

## GENESIS: GRACE FROM THE BEGINNING

### OUR PERFECT FATHER

Genesis 2:7-25

The creation account here is a detailed breakdown of what happened on the sixth day of creation earlier summarized in chapter one. The way God created man and the universe speaks volumes on the character of God. Most of all, the way the Word of God reiterates the creation of man and woman, and how God the Father took special care not only in their creation but also in their provision, reveals to us what a perfect Father we have.

For a task that no college course prepares them for, what better example for earthly fathers to learn good fatherhood from, than the most perfect Father of all?

**1. GOD THE FATHER GIVES LIFE (v. 7):** God created man from dust and the breath of life.

- Adam was created from mere dirt. In a world where the origin of something designates its value, being made from dirt should give us pause (Genesis 18:27). But when it came to His crowning achievement, God decided to actually “get his hands dirty.” He took what was insignificant and from it made life. And Scripture considers our being made from dirt as a sign of our dependence on God (Psalm 103:14).
- Adam received from God himself the breath of life, something no other creature obtained. God gave man a life unique to mankind. Animals have life too, but man has a portion of deity within him because he was made in the image of God. Man did not get a soul but he *became* one—he became a person.

**2. GOD THE FATHER GRACIOUSLY PROVIDES.**

a) He provides for our physical needs (vv. 8-14): God placed man in Eden and provided food, including the Tree of Life.

b) He provides meaningful labor (vv. 15-20): God gives man responsibility and authority.

- Work is often thought to be a consequence of the Fall, but notice that in the perfect world that God created, man was created to work as a means to glorifying the Lord.
- The concepts of “work it” and “take care of it” involve two Hebrew verbs that are used later for spiritual service—for both worshiping and keeping the

commandments of God. Whatever activity man was to engage in the garden (and there is no reason to doubt that physical activity was involved), it was described in terms of spiritual service of the Lord.

- Man was not created to be lazy or to be a workaholic. His work was to involve a fulfillment of God's mandate to him in a place where he could find true rest and accomplishment.

c) He provides support and companionship (vv. 21-25): God created Eve to solve the incompleteness of man.

*"The woman was formed out of man—not out of his head to rule over him; not out of his feet to be trampled upon by him; but out of his side to be his equal, from beneath his arm to be protected, and from near his heart to be loved."*

- Matthew Henry

- It is no coincidence that woman was to be a "help" to the man, a word mostly used in the Old Testament for God's assistance (Exodus 18:4, Deuteronomy 33:26, Psalm 124:8). Eve was, as is every godly wife, literally a "Godsend".

- The fact that procreation is obviously God's method for offspring to come about in the animal world indicates that the woman was never an afterthought in the mind of God. She was created after man so that he might first experience loneliness, and then recognize her great value to him.

**3. GOD THE FATHER LOVINGLY PROTECTS AND GUIDES (v. 17):** God warns man from danger.

- Genesis 2:17: "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."

### **Final Thoughts:**

The *majestic* God of Genesis 1 who transcends time and space is the same relational God of Genesis 2 who is intimately involved in the lives of his people. In this passage, God is exalted to the highest of places as sovereign Creator, supreme Ruler, and compassionate Father.

But here we also see the Perfect Father in three roles that shows earthly fathers today how we can raise our families: as Priest (He gives life), as Provider (He provides for their needs), and as Protector (He guides and protects). As we contemplate these roles, may we see that God has called all fathers (and mothers) not to perfection, but to faithfulness. This is not the day for "guilty dad" syndrome, but a day to say "Thank you Lord, for the wonderful task of being a father like you."

**HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!**