

**For Note-Takers: Underline any words or phrases which stand out to you. Circle words or phrases that you have a question about.**

1. After telling us all the details of His Creation week, God's Word gives us a closer picture of the sixth day with a focus on the beginning of humanity. The history of the book of Genesis which follows takes us through everything that happened from the life of Adam, the first man, to the first existence of God's chosen people, Israel. These generations make up the start of God's plan to save His people through the work of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
2. God had finished everything in Creation that was part of His plan, but had not yet created man. There was a mist coming up from the ground that was watering the plant life that God had created. But God had not caused the first rain to fall from the skies and thus there were no smaller bushes or plants in His Creation. Because God had not yet created man, there was no one to do the work of cultivating the plant life that God had created.
3. God then desired to create the first human being, Adam, who was made in His image. But even though Adam would be made in God's image and in the image of Christ, he would be formed from the dust of the ground. Humanity would always know their humble beginnings from God's Word here in the Creation story. In order to create Adam, the first man, God breathed His own breath

into the dust that He had formed and gave Adam his first breath, the breath of life. From the dust that God had formed, Adam became a living creature.

4. God planted a garden in the eastern part the world and He placed Adam there. This garden in Eden was part of God's perfect Creation. Because of its flawless perfection, the garden in Eden was extremely beautiful. Even though Adam was totally alone there except for the presence of God, He gave Adam many blessings that were pleasant to the eye and pleasant to eat. God gave Adam everything he could ever need in the garden, including the tree of life. But Adam was the only human being that existed in the entire world.

*“Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”*

*Genesis 2:18*

5. The perfection and glory of God was amazing. He had created a great paradise in Eden for Adam to experience. Four different rivers divided from the river of Eden to water the garden where Adam lived. These rivers were the Pishon river which circled the land of Havilah, the Gihon river that circled the land of Cush, the Tigris river, which

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- flowed through Assyria, and the Euphrates river. We can still locate in the world some of these rivers today. There were also precious resources in the land like gold, bdellium, and onyx. The land of Eden was a real place on the newly created Earth and God has established this reality in His Word by telling us about the geography of its location.
6. Adam would not sit idle in the garden of Eden, but would be given satisfaction through his work that God gave him to do. Because there was no sin or death, Adam’s work would not be painful or burdening in this perfect world that God had created. Work was not originally intended to be difficult, but instead a blessing for man. In Christ, work has again become a blessing to His people as it was meant to be by God. It truly was paradise for Adam, yet Adam was still alone.
  7. God gave Adam only one command that he must obey. Adam could eat of every single tree in the garden, but must not eat of one specific tree, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God explained to Adam that when he did eat the fruit from this tree, he would die. God had created a world without any sin or death in it. Everything in the world was perfect, sinless, and good for the sake of Adam whom God had created. But when Adam ate the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, all of that would change. The goodness and love of God could not be questioned. But disobeying God by eating the

forbidden fruit would lead to an entire history of sin, pain, and struggle between good and evil.

8. The perfection of God’s Creation was complete. There was nothing else that Adam could ever hope to want or need. But there was still one thing that was not finished about God’s work in Creation. Before God would create His Sabbath rest on the seventh day of the Creation week, it was not good that Adam should be alone as the only human being. So, God desired for Adam to have a companion to share his work in the garden.
9. God brought before Adam all the beasts on the land and every bird that flew in the skies so that Adam could decide what the name of each of these animals would be. God had given authority to Adam over all these creatures and part of that authority was the privilege to name each creature. After much time spent naming each animal, there was not found a single creature that would make a proper companion for Adam. It was still not good that Adam was alone.

### **Application #1**

God created us without sin. He gave us everything that we could want or need. But because of Adam’s sin all of us have been corrupted by sin. However, in Christ we are now given the power

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to obey God from the heart as we were intended to do. Through the power of Christ’s work in His life, death, and resurrection, seek to love God and love our neighbor as we look forward to a new creation where everything is perfect and without sin once again, as it was in Eden.

### **Application #2**

In Eden, Adam had everything one could ever want, but God still said that it was not good for him to be alone. Although this is said in the context of marriage, the principle is that isolation and aloneness are not natural for us. We must always be seeking greater Christian fellowship and deeper Christian relationships. These can only be found in the physical fellowship of the church. Make every effort to serve and love your brothers and sisters in Christ at every opportunity.

## **Genesis 2:4-20**

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> When no bush of the field was yet in

the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground, <sup>6</sup> and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground— <sup>7</sup> then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. <sup>8</sup> And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed.

<sup>9</sup> 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

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knowledge of good and evil. <sup>10</sup> A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers. <sup>11</sup> The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. <sup>12</sup> And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. <sup>13</sup> The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush. <sup>14</sup> And the name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

<sup>15</sup> The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. <sup>16</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You

may surely eat of every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup> 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.” <sup>18</sup> Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” <sup>19</sup> Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.

<sup>20</sup> The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam

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there was not found a helper fit for  
him.

**“Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her, that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the Word, so that He might present the Church to Himself in splendor, that she might be holy. In the same way, husbands, love your wives, just as Christ does the Church. So, as the Church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in every circumstance. This mystery of marriage is profound, and it points to Christ and the Church.”**

**(Paraphrase of Ephesians 5:24-32)**