

First Southern Wednesday Bible Study - May 29, 2019

Explanations - Genesis 2

I. The Seventh Day (2:1-3)

1. Three times “blessing” is used:
 - Of living creatures - 22
 - Of human creatures (28)
 - Of the Sabbath (2:3)
2. The original Sabbath was not a day of worship but a day of “rest”
 - The rest of achievement, not inactivity
 - Personal Sabbath - God’s, becomes man’s Sabbath
 - not because God gets tired
 - National Day of Rest - Ex. 16:3
 - a sign of covenant between them
 - Day of Worship at Deuteronomy 5:15
3. The “seventh” day is different:
 - no mention of evening and morning on the seventh day
 - no record that He blessed the other days
 - after He blessed it, He sanctified it (3) - set it apart, made “special” or “holy”
4. New Testament ramifications
 - He worked then rested... Old Testament
 - we rest then work... New Testament (first you rest, in Jesus, then you work for Him)
 - Spiritual Sabbath is highlighted by the writer of Hebrews (Heb. 4:1-11)
 - God’s creation rest (4)
 - Israel’s Canaan rest (8)
 - Believer’s spiritual rest (9-11)
 - Note Sabbath as the last day changes to Sunday as the first day (New Testament)

II. The Garden (4-15)

1. The garden itself
 - watered by a “mist”(KJV) and Job 36:27 it is “vapor”
 - watered by the rivers
 - “Not yet” sent rain
2. Parental care:
 - provides for man physically (10-14)
 - spiritually (15-17)
 - and socially (19ff)
3. The focus turns to man
4. The “generations” of Adam and Eve/ mankind
 - first of eleven “generation” statements that mark the progress of the story
5. Man in the Garden (4-17)
 - The helper (18-25)
6. Man’s job (15)
 - care for the garden (like a tenant farmer)
 - “dress” it and “keep” it
 - Dress - prune, and tend
 - Keep - as one might “keep” sheep

-share in God's work

*note that this is before the fall, ramifications for work

-work is not a curse, but an opportunity

-an ideal world is not an idle world, there is work and service... so in heaven there will be work and service (Rev. 22:3)

7. Literal rivers - with symbolic meaning (10-14)

Four: *but from one

1) Pison - around Havilah - gold

2) Gihon - around Ethiopia

3) Hiddekel - toward the east of Assyria

4) Euphrates

In keeping with God's other provision... why not provide water, since there is no rain

-flows from one place... out of Eden - the number is four, like the four corners of the earth

-the word "Eden" means "place of abundant waters"

8. Three gardens

Garden of Eden - here

Garden city at Rev. 21-22

A garden in between - Garden of Gethsemane

III. Man in the Garden (4-7, 15)

Picks up where chapter 1 left off... how he was made, and how Eve was made

1. "Formed" from dust - basic substance of man... but made greater by the breath of God
-made of ground and suited, by that, to work the ground

2. The human body

-life is embodied life, not like a mist or a vapor, or a cloud

3. "Breathed" into him the breath of life

4. Man be seen as body and soul

-has a body, has a soul

-"human life is embodied life"

5. "Soul"

-the word is "*nephesh*" - or total person

-man does not possess a nephesh but is a nephesh - literally

6. Man as the crown of God's creation

7. A "garden in Eden" - not Eden, but within Eden

IV. Permission and Prohibition (16-17)

1. You will surely die

-freedom has no meaning without the law -here is Adam's boundary

2. Not immortal - God alone is immortal - 1 Tim. 6:16

-this life might end without death (example of Enoch)

3. What is this "death?"

-the instant man disobeyed God, the principle of decay and death would begin in his body

4. This prohibition is fleshed out in Chapter 3

5. Both naked and not ashamed (2:25)

-an awesome lead in, to chapter 3

V. The Trees (16-17)

1. The trees and their character are incidental to the command of God
-obedience is the idea, - a thing required without much explanation
2. Represented as both literal and sacramental
3. Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil
Options that have been floated over the years
 - A. Discernment - but they are already morally responsible
 - B. Everything - they now know it all - but see 3:22
 - C. Sexual awakening as in 3:7 - yet incompatible with 3:22
 Paradox and irony - sinning brings knowledge - a knowledge that we do not wish to have - innocence is bliss?
 Proverbs says that we should attain divine wisdom through divine wisdom, not away from it
4. Tree of Life - the source of life
-a gift given by its planter - no reference to any fruit here
5. Represented the alternative to God...
-the gods
-following self, or your own will
6. Interpreting the trees:
 - A. When they disobeyed God, they became like Him in being able to tell right and wrong, but unlike Him in that they died
-so did Satan tell them the truth?
 - B. Why were they tested? - because God wants sincere love

7. **Going crazy with the trees:**

Contrast this tree with that of Christ

- A. First tree planted by God
Second tree planted by man
- B. One tree pleasant to the eyes (3:6)
Second was vulgar and repulsive
- C. God forbade men to eat (2:17)
Men are freely invited to eat of the second
- D. Satan tries to get man to eat
The Second tree Satan prevents men from eating
- E. To eat Old Testament the first brings sin and death (2:17)
To eat of the Second tree brings life (*Jn.6:53-54)
- F. Through eating Adam was turned out of Paradise
Through eating the thief enters into life
*The only time Jesus used the word “paradise” is on the tree. One cast out of paradise one entered in.

Resemblance:

- A. Both trees in a garden (Jn. 19:41)
*Both Adams died in a garden
- B. Both are “in the midst”
- C. Both are trees of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. On the cross we see goodness of God and the evilness of man portrayed
- D. A Second tree good for food (3:6). The cross is good for food for the

Soul. The Second tree makes one wise - the cross is the “wisdom of God.”

The Place

- A. The tree is the place of the curse (Gen 2)
- B. The tree is the place where rest is found (Gen. 18:1-4)
- C. The tree is the ground of communion (Gen. 18:1-4)
- D. The tree is the principle of action (Ex. 15:23-25)

VI. The Helper (2:18-25)

1. The need of man for fellowship
 - animals will not suffice
2. “Not good” to be alone - a “helper”
 - as helper, she enables man to be and become what God intended
 - what the man lacks, she supplies
 - *at the fall, the woman listened to the serpent, the man listened to the woman and they made a mistake
 - like the two halves of the human brain, one is no good without the other
3. The dignity of woman (18-22)
 - A. Not a lesser creature - made in the same image as man (1:27)
 - B. Both exercised dominion over creation (29)
 - C. Presented to Adam as a special gift
 - D. “Hand-made” by God - the method shows her to be special
 - *The creation of woman and her value is unique to the cosmogonies of other cultures - God intended woman to be equally important to man
 - note how God contemplates her creation
4. Marriage:
 - A. Companionship
 - B. The gift of our sexuality - multiply and replenish the earth
 - C. Illustration of our relationship with God (Eph. 5:22-23) - a great mystery
 - note that Adam’s side was opened, but so was the side of Jesus
 - D. Union with man
 - from his own flesh and blood
 - from his side, not his head nor feet
 - one flesh - break this bond with physical union with another (of course Christ took this deeper)
 - E. There is perfect ease between them
 - F. She is valued for herself, not the children she gives him
 - G. Man does not really live until he loves - giving himself away *
5. **Going crazy with Eve**
 - A. Taken from Adam’s side - so was the church
 - B. Adam put to sleep - so was Christ
 - C. Adam and Jesus - Recaptured what had been “lost”
 - D. First Adam had his Eve (bride)
 - Second Adam has His Church (bride)
 - E. Being saved makes us “one flesh” with Christ
 - F. “Presented to God” without spot or blemish
 - G. He will never leave us nor forsake us - why? We are His bride