



In the Beginning

A study of Genesis Chapters 1 - 11

Christian Life Assembly

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The Journey 2018

In the Beginning

- Genesis 2:1 So the creation of the heavens and the earth and everything in them was **completed**. 2 On the seventh day God had finished his work of creation, so he **rested from all his work**. 3 And **God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy**, because it was the day when he rested from all his work of creation.
- Creation was completed, God rested from His work, and he declared the 7th day (Saturday to us) to be Holy.



In the Beginning

- The idea of a sabbath rest appears elsewhere in the Bible and has its roots in Genesis 2, but the word “sabbath” is nowhere to be found in Genesis 2.
- God rested on the 7th day of creation and will later in history command that Israel rest on the 7th day for a specific reason – a sign of the Mosaic covenant to be observed by Israel.
- Exodus 31:12 The Lord then gave these instructions to Moses:
13 “**Tell the people of Israel:** ‘Be careful to keep my Sabbath day, ***for the Sabbath is a sign of the covenant between me and you*** from generation to generation.



In the Beginning

- In the Genesis account of creation and on until God gives Israel the sabbath as a sign of the Mosaic covenant, man is not given a command to rest.
- Adam and Eve were not commanded to rest – they probably never got tired.
- Oh to have life again as it was before the fall – but wait, that's right, that is exactly the future of the believer.



In the Beginning

- The 7th day brought to pass *an indefinite period of time* wherein God had no work to do – creation was complete and since there was no sin, there was no decay to refurbish.
- *It is in this time that God simply delighted in the work of His hands and was thoroughly enjoying the perfection of His creation.*
- At the end of the 7th day there was no “there was evening and there was morning” statement because the 7th day of rest was not to cease.



In the Beginning

- God also declared the 7th day as “holy” – when we speak of God as being holy we mean that He is completely “other than” and “above” anyone and anything else that exists.
- When God declared the 7th day as “holy” He meant that it was a different sort of day that should be used to remember the Creator of all things created in the other 6 days.
- The question most Christians have today is “what does it mean to me?” – is there some sabbath that I am to observe?



In the Beginning

- Now that Jesus has come, now that He has fulfilled the law, is there a sabbath for anyone? (No)
- Heb 8:13 In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.
- Jesus treated the sabbath like any other day of the week – that is to say it was a day to glorify God like all other days.



In the Beginning

- There is no such thing as a Christian sabbath and there is no scriptural support for Sunday being the Christian sabbath.
- Once Paul “turned to the Gentiles” the only mention of the sabbath was to inform us of its irrelevance.
- Col 2:16 So don't let anyone condemn you for what you eat or drink, or for not celebrating certain holy days or new moon ceremonies or Sabbaths. 17 For these rules are only shadows of the reality yet to come. And Christ himself is that reality. (why celebrate the type when we have the real)



In the Beginning

- Amazingly what has not changed, no matter where you go in the world is this - everyone recognizes and counts days and time based on a 7 day week.
- And it is an odd idea for the world to keep because the length of a solar year whether it's 360, 365, or 366 days is not divisible by 7.
- It's one of those things that goes unnoticed by the world that points to the biblical account of a 6 day creation with a 7th of day rest. 😊



In the Beginning

- Gen 2:4 This is the account of the creation of the heavens and the earth. When the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, 5 neither wild plants nor grains were growing on the earth. For the Lord God had not yet sent rain to water the earth, and there were no people to cultivate the soil. 6 Instead, springs came up from the ground and watered all the land. 7 Then the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man's nostrils, and the man became a living person.



In the Beginning

- To provide a little more light on where we are in creation in Genesis 2 – up until the creation of man, all that God had done was to erect a stage on which His redemption plan would play out.
- Like all stages, the one on which we live is temporary and will one day be supplanted with a permanent one.
- For now though, this earth is the set for the drama of the ages – the stage is temporary, but the results of the events on the stage will stand forever.



In the Beginning

- Gen 2:4 has caused some confusion – some have thought that it was a 2nd and different account of creation.
- “Gen 2:4 This is the account of the creation of the heavens and the earth.”
- On the contrary, the Genesis 1 account was the broad stroke and the Genesis 2 account provides more details. (think newspaper headline versus the story itself)



In the Beginning

- Genesis 2:5 “neither wild plants nor grains were growing on the earth.”
- This seems to be a strange time to state “neither wild plants nor grains were growing on the earth.”
- But is it some contextual marker? See what follows – “For the Lord God had not yet sent rain to water the earth, and there were no people to cultivate the soil. 6 Instead, springs came up from the ground and watered all the land.”



In the Beginning

- The “wild plants nor grains” phrase is thought by some commentators to be more likely the “thorns and thistles” of Genesis 3.
- Gen 3:17 And to the man he said, “Since you listened to your wife and ate from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat, the ground is cursed because of you. All your life you will struggle to scratch a living from it. 18 *It will grow thorns and thistles for you, though you will eat of its grains.*”



In the Beginning

- Prior to the fall, man did not have to work for his food and he didn't eat that which comes from grains – bread. (no tilling of the soil before the fall)
- So when Genesis 2:5 tells us - “neither wild plants nor grains were growing on the earth.” It may be a marker laid down to tell us that the conditions in Genesis 2 are pre-fall.
- It was Moses' way of ensuring that what he was writing was seen as pre-fall conditions – so when he writes there were no thorns, thistles, bread, or rain his reader would see the context.



In the Beginning

- Some of the commentators believe that this is God's way of telling us that He is not going back to day #2 of creation when there was no vegetation, but that He is underscoring the conditions on earth were still pre-fall.
- After all, by the time Moses is writing all man knew was life after the fall so God is setting the context.
- The time is before rain, maybe as much as 1,000 years before the earth had its first rain in Noah's day.



In the Beginning

- The original conditions on the earth – God’s provision for sustaining life on the planet was to water plants, and to refresh both man and beast with what we might call artesian wells.
- The plain reading of the text tells us as much. After stating that this was before rain we read – “Instead, springs came up from the ground and watered all the land.”



In the Beginning

- I am not sure exactly what to picture here, but I think it would be a mistake to picture one big sappy mess of mud.
- I suspect it was more like what a sprinkler system would do – gush water for awhile and then cease at the right time.
- If man can program water sprinkling systems, surely God could do it better without the aid pipe and computers.



In the Beginning

- Regarding rain – most, but not all scholars agree that rain did not happen on the earth until the flood of Noah's day.
- It is somewhat of an open question, but I believe it did not rain before Noah's day because the first references to rain in the bible both have to do with God being the causation for rain.
- Later on we will see that God uses the sending and withholding of rain as a means of blessing and judgment.



In the Beginning

- Gen 2:5 *For the Lord God had not yet sent rain* to water the earth.
- Gen 7:4 *“Seven days from now I will make the rains pour down on the earth.”* And it will rain for forty days and forty nights, until I have wiped from the earth all the living things I have created.”
- This is a not a neat and tidy 1st reference, but they are the first two mentions of rain in the bible.



In the Beginning

- 7 Then the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man's nostrils, and the man became a living person.
- So now the Genesis 2 account begins to provide more details about the creation of man – “Adam was formed out of the dust of the ground”.
- Psalm 103:14 For he knows how weak we are; he remembers we are only dust.



In the Beginning

- Depending on who you ask, the chemicals and minerals that makeup the human body are worth between \$3.50 and \$15.00 – petty humbling.
- However, Moses didn't stop with us being mere dust, he goes on to tell us that God Himself breathed life into Adam and he became a living soul.
- 1st Cor 15:45 The Scriptures tell us, “The first man, Adam, became a living person.” But the last Adam—that is, Christ—is a life-giving Spirit.



In the Beginning

- Jesus said in Mark 8:36 - And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? 37 Is anything worth more than your soul?
- So while the material components of ourselves are all but worthless, our souls are the most valuable thing we have.
- To be a living person, a possessor of a “soul” is a beautiful thing ordained by God, given by God, and redeemed by the blood of God’s Son – how valuable is that!



In the Beginning

- I would think it a ludicrous proposition that God would send His own son to die for the chemicals and minerals that make up our \$15.00 human bodies.
- But He did send Jesus to “redeem” us – buy us back is the meaning of redemption and it cost Him the life of His Son. Now who would trade their son for \$15.00?
- So what does that say about the value God places on each and everyone of us!



In the Beginning

- Another sort of open question to some is this – “is there a difference between the soul and the spirit of a human?”
- At times the bible seems to use the words interchangeably and as distinct and separate parts from each other in other places. The proof text for me is Heb 4:12.
- Heb 4:12 For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, *cutting between soul and spirit*, between joint and marrow.



In the Beginning

- Gen 2:8 Then the Lord God planted a garden in Eden in the east, and there he placed the man he had made. 9 The Lord God made all sorts of trees grow up from the ground—trees that were beautiful and that produced delicious fruit. In the middle of the garden he placed the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- By this time all matter had been created, so the language shifts from created to “planted” regarding what has been commonly called the Garden of Eden.



In the Beginning

- Gen 2:10 A river flowed from the land of Eden, watering the garden and then dividing into four branches. 11 The first branch, called the Pishon, flowed around the entire land of Havilah, where gold is found. 12 The gold of that land is exceptionally pure; aromatic resin and onyx stone are also found there. 13 The second branch, called the Gihon, flowed around the entire land of Cush. 14 The third branch, called the Tigris, flowed east of the land of Asshur. The fourth branch is called the Euphrates.
- If the Tigris and Euphrates mentioned are the same rivers by those names today, that would put the Garden of Eden somewhere in the Middle East, likely in Iraq – but are they the same rivers?



In the Beginning

**Where was Eden according to
Answers in Genesis?**



Questions

