

OT Survey 2 – Jun 7, 2020 – Genesis 1:26-2:25

Genesis 1:26–2:25 (ESV) - Then God said, “Let **us** [*Trinity implied – cf “Him” in v 27*] make man in **our** image, after our likeness. And let them **have dominion over** the fish of the sea and **over** the birds of the heavens and **over** the livestock and over all the earth and **over** every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” [*DOMINION, not just like animals. Leadership/stewardship*]

²⁷ So God created man in **his** own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

[1) Trinity - cf vs 26 “us/our” and cf Mt 28:19 – “the name (singular) of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit”. 2) The ORDER of creation focused on in Gen 2 is important in showing different roles, but FIRST God emphasizes the SIMILARITY with male and female – BOTH created in God’s image. 3) Gen 1:27 is FOUNDATIONAL to why Christians must be pro-life, from conception to natural death – EVERY human is made in God’s image. This gets horribly distorted from Gen 3 on, but STILL every human is made in God’s image – Gen 9:6, James 3:9. 4) Only TWO genders, and this is part of God’s “very good” (v 31) creation!]

²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” [*See “Be Fruitful and Multiply” at end...*] ²⁹ And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. [*Notice God BLESSING and COMMANDING His creation. Note that ALL VEGETARIAN so far in creation (until Gen 9:1-3 for humans. See Rom 5:12, telling that death entered the world when sin did, in Gen 3.)*]

³¹ And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. [*GOD says what is “good” (Gen 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31)! In Gen 3, Eve tries to determine something as GOOD apart from God’s plan, and it brings disaster and death into the world.*]

^{2:1} Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. ² And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation. [*Clearly not because He was tired – see the EASE of creation emphasized! But God IS establishing the 7-day week, and laying out the principle that PEOPLE need rest. See more under “Day of Rest” at end of paper...*]

⁴ These are the generations [*1st of 11 times in Gen – used to introduce a “focusing in” section*] of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens. ⁵ 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,⁶ and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground—⁷ 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.

⁸ And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed.⁹ 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.¹⁰ A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers... *[Eden was somewhere in the Middle East. The main point is, Eden was an ACTUAL place – NOT a poetic symbol! And Adam and Eve were ACTUAL people.]*

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden,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.”

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

[1) Adam created first and Eve created as his helper is NOT an accident, but part of God’s “very good” (1:31) creation. THIS is the reason (NOT some mixed up culture in Paul’s day) that there are different roles for men and women in marriage and church leadership (see 1 Cor 11:3, 8-12; 1 Tim 2:12-13). But don’t go to the OTHER ditch and over-emphasize the differences - see Gen 1:27-28, Gal 3:28, 1 Cor 11:11-12, 1 Pet 3:7. 2)What about singles? The FIRST way God established to meet humans’ need for fellowship with other humans was marriage and family, but Jesus makes clear in Mk 3:31-35, 10:28-30, Gal 6:10, Eph 2:19 that the CHURCH becomes family for one another. Marriage and singleness are BOTH callings/gifts from God (Mt 19:10-12, 1 Cor 7:6-9, 25-38).]

¹⁹ 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.²⁰ The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him.²¹ So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. *[There’s a long line of Bible stories, where at key moments the main HUMAN characters were sleeping, but GOD was fulfilling His will! - Gen 2:21, 15:12, 28:16, Jonah 1:5, Mt 26:40, Mk 14:37, Lk 22:45]*

²² And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.²³ Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.”²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

[1] Trinity implication – “one” here is Heb “echad” (same as Deut 6:4 – “the LORD is one”). So, TWO in one sense, and yet ONE in another – similar to the Trinity! No wonder that 1 Cor 11:3 makes further connections between husband and wife and the Tri-unity of God. 2) Eph 5:31-32 quotes this, making clear that God intended human marriage to be a picture of the love between Christ and His church. Eph 5:22-33 keeps switching back and forth between human marriage and Christ and the church.]

²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed. [Sex is GOD’s idea, and it is reserved for a man and wife – also see Mt 19:1-12 (so Jesus DID address homosexual marriage – it’s NOT recognized Biblically), and Heb 13:4. Although sex IS one of God’s good gifts, the only perfectly whole human who has ever lived never had sex. It is NOT necessary for wholeness! Though it IS important if you’re married – see Prov 5:15-19, 1 Cor 7:2-5.]

Be Fruitful and Multiply – Gen 1:28

Re-commanded in the new start after the Flood (Gen 9:7). Lines up with the Bible view of children as a gift/blessing/heritage from God – see Ps 127, 128. Fits with Biblical statements indicating that normally a marriage of believers (or even 1 believer – see 1 Cor 7:10-14) will have children that are pointed to the Lord (Mal 2:15, 1 Cor 7:10-14, Eph 5:22-6:4, Col 3:18-21). But Paul was unmarried (1 Cor 7:7-9), and looked at his mentorees as his spiritual children (1 Cor 4:17, 1 Tim 1:2, Titus 1:4). Does 1 Cor 7:29-31 mean things have changed, or may change in times of extreme distress?? Certainly, though, Christians need to reject the worldly concept of children as a burden to only be taken on very grudgingly.

Day of Rest – Gen 2:1-3

A **principle** of rest in Gen 2:1-3. Also see Ps 127:2, balanced with Pr 6:1-4, 9-11, 24:30-34. And see Mk 4:26-29 (though even Mk 4:27 is balanced by Mk 4:29, and by Lk 22:45-46). It does become a law under Moses (Ex 20:8-11) with the death penalty (Ex 31:13-17, exercised in Num 15:32-36). But Heb 3-4 indicates that the FULFILLMENT of this rest is available EVERY day (“today”) by resting in Jesus who FINISHED the work of salvation. Because of this, Col 2:16-17, Rom 14:5-13, I do NOT think that MOST believers are REQUIRED to keep a day of rest every week (though see Rom 14:5-6). We know that MANY early Christians were slaves whose masters wouldn’t LET them take a day off, and we NEVER see an example of NT believers instructed to disobey their masters about this. Because of Ex 31:16-17, do JEWISH people who come to Jesus still required to keep Sabbath?? I think not (unless required by your conscience – again, see Rom 14:5-6). Cf Lev 16:34, where the Day of Atonement is also called “a statute FOREVER,” but this has been fulfilled by Jesus! So “FOREVER” **can mean** “until it’s fulfilled/surpassed.” BUT it may well be WISE to take a day of rest, remember our creatureliness and resting in God’s sovereignty (and THAT would be the point of Rom 14:5-6).