

## **School of the Bible, Genesis Program #15**

### **I. Studies in Genesis 2- The Garden of Eden is a Real Place**

A) The Garden of Eden is a Real Place. These early verses of Genesis give us important insights about our future. The location given in Genesis 2 is somewhat unclear in these early verses. However, it is clear that real places and locations are being mentioned that are with us today such as the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers and the Land of Cush. We see this in Genesis 2:10-13:

10 A river watering the garden flowed from Eden; from there it was separated into four headwaters. 11 The name of the first is the Pishon; it winds through the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold. 12 (The gold of that land is good; aromatic resin{[12] Or good; pearls} and onyx are also there.) 13 The name of the second river is the Gihon; it winds through the entire land of Cush. 14 The name of the third river is the Tigris; it runs along the east side of Asshur. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

B) The Garden of Eden is already filled with gold in verse 11, a wonderful picture of Eden restored by the Lord in the Book of Revelation 21.

### **II. The Garden of Eden is the Location Where God's Story Begins .....AND Ends**

A) The location of the Garden is in the Middle East, based on the early geographical information that is given in Genesis 2

B) The Garden of Eden is located in an area that seems somewhat mysterious in these early chapters of Genesis. As the book of Genesis will unfold we see that the Garden of Eden is none other than the Land of Israel. Mankind will leave the Garden of Eden in Genesis 3 and spend the rest of the Bible seeking to return there. However, as the Lord's revelation unfolds, the Garden is named by the Lord and given to Abraham and his descendants. The Garden of Eden is renamed the Promised Land and becomes the focus of the Lord's redemptive workings in Scripture and history.

C) Current world focus and conflict in the Middle East and with Israel is the same ancient struggle that took place in Genesis 2-3. The Garden of Eden is a place that is contested by God and Satan. The conflict has continued to this modern age. Modern Mankind does not see the ancient connection of current issues in the world to the Garden of Eden and the book of Genesis.

### **III. The Garden of Eden Was Created with a Challenge by God to the Creation**

A) The Lord values freedom and love, so He empowered the Garden with choice. This choice took the form of two famous trees in the Garden, the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil as found in Genesis 2:15-17:

15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the

garden; 17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

B) The Tree of Life is ultimately the tree connecting Mankind to the Lord and His life and sustaining wisdom. The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil is a tree connecting Mankind to himself and his limited understanding. Mankind must make a choice of what will be his source, the Lord or himself. It was and is the choice we still face today.

C) The Lord's choice between the trees, and the penalty for the wrong choice is the foundation of His love. The Lord introduces His law here as a way to protect His Creation and express His love. The Law is good...both then and now. When a parent says "No" to a child it expresses a wisdom about knowledge a child cannot know. A child can see a big dog...that is knowledge, but a child cannot understand that the dog could bite the child....that is parental understanding and wisdom. So it is with the Lord!!!

#### IV. The Modern Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil is Still with Us Today

A) Since Mankind's condition is the same today, we need to see that the choice the Lord places before us is STILL here. We must choose between the Lord's life and sufficiency or our own. The Devil is trying very hard to get us to choose self and follow him and his pride to destruction.

B) The simple choice of the Garden of Eden is placed before modern Mankind in many ways.....one of these modern ways is seen in the Internet. The Internet is an electronic version of this ancient conflict and choice. People must choose between unlimited knowledge of good and evil or the Lord. Ultimately Mankind cannot be satisfied with knowledge alone, since it leads to pride and emptiness. Mankind's only real choice is to choose the Lord . The real knowledge we seek is found in the Lord Jesus Christ and not a wire or technology. Choose life....choose the Lord.....choose Jesus....and live!!!!

#### School of the Bible, Genesis Program #16

##### I. Mankind's Greatest Challenge-The Two Trees of Genesis 2

A) The Two Trees represent the incredible choice set before Mankind. Mankind is given the choice between unlimited knowledge and power or God's understanding, wisdom and life eternal. The choice in the Garden was a temptation then and now.

B) Knowledge is important, but it must lead to understanding and ultimately wisdom.

C) Knowledge alone only tends to puff us up, as Scripture teaches ( I Corinthians 8:1). Human beings tend to become proud and "godlike" when they seek knowledge alone. This is the error of our society today. People look for knowledge and power without God.

D) The Bible is interested in all three issues.....knowledge.....understanding.....and wisdom. When all three are found together in our lives we glorify God and reflect Him more fully to the world.

Example: Seeing that a car is able to drive people around from one place to another is knowledge. Knowing how the engine and transmission function operate is understanding of how a car works. Knowing how to drive a car responsibly is wisdom. These three aspects of knowledge, understanding and wisdom are a part of every issue we face.....in the Garden .....and today.

F) Satan's Deception comes from leading Mankind to trust in their own reason.....to trust in SELF. When we leave the Lord's wisdom and life we die and watch our lives destroyed by our attempt to be "god". Mankind's limited reason, knowledge and understanding is simply unable to see the "Big Picture". This leads to broken and empty lives.

## II. God's Authority over Creation is Given to Mankind to Rule on His Behalf.

A) Mankind is the crowning of God's glory in Creation. Man is given the authority over the Creation as signified by his power to name the animals in verse 19.

18 The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." 19 Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. 21 So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. 22 Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. 23 The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called `woman' for she was taken out of man."

B) Understanding the place we have in the Creation dignifies Mankind. Mankind is not just another animal or a product of chance/evolution. Mankind has authority over all the animals. This wonderful truth should elevate Mankind on His own mind. Mankind is special and needs to see this truth. Mankind is called to use this power and dignity for God's glory.

C) The Lord Jesus Christ is the Fulfillment of Mankind's Call to Rule over the World. Our Lord Jesus will one day come to rule and reign over this world as the Lord of Glory, but also as Man. Our Lord's Second Coming will be the ultimately fulfillment of what the Lord intended in Genesis 2 in given Mankind dominion and authority over Creation. Revelation 20:6 reflects this truth of our Lord expressing dominion and authority over the world to restore it to the original blueprint and intention in Genesis.

6 Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

### III. The Creation of Woman.....More Than a Woman....A Love Story of God and His People.

A) The Creation story of Genesis 2 regarding "Woman" is often misunderstood, ignored or belittled as some sort of "male myth". The Creation of "Woman" is loaded with rich teaching about the Lord's love for us. We need to look at the story as the Lord intends and not get lost in our cultural misunderstandings of what we think the story may be teaching.

B) The 1st Adam is a picture of the 2nd Adam, our Lord Jesus Christ. When the 1st Adam is put to sleep in Genesis 2, we see a story of what will one day happen to the 2nd Adam. Sleep in the Bible is a picture of death throughout the Bible. As a result, when the 1st Adam is put to sleep by God, in order that the Woman is created, it gives a wonderful picture of our Lord's future "sleep" or death on the Cross and the creation of His Woman, the Church or Body of Christ. In John 19:32-34 we see our Lord's death....and the amazing piercing of His side that brought forth blood and water.....ultimately His Woman/Bride/Church/Body.

32 The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. 33 But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. 34 Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water.

C) When we understand that the Church or Body of Christ is taken from the side of the 2nd Adam it changes our view of the Genesis 2 story and allows us to see a greater story at work. This story also helps us to reinforce our understanding of the authority of Scripture.

VI. The Male/Female Story in Genesis 2 is the Ultimate Picture of the Lord's Love for the World.....Adam and His Wife Opens and Closes the Bible in Genesis 2 and Revelation 21. To God be the glory great things He has done.

### **School of the Bible Notes – Program #17**

Bible covers all of love – unfathomable riches. Genesis is the foundation to the rest of the Bible. The Apostles and Jesus quoted the Old Testament. Old Testament is revealed in New Testament. You can't understand the New Testament without the Old Testament. Jesus is the Master Storyteller. He started with Genesis.

Genesis 2:21

Ultimately God & His people – Jesus & His church

Bible starts with marriage – goal: marriage between God and His people.

Revelation 21 bride & bridegroom

Man is not complete without woman. God's desire is a complete person. Each gives 100%. Adam was lonely. He immediately values Eve very highly like God valued him. God values women.

Ephesians 5:28

Woman is part of man. Jesus & His people are the culmination of Genesis 3. Treasure your wife. She reciprocates by honoring her husband. No shame, no stress, and no worry. Adam was very excited about Eve. Marriage laws came later. Law not love.

Lord meeting Moses on Mt. Sinai – laws of marriage protect us because God loves us.

Law – boundaries to control us and hold us in, not to perfect us until something better comes about

Law implied – byproduct of love

Genesis 2:24

Families often destroy marriages. The marriage relationship is very special. Christ paid the ultimate price for us. God wants your ultimate love. There is no room for idols. Outside influences can destroy marriage. Can't let other people or things come between the Lord and I. The Lord is to have first place in my life!

### **School of the Bible Notes – Program #18**

Genesis 2:25

Shame is the most destructive thing in our lives. We live with the spirit of shame. We need to recognize the source and ask forgiveness. The Lord wants us to live victoriously. The Lord doesn't want us to live in shame anymore. We need to understand that shame is ultimately rooted in a spiritual problem and can only be dealt with in a spiritual way.

“Just As I Am”

God dealt with our shame

Serpent

Genesis 3:1

Genesis 2 – no self-consciousness

Touched by sin

Evil – doubting God

First thing to destroy Paradise - doubting God

We often doubt people's love for us. Satan's original plan was to sow doubt into Eve.

Heart of problems – subtle doubting

Take authority over the enemy. Look for certainty. Identify the problem and recognize that God has the power to overcome it. God is always faithful to His character. Believe what the Bible says. The devil came in the same way to Jesus as he did Adam and Eve – plant doubt in their minds. Adam gave the title deed to the earth to the devil when he sinned against God. The Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan. Satan – “if you are the Son of God....”

Plant doubt – destroy Him

Victory → Jesus → us

People destroyed – we don't know the Bible

We are accepted.

“God helps those who help themselves” is a quote from Benjamin Franklin. It is not found anywhere in the Bible.

When people don't know the Bible, they open themselves up to misquoting Scriptures, doubt, they lose intimacy with God, and hide from God.

God is always good.

Rely on the Bible, not yourself. Know the Bible. Quote it in its entirety and accurately.

Unshaken foundation

### **School of the Bible Notes – Program #19**

Genesis 3:6 Inject doubt

Question character of God

Evil-visual

No wisdom behind image

Young people – more believe TV than a person

Movement away from Bible → visual

Deception

Image not hear correctly

TV is a visual media.

Believe TV more than words or people

Word of God – present in a visual way

Satan targets in visual ways

Visual without the Word is very dangerous

Need a solid foundation of God's word.  
Satan knows our weaknesses.

Eve = God's people – we're the ones Satan's after – we are vulnerable without the covering of a man.

Adam's eyes were not opened until he eats the fruit. Ultimately Adam is responsible for the woman. Happens to head → woman. God is our covering, protection. Whatever happened to Jesus → happens to us. Jesus obeys → we are blessed. Jesus wins → we win. Adam disobeyed → Eve suffered. Eve was the target.

Headship → covering. What happens with a leader's decisions reflect on his/her followers. Be very careful whom you follow. Husband – bless or screw up your life. Adam – covering, not dominance. God's purpose was to protect. Biblical leadership = blessings on leaders → followers will be blessed. Biblical leaders are always thinking of others first.

Jesus never fails – victory. Adam and Eve's consciences were awakened when they ate the forgotten fruit. They tried to cover it up. Without the Lord's grace, we're all covering up. Man begins to think he can deal with his own sin.

Law – man knows & understand sin.

We've done wrong, something wrong with us. Pride.

Worship – focus on Him, forget about ourselves. We are free to worship

Enjoy fellowship – no shame

Man trades grace for his/her own way. Man chose to partake. Own idea of what is good.

The dangers of the fashion industry – we find value in that

Successful people – achievement, value

People measure them against others

Covering → nakedness → God covered sin with skin from animal. God shed the blood – redemption. Genesis 3:21

Successful people on the run – hiding themselves from God