought *them* to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name.

Man was very intelligent from the very beginning. Adam had a fully developed language and a good bit of creativity in order to give all these animals' suitable names.

Adam only named the birds and animals of the field but that was still a huge number of animals. Also, he had a lot more animals to name in his time (the beginning of creation) than we have today. It is estimated that the number of animals that go extinct each year range from 100 to 10,000 species.

Verse 20

²⁰ The man gave names to all the livestock, and to the birds of the sky, and to every animal of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him.

In this verse it says Adam also named all of the livestock.

This activity of naming the animals may have had to objectives.

1. For Adam to realize that he was the master over all the creation.
2. For him to understand that he was alone and needed a helper.

Verses 21-22

²¹ So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. ²² And the Lord God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man.

There has been some misinformation concerning this verse so it should be noted right away that men and women have the same number of ribs.

God finished the 6 days of creation by making a woman for the man. As some woman like to remind us men, God saved the best for last. ☺ Most men actually agree with that sentiment.

Verse 23

²³ Then the man said,

**“At last this is bone of my bones,
And flesh of my flesh;
She shall be called ‘woman,’
Because she was taken out of man.”**

It seems that the naming of all the animals had made an impression on Adam and he was quite relieved and happy to find a mate that was made especially for him.

Verse 24

²⁴ **For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.**

Jesus quoted this verse in Matthew 19:4-6

³ **Some Pharisees came to Jesus, testing Him and asking, “Is it lawful *for a man* to divorce his wife for any reason *at all*?”** ⁴ **And He answered and said, “Have you not read that He who created *them* from the beginning made them male and female,** ⁵ **and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’?”** ⁶ **So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, no person is to separate.”**

Jesus quoted this to say that the two are now one flesh and therefore they should not separate from one another.

Verse 25

²⁵ **And the man and his wife were both naked, but they were not ashamed.**

We should remember that they were the only two people on earth so this was a perfectly natural way to think. However, this was not the only reason they were not ashamed. Adam and Eve had a pure mindset because they had not sinned against the Lord. Sin destroys that purity and makes things that were once good something to then be ashamed of.