

3. The first man and woman

2/27/2005

Last week we went over the history of creation by God. In a typical Hebrew writing style, the author Moses of the Book of Genesis is going back over the history of creation in details.

We'll get to know more about how our God created the earth, the Garden of Eden, especially about the first marriage of the mankind from today's study.

A. THE DAY GOD RESTED

Genesis 2:1-3 Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. 2 And on the seventh day God ended 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 in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

God did not need rest on the seventh day because He was tired. He rested to show His creating work was done and to show us an example of resting.

Some of you who know me are thinking, "Yeah, why don't you listen to your own teaching, bro?" Because they know that I have three jobs and very busy, as the pastor of Calvary Chapel of Sahuarita, as an assistant pastor and graphic designer for Calvary Chapel of Tucson and as a web and graphic designer for my own side business. I have not had a full day off since our previous vacation in last August. You might say, "Didn't you have a vacation while you were in Israel?" I don't think that you can categorize it as a vacation. Because we were in training from early in the morning until late night.

So, I must admit that I am a bad example in taking time off and rest. However, after the Pastors Conference that I organize and execute and our Resurrection Celebration in next month, I will take sometime off. I promise.

God sanctified the seventh day because it was a gift to man for rest and replenishment.

The Seventh Day Adventists condemn Christians for not worshipping the Lord on Saturdays. Because according to the Old Testament law, they believe that we all must worship the Lord on Sabbath which is Saturday.

Christians are not under obligation to observe the Sabbath today, because Jesus fulfilled the purpose and plan of the Sabbath for us and in us. Every day is a day of rest in the finished work of Jesus Christ. Every day is specially set apart to God.

Colossians 2:16-17 So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.

B. THE HISTORY OF THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH

Genesis 2:4-7 This is the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, 5 before any plant of the field was in the earth and before any herb of the field had grown. For the Lord God had not caused it to rain on the earth, and there was no man to till the ground; 6 but a mist went up from the earth and

watered the whole face of the ground. 7 And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

Physically, man was taken out of the ground. It is quite interesting that our bodies are made up of about fifteen or sixteen chemical elements. Those same chemical elements are in the ground. The physical part of man was taken out of the dust of the ground. If we were to be boiled down into the separate chemical elements of which we are made, we would be worth very little in terms of money. Some say \$2.98, but inflation factor has increased that figure a little more, maybe \$6 to \$7. Yes, we humans are made out of dirt which is literally 'dirt cheap'. But the same time, we are made in the image of God which cannot be counted in monetary measurement.

We are created for His pleasure and we are created because our God loves us so much. Our God wants to have close relationship with us. That is why we are made in His image.

C. ADAM IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN

Genesis 2:8-9 The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. 9 And out of the ground the Lord God made every tree grow that is pleasant 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.

Some consider the fact of the Garden of Eden as a fairy tale. It is not. It was a very real paradise where God designated for the first man and woman to be in.

The tree of life was to grant eternal life to mankind. That means that if we had a fruit of the Tree of Life, we would be forever young. That would put the majority plastic surgeons out of business.

People around the world spent about 10 billion dollar per year to keep themselves look young with just about any kinds of procedures including 'Nip and Tuck' and dangerous 'Botox Cosmetic' method. I am beginning to have a lot of white hairs on my head. Actually, I like them. Who knows people might think that I am wise now since I have white hairs.

The tree of the knowledge of good and evil was the 'test tree of human's obedience to God'. I don't believe that it was any special fruit tree. It was a matter of obedience to God's command.

'The knowledge of good' would bring the conscience that accepts and obeys the Holy Spirit's commands. 'The knowledge of evil' would awake our disobedience in sinful nature as a free will agent.

Genesis 2:10-15 Now a river went out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it parted and became four riverheads. 11 The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one which skirts the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. 12 And the gold of that land is good. Bdellium and the onyx stone are there. 13 The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one which goes around the whole land of Cush. 14 The name of the third river is Hiddekel; it is the one which goes toward the east of Assyria. The fourth river is the Euphrates. 15 Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.

Nobody knows the exact location of the Garden of Eden. But many scholars believe that it is somewhere in the Tigris-Euphrates valley.

Genesis 2:16-17 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 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."

God put Adam into the most spectacular paradise the world has seen, but God put Adam there to do work.

God not only made His command clear to Adam, but He also clearly explained the consequences for disobedience.

D. THE FIRST WEDDING IN THE PARADISE

Genesis 2:18-20 And the Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." 19 Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.

Hundreds and thousands animals received their names from Adam. None of them got duplicated name. Adam must have been a brilliant man.

God knew what Adam was lacking before he even realized: His helper, his soul mate, his the-other-half, his woman.

I wouldn't be surprised if Adam came to God and ask Him to give him a woman. He probably has said, "I'd like to start a family, too, God. I will call it "Adam's Family".

Genesis 2:21-22 And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. 22 Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we are witnessing the first wedding of mankind. God walked Eve down to Adam and presenting her to be his wife. I am sure that it was a pleasant surprise for Adam to see his beautiful wife Eve after he woke up from his deep sleep.

The woman is taken from the side of Adam. God didn't take her from his head to be his superior, nor from his foot to be his inferior. But God took her from Adam's side to be equal with him, under his arm so that he can protect her, close to his heart so that he can love her.

If you are single person and waiting for that perfect one for yourself, please do not be in a hurry. While you wait upon the Lord as Adam did, He will bring the right person to you.

As God brought Adam's bride Eve from the side of the first Adam, our Father in heaven brought the bride of Christ, the church, from the wounded side of the Second Adam Jesus.

Many people think that the spouse whom they are going to marry or they have, should fulfill their lives. Obviously, they cannot and will not. There is only one who can fulfill anyone's life. It is Jesus. It is no wonder why a person feels empty deep down in his heart, because that person does not have Jesus as his Savior and Lord.

According to MODERN BRIDE magazine, the average bride-to-be spends 150 hours planning her wedding. The average groom-to-be spends 150 hours saying, "Yeah... sounds good." If both sides spend even 15 hours of their time in studying God's plan for marriage and obey it, I am sure that we wouldn't have this high rate of divorce in this country.

Probably you are thinking, "Pastor, why were you reading MODERN BRIDE magazine?" I am just quoting from someone who have read it. So don't give me that look.

By the way, the whole events of the creation of the animals and birds, naming them and creating Adam and Eve were done on the sixth day. Not later.

One day, Adam came to God and asked Him, "How come did you make Eve so beautiful and soft, Lord?" God answered with a gentle smile, "So you can love her." A little later, Adam had this puzzle look on his face and asked, "Then how come you made her stupid?" God looked at him squarely in his eyes and answered, "So she can love you."

E. GOD'S PRINCIPLES OF MARRIAGES

1 Peter 3:7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with them [your wives] with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

Everything in the marriage relationship is intertwined. If your marriage isn't healthy, then your relationship with God will suffer and vice versa. The Apostle Peter tells husbands to dwell with their wives with understanding. To "dwell with understanding" means that husbands are to be aligned to their wives and be united with them in thoughts, goals, plans, and efforts. In essence, Peter tells husbands that if they don't treat their wives with understanding, their prayers will be hindered.

Your relationship with God and with your spouse will thrive – not just survive – if you bury the hatchet and don't let the sun go down while you are still angry with one another.

Husbands, if you really love your wife as Christ loved the church, your wife will follow God's will. She will submit to you. It will not happen because you demand. It will come to reality, because you love her very much and sacrifice for her. True headship comes from sacrifice and love of your part. It thrives when a husband says in action: "I love you. I want to help you." Your wife will respect you for that.

Wives, if you truly submit to your husband as unto the Lord, your husband will love you to the point that he will sacrifice his desires for yours. He will exalt you, putting you and your needs before his own. You will have a husband who loves you as his own body.

If we want our marriages not only to survive but thrive, we must get back to God's original design. We must read and obey the Word of God and leave the rest to Him.

If you'd like to learn more about the God's principles of marriage, we have a marriage class going on Sunday evenings by Merrill and Cindy Simon at the River of Life Church. I highly recommend it.

Some husbands and wives think that because they have bad marriages or don't love their spouses, they think that they can bail out to look for somebody else. They think that the grass is greener on the other side of the fence. Oh yeah, it is greener around the septic tank.

The likelihood of married adults getting divorced is identical among born-again Christians and those who are not born-again, according to a new study released by the Barna Group. The study also found that most Americans reject the notion that divorce is a sin. Whether you consider divorce as a sin or not, God does. So if you are considering a divorce to look for a new love in all the wrong places, remember this preacher's warning: "Repent, you are sinning. God will judge you for your sin of divorce."

Mal 2:16 "For the Lord God of Israel says That He hates divorce, For it covers one's garment with violence," Says the Lord of hosts. "Therefore take heed to your spirit, That you do not deal treacherously."

Genesis 2:23-25 And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man." 24 Therefore (1) a man shall leave his father and mother and (2) be joined to his wife, and (3) they shall become one flesh. 25 And (4) they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

I find four simple, yet profound principles of marriage:

- 1) **SEVERANCE:** "a man shall leave his father and mother"
- 2) **PERMANENCE:** "be joined to his wife"
- 3) **UNITY:** "they shall become one flesh"
- 4) **INTIMACY:** "they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed"

Don't expect that these principles are going to work in your marriage automatically just because you said, "I do." You have to work hard at it. Do you know how to ruin your marriage? Don't do anything. It dissolves itself in no time.

F. APPLICATIONS

- 1) **Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.** Eph 5:25
- 2) **Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.** Eph 5:22
- 3) **So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.** Mt 19:6