

• LESSON 3 (January 18) •

The Beginning of Mankind

These are the generations
of the heavens and the earth when they were created,
in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens. (Gen 2:4)

Take a moment to refresh yourself on Genesis 1. Then read Genesis 2.

- ❖ What do you notice? What do Genesis 1 and Genesis 2 have in common?
- ❖ If there is some overlap, why do we even have the material in Genesis 2?
- ❖ According to Genesis 2:7, what went into making the man “a living creature”? What does this mean and how does it shape our understanding of man’s relationship with God?

And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. (Gen 2:9)

- ❖ What was this “tree of life”? How does God’s statement in Genesis 3:22 deepen our understanding of this tree? Can you find other references in the Bible to the “tree of life”?
- ❖ And what about the “tree of the knowledge of good and evil”? Take some time to reflect on the existence of such a tree. Why would God have placed it in the garden to begin with?

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. (Gen 2:15)

- ❖ Is there anything we can learn from this verse?

And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 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.” (Gen 2:16-17)

- ❖ What right did the LORD God have to command the man in this way?
- ❖ “For in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” Why would God tell the man, in the midst of such a perfectly “good” creation, such a horrible, awful thing?

Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” (Gen 2:18)

- ❖ This is the first time in Genesis we read of something being “not good.” Based on everything we learned in Genesis 1, the man is surrounded by living things. So what does God mean by “alone”?
- ❖ “I will make him a helper fit for him.” What can we learn from this divine statement?

Take the time to carefully read and reflect on Genesis 2:21-25.

- ❖ What do we learn from what God did in Genesis 2:21-22?
- ❖ What do we learn from what the man said in Genesis 2:23?
- ❖ What should we make of the summary statement in Genesis 2:24? Who quoted this verse millennia later, and for what purpose?
- ❖ Finally, is there anything we can learn from Genesis 2:25?