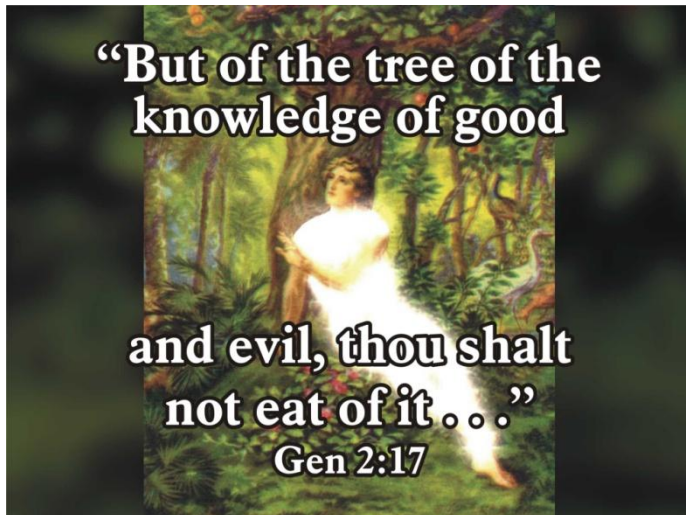


SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 3



THE CREATION OF MAN

Scripture Text: Genesis 2:7-24

Continuing the study of the Creation, we find in **Genesis, Chapter 2**, details of what was briefly told in **Chapter 1**.

Man was different from the beasts. He was made of two things – the dust of the ground and the breath of life. The breath from God made him a living soul. The first woman was made from the first man's rib, thus making her of the same substance and nature as man. Since all people came from this first pair, all of us are from one human family with the same nature

and position before God. All are souls. God placed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, establishing the home. He gave them one negative command – not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Eating would bring death.

MEMORY VERSE: *And so it is written, the first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.—1 Corinthians 15:45*

Something Eternal

Genesis 2:7 Of the dust of the ground. At first, man was not worth much, just a dust man, his body made of the earthly elements. Then, that wonderful moment – one of the greatest of all time – when the great Creator stooped to put His breath, **the breath of life**, within the earthly body, **and man became a living soul** – a priceless finished product. In that instant, something was added to man that placed him in a different class from all the rest of Creation on earth. He alone received **the breath of life**, alone **became a living soul**. In that instant began something that will never end. When the breath of the eternal God entered man, man became eternal too. That soul can never end. It was living then; it could die (for it did), but could never cease to be.

Man was made in the image of God. God gave him intelligence, will, the power of choice, and conscience. Within him were placed the emotions such as love, hope, sympathy, and mercy. He has the power of aspiration, that is, to reach toward and attain the fulfillment of an ideal. He can form a plan and work towards its achievement. He is a spiritual being, capable of fellowship with God, capable of being **partaker of the divine nature (2 Peter 1:4)**.

The human race is a unit; all came from the same beginning. All are children of Adam. The Bible tells us that the human race is one – a unit. **Genesis 3:20** speaks of the mother of all living. **Acts 17:26** tells us that God made of one blood all nations, and **Malachi 2:10** says we all have one father.

God Provided a Home

Genesis 2:8-17 And the Lord planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man... Only the approximate location of Eden is known. Eden is situated in Armenia, near the origin of the rivers, Tigris and Euphrates, and in which the same region rise the Araxes (Pison of Genesis) and the Oxus (Gihon).” – Smiths Bible Dictionary. The Hiddekel is the modern Tigris.

There were trees **pleasant to the sight** as well as those **good for food**. God cares for the nurture of the mind and spirit as well as for that of the body. Notice the beauty of nature around us. Imagine if it were taken away. Wouldn't the world be drab? God provided for the whole man, giving attention to both the spiritual and physical. He desires man's highest good, his greatest possible joy. As the crowning furnishing of the garden

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home, He placed in the midst **the tree of life** and the **tree of knowledge good and evil**. Both of these had a purpose there. It was only after man disobeyed and ate of the one tree that God removed the other from his reach. The tree of life is now in the Holy Spirit dispensation, where we are allowed to obtain and enjoy it through salvation. (**Revelation 22:2, 14**). **Thou shalt not eat** – God made very clear His Law concerning the eating of the fruit of the trees. Also clear was the penalty for disobedience. Without the one tree that he was warned to leave alone, man would have had no right of choice, thus having no way to prove his love to God. (**John 14:23; 1 John 5:3**).

God Provided Companionship

Genesis 2:18-20 Not good...alone. God had companionship – the Trinity is as close in nature, purpose, and accomplishments as to be called one. God desires also the companionship of man, and His love prompted Him to give companionship to man. It was to be that of a **help meet**. God gave Adam a part in the work of creation. He allowed him to name every living creature. He has given man a small part in His work in every age.

Genesis 2:21-24 The Lord God caused a deep sleep...the first anesthetic. He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh – the first operation. **And the rib...made he a woman** – made out of Adam, so she, too, was a living soul. They were related, of the same nature. Woman was not a new creation. She was made out of material already created. She was part of the creation of man. **Bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh** – not strangers or servants, but close, loving complements (finishing parts) of each other. **Therefore** – because they were of the same bone and flesh, of the same nature – God ordained marriage for them. He established the home in Eden, in the very beginning. The husband was to **cleave unto his wife**, or be separated unto her. They were to be one.

Belief as to source and nature has much to do with conduct. It is important that we should be conscious of our divine origin and high possibilities and our responsibility to live up to them, which cannot be done without the Savior. Since God made us and gave us life, He has complete claim upon us. How are you responding to that claim?

JUST A THOUGHT

The world owes you a living only when you have earned it.

This lesson is adapted from a lesson by Mary Lehmann.
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