

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

Genesis 2-4

Last week we looked at evidence for creation of universe based on Gen. 1.

Later we'll consider additional evidence for creation.

Next few weeks we want to consider what Genesis says about our foundation.

How did we get HERE?

How did we end up in the mess we're in?

Is this the way God planned for His world to be? *What happened to it?!!*

Genesis lays the foundation for a biblical world view.

Previous generations grew up with this foundation.

Increasingly, our generation isn't familiar with events that led to current reality.

Unless people understand how we got here,
we'll never understand where we are.

It's increasingly important for Christian parents to follow Moses' exhortation:

Tell our children what God has done and how we got here.

They'll never learn this part of our history in school!!

Genesis:

Genesis goes beyond historical facts;

explains Israel's birth and existence from God's perspective.

Genesis helps understand God's program for Israel throughout O.T.

In the process it helps US understand how WE got where we are also!

God's dealings with ALL MANKIND 1-11

God's dealings with Abraham's family 12-50

1-11 Lays foundation for world—FOCUS ON FOUR MAIN EVENTS:

Creation	1-2	Fall	3-4
Flood	5-9	Confusion	10-11

CREATION OF MAN 1-2

BEGINNING OF THE UNIVERSE 1:1-2:3

Moses describes how the One and Only, sovereign **God spoke**.

His spoken word **creates out of nothing** the world man lives in.

Though man isn't focus of Gen. 1, his creation is included.

1:26-27 Man is made in God's image. *Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*

Adam is designed to be **like God**. ***How is Adam like Him?***

NOT a physical likeness Adam has a body of flesh—**God is Spirit.**

Not a moral likeness. Man is sinful—**God is holy.**

Even Adam wasn't created holy. He's *innocent*; but *capable* of sinning.

God's *holiness* prevents Him from sinning.

God creates us "*like Himself*" in that He gave us *personality*.

God gave Adam a personality likeness,

so he could fellowship with a personal God.

In the beginning Adam and God enjoyed fellowship.

God walked in the garden, to enjoy fellowship with Adam.

God gave Adam the **basic components of personality:**

Intellect => to know God

Emotions => to love God

Will => to obey God

Personality => to fellowship with God

What are His responsibilities? 1:28-30 God blessed them and said to them, "*Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.*"²⁹ Then God said, "*I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food.*"³⁰ And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food." And it was so.

Be fruitful => produce fruit

Multiply => become many; make many

Fill the earth => populate it

Subdue the earth => cause it to submit to your authority

Rule over animals

This is all part of God's plan for man—God establishes sexual relations, and considers it VERY GOOD. Sex is *NOT the original sin!*

It's part of God's plan to populate the earth and control it.

God looks over what He made and it's *VERY GOOD!*

BEGINNING OF HUMANITY 2:4-25—closer look at creation of man.

Starts from beginning again, briefly referring to man's environment,

to describe how God made man and in a personal way gave him life 4-7

This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

When the LORD God made the earth and the heavens—⁵no shrub of the field

had yet appeared on the earth and no plant of the field had yet sprung up, for the LORD God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no man to work the ground,⁶ but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground—⁷ the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

His home is described—a **perfect, peaceful environment** (8-14)

Man has everything he needs to enjoy life

God gave Adam responsibility in the garden **2:15-17**

The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden;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.”

He has a job to occupy his time, abundant food to eat,
and a test of submission to God’s authority.

Living in perfect environment, he has only 1 problem:

Man is all alone! Is he really ALONE?

All the creatures surround him! –There’s no fear; no enmity.

But, there’s nothing like him with which to share his life.

Nothing conforms to what he is so he can enjoy companionship.

18 *The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone.*

I will make a helper suitable for him.”

Through work God gave him, Adam observes each creature.

He realizes there’s nothing like him. **He’s alone! 19-20** *Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name.²⁰ So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found.*

God solves problem by creating a suitable helper for man.

21-23 *So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs and closed up the place with flesh.²² Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.²³ The man said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man.”*

She’s taken from him and made one with him.

Paul observes—she's taken *from HIM*—therefore she's *subject to him*.

Author applies lesson to marriage: **24**

*For this reason a man will leave his father and mother
and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.*

Man and woman separate from parents, unite with each other,
become one flesh. —LEAVE—CLEAVE—BECOME ONE FLESH

Man and wife are to stand alone before everything and everyone else.

This is God's design—there's no sense of guilt. **25**

The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

Sin hasn't yet perverted their thought life!

Man uses his personality to enjoy fellowship with God.

He uses his **intellect** to observe the animals and name them **2:19-20**

He uses his **emotions** to love the woman God gave to him **2:21-25**

He uses his **will** to obey God **2:16-17** "Don't eat from that tree."

As Adam exercises these, he becomes better able to **fellowship** with God.

What a beautiful picture of how God intends life to be!

Adam had it all! He had everything going for him!

But then, something went wrong with the plan:

FALL OF MAN 3

BEGINNING OF SIN 3:1-6:8 THE FALL

In spite of perfect environment and absence of sin nature,

when Adam's submission to God's authority is put to the test, he fails.

Temptation to sin 3:1-5 "Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,³ but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"⁴ "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman.⁵ "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Serpent is instrument Satan uses to cause Eve to question God.

Temptation attacks each part of the personality

God gave us to facilitate fellowship with Him:

Intellect "Hath God said . . . ?" **3:1** Satan tempts Eve to **doubt facts**.

Emotions "God knows that" **3:4-5**

Satan tempts Eve to **doubt God's love.**

Will *"The woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye."* **3:6** Satan tempts Eve to disobey.

He gets her to **focus on what she wants.**

Eve begins to question God's truthfulness (1-4)

Eve begins to question God's love (5)

Could God be jealous? Could He be afraid we'll be like Him?

Once God's truthfulness and love are questioned, the issue's simple.

Eve only has to decide whether she wants to take what's forbidden.

Intrusion of sin 3:6

"When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it."

Eve falls in the trap and takes Adam with her.

Some say Adam's first mistake was listening to his wife!

Consequences of sin 3:7-24 Consequences begin immediately.

Sin causes radical changes in their home. *What's 1st thing that changes?*

Guilt 7 *"Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves."*

They immediately realize they're naked; they feel guilty.

There's a new barrier between them.

Sin introduced into marriage a change

which ruined something beautiful that God created.

What God intended to be good has been perverted by sin!

Broken fellowship 8-11 *"Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the LORD God called to the man, 'Where are you?' 10 He answered, 'I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.' 11 And he said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?'"*

When God walks through the garden seeking fellowship, guilt causes them to hide from Him, rather than enjoy fellowship

People can no longer approach God. *There's a barrier!*

[3rd consequence:

Barrier between *them*—they get in a fight about whose *"fault"* it is!

They play the “blame/shame” game. “It’s all YOUR fault!!!”

Blaming one another 12-13 *“The man said, ‘The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.’”¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, ‘What is this you have done?’ The woman said, ‘The serpent deceived me, and I ate.’*

When God confronts them, rather than ask forgiveness, they begin to blame others.

Man 12 => “that woman” => “you gave her to me”
It’s HER fault! It’s YOUR fault!

Woman 13 => “that serpent” [= > Who made the serpent?]
It’s HIS fault! It’s YOUR fault!

Punishment 14-19

God is obligated to judge each of the participants. Not even **earth** escapes.

The serpent, in contrast to original elevated state,

becomes the lowliest of all creatures. 3:14-15

“So the LORD God said to the serpent, ‘Because you have done this, ‘Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.’¹⁵ And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

It will crawl around on its belly, eating dust.

In place of natural attraction between man and serpent—as most astute of beasts—God places hatred between them.

Relationship depicted as “heel vs. head.”

People try to crush snakes’ heads, snakes bite people on heel.

Woman will be reminded of her participation in the fall through pain in childbirth. 3:16 *“To the woman he said, ‘I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.’”*

Every new child born reminds us of Eve’s sin.

Instead of oneness between them, she becomes dependent.

Her life revolves around him and he rules over her.

Man, too, suffers for disobedience. 3:17-19

Work without fruit 17-19a

“To Adam he said, ‘Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat of it,’ ‘Cursed is the ground

because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. 18 It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. 19 By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food..."

The ground is cursed so he has to work hard for its produce.

After hard work, the ground yields bad crops and we start over.

How does this affect the home?

He comes home tired and frustrated.

He can't always provide her needs

Death—physical and spiritual **19b** *"... until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."*

Instead of enjoying eternal life in the garden,

we die and are buried, back in the ground again.

Our life has become an exercise in futility and frustration.

Suffering and sorrow during life, are followed by death.

Woman's role changes from man's companion

to mother of his children 20 *"Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living."*

Woman's new role in life is emphasized by name change.

Instead of **"woman" (ishshah)**, which points to her relationship and unity with man (*ish*),

. . . her name is changed to **"Eve"—mother** of his children.

Shame in nakedness and sexual relationships => Guilt **21** *"The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them."*

Knowledge of good and evil brings awareness of nakedness

Even though Adam and Eve are alone, they *feel* guilty.

God graciously provides covering for their bodies, as well as their guilt =>

He provides clothes of animal skins.

Expulsion from the garden—to assure man won't eat fruit of the tree of life and live forever **3:22-24** *"And the LORD God said, 'The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.'"*

²³ *So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken.* ²⁴ *After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.*

They're put out into a contaminated environment

God places angel at entrance, so man can't return to the garden.

Man's access to ideal environment is cut off.

As result of Adam's disobedience, we live in contaminated environment, destroyed marriage and family relationships, –separated from God.

What lessons does God want US to learn?

Ultimately, primary lesson: **Will WE believe what God says?**

Same issue Eve had to deal with! Will WE take God at His Word.

Satan still wants to tell us that we don't really have to believe God.

1. Human suffering is the result of human sin.

2. Satan uses sin to drive a wedge between you and your wife and to destroy the perfect marriage!

If we listen to him, he'll devour our marriage, and ultimately devour US!

Do you see what marriage between 2 people whose hearts aren't set on pleasing God produces?

Kids, decide while you're young that you're committed to establishing a marriage focused on living to please God. Alternative will destroy you!

3. Perfect environment won't assure submission to God.

4. Our response to God's will affects future generations.

The race is contaminated by Adam's sin

Death came on all, as result of his sin Rom 5:12-14; 1 Cor 15:21-22

–Adam's sin affects every generation

Consequences seen in the following generation:

4-6 Cain vs. Abel

Rom. 5:12–“... sin entered the world through one man, and death

through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned.”

Modern society–dysfunctional families produce dysfunctional families; immoral parents train immoral kids.

God's grace is still capable of restoring broken remnants!