

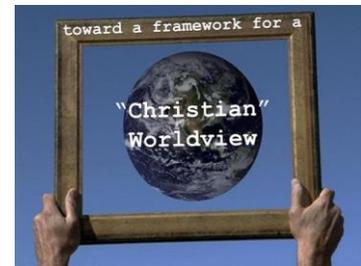
God Placed Adam in Eden¹
Spilman Memorial Baptist Church, Kinston, NC
Dr. H. Powell Dew, Jr.
June 28, 2020

Diaspora XV – The Church Scattered, Fifteenth Sunday

Text: Genesis 2:1-9, 16, 17

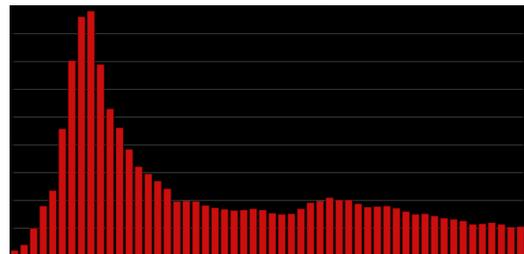
Purpose: To help us understand the sovereignty of God. God created Adam, and thus God could place Adam where He desired. God can do the same for each of us. God placed before Adam two choices. Continue to obey God or reject God as being the sole authority over man. When Adam rejected God, sin and death entered humanity. Today, God is still sovereign and man is still rejecting God.

It is becoming more apparent to me that the Christian worldview is losing the moral high ground here in America. Over the past decade there has been a steady erosion to the moral underpinnings of our society. There is a systematic attack upon every institution that made our country great.



Our churches are slowly dying because many members no longer see the churches message relevant and thereby see attendance, participation, and giving as optional – as long as I am not doing something else, as long as it is convenient for me, as long as I have extra money in my checkbook. The people that have stood faithfully supporting the church in America are slowly making their way to the cemetery. Those families coming up after them no longer have the devotion or determination to recapture the vision of the church and commit to see it thrive.

I say all of this because I had several conversations recently with pastors that are struggling with a lack of younger members in their church. They have a nice building but their ability to replicate their faith is dwindling fast.



¹ Adapted from Firm Foundations: Creation to Christ , by New Tribes Mission, Lesson Seven

Marriage – traditional marriage – one man and one woman – is under attack like never before in our nation’s history. Today, our secular culture has embraced multiple versions of as healthy and normal. State after state, community after community are clamoring to embrace this cultural shift of the definition of what marriage is.

Fewer and fewer individuals are choosing to get married. More are opting for “living together.”

Sexual relations are no longer confined to the covenant relationship between one man and one woman in the context of marriage. It is considered normal to explore your sexuality without the “restraint” of old-fashioned ideas.



Multiple wives are promoted on television as acceptable with the program, “Sister Wives.”

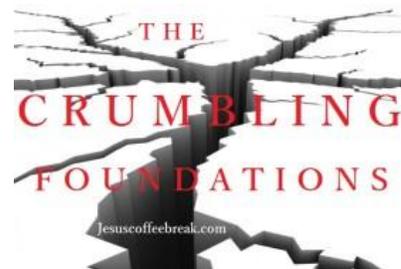
I know of a family that has a wife and a girlfriend living in the same home – and everybody is okay with it.

Pornography has become mainstream and acceptable. We even hear stories of college students working in the pornography industry to help pay for their extremely high college tuition.



Our educational system is eroding right before our eyes and we are graduating individuals that cannot write a complete sentence, recite the multiplication tables, or even do basic math. The common core standards (which I was required to teach to my 4th grade students) are creating a nation of ill prepared students.

The foundations of church, family, and education are eroding and our nation will suffer because we have been asleep at the wheel. Our world is quickly moving away from any moral underpinning. The laws we have enacted are not being followed or enforced. Law and order are appearing to disappear at an alarming rate. Our culture is degenerating into sexual perversion. Our families are abandoning the tried and true standards of fidelity and monogamy. Individually, sin is just a click away with the computer.





Where did all this come from? Why do we sin and reject God? Why do we ignore our creator? The answer is found back in the beginning. Adam desired his own way and ignored God. As much as we want to think we have risen to a higher way of living and thinking, we have actually gone backwards.

We haven't changed much since the days of Adam and Eve. Let us return back to Genesis 2:1-9.

A. Introduction

Have any of you ever started anything and not finished it? I have been suffering with this more and more as I get older. I start a project and then don't finish it. I intend to wash the car and don't. I intend to fix that hole in the porch and don't. I intend to mail my friend a letter, I buy the card, I address it, I sign it, but sure enough ... I forget to mail it. I intend to visit someone that has been on my mind for a long time and then I hear it is too late, they have died.

The tyranny of all those unfinished tasks. We all are guilty of that! I am so glad that God does not leave anything unfinished. It is not in his nature to start a project and "run out of time." God never runs out of patience to finish or resources to complete what He starts.

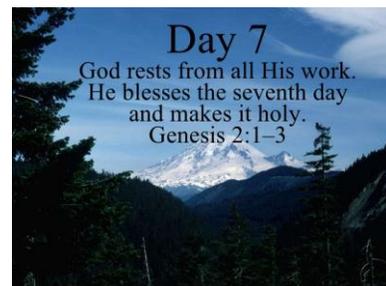
B. God finished all that He had planned.

In Genesis 2:1 it says, *"Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the hosts of them."* When God said it was so, it was done. When we make plans, they often fail or are partially completed. No person can hinder God from completing the tasks He wants. We are confident that when God promises to do something, He will do it.

Psalm 33:11 says, *"The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations."*

C. God rested from His work of creation on the seventh day.

"And on the seventh day God finished his work which he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from



all his work which he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all his work which he had done in creation.”

Genesis 2:2-3

What does the scripture say about how long it took God to create the world? It says it was six days. God created everything in six days. Our scientific, narrow-minded view of the world says that this is impossible. When we build a house, we have to gather materials, schedule the workman, and plan for building inspections.

With God, there is nothing impossible. Many may want to debate this point about six literal days. Some may say that the word “day” was symbolic for an epoch of time. But the scripture is clear on this point. *“The evening and morning were the _____ day.”* I don’t think God intended for us to get bogged down in the details of the word “day.” What we need to focus on is that God created everything. After it was completed, he rested from His work.

Do you think that God was tired after six days of creating everything? No. God was not tired. His complete plan for creation was finished. Nothing was left undone. When you and I finish a task, we stand back and admire it. Maybe you have painted a room, built a house, wrote a paper, chopped down a tree, or any number of tasks. When you finished, you stopped, rested and admired it.

God did the same for His creation. It was a planned rest.



Our culture works so hard on Sunday that it is no longer a day of rest. We cut grass on Sunday, clean house on Sunday, go shopping on Sunday, or even work at our jobs. We will do anything to keep from giving God our attention. For many people today, attending church is optional. To be honest, we want to escape from the call to come to worship – a day of dedication back to God.

Many individuals question when the Sabbath day really is. The seventh day of the week is Saturday. Some churches have decided to properly worship God; they need to gather on Saturday. For the majority of the Christian Church, our faith tradition has claimed Sunday because that was the day Jesus Christ rose from the grave. We worship our risen Lord on Sunday instead of Saturday.

D. Mist, not rain, watered the earth

Genesis 2:4-6 restates the creation story. *“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, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up – for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no man to till the ground; but a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the earth.”

We discussed this on a previous Sunday that it had not rained yet on the earth. God watered His creation with a mist of water that rose up from the face of the earth. It was like a green house.



In this passage we find another word for God. In chapter one, we only saw the word, “*God*” which means He is the great and mighty creator of the earth and all that is in it. In this chapter we see the word “*Lord*” added with the word “*God.*” The word Lord implies that God is the eternal one who is totally independent of all things and who will never change. He is ruler over all creation.

He is Lord AND He is God.

E. God Planted a garden

Because God loved Adam very much, God planted a beautiful garden especially for Adam. God included in that garden all the vegetables and fruit trees that he would need to keep him strong, happy, and healthy.



“Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed.”
Genesis 2:7,8

F. God Put Adam in the Garden



It was only after the world was created, the water placed above and below the firmament, stars and planets set in their courses, birds of the air, fish of the sea, trees and plants were growing that God created Adam. God created the best for his creation. It was a paradise called Eden.

You may ask, “Where is the Garden of Eden?” Later in this passage in Genesis, it gives the name of four rivers where they intersect. One of the names of the river is called the Euphrates, which

is in Africa. People have speculated over the years that it is somewhere there. But over time, with earthquakes, a global flood, it is impossible to tell where it really was. When Adam and Eve were removed from the Garden of Eden because they had eaten from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, God placed a flaming sword to keep everyone from coming into it. So in essence, God has kept us out of the Garden of Eden due to our rebellion and sin. We no longer have access to the Tree of Life, instead we have received the full penalty of separation because Adam and Eve ate from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.

G. “The Tree of Life” and “The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil”

When God created the Garden, he placed all kinds of food for Adam to eat from. There was the Tree of Life, which gave them life everlasting. When one ate from this tree, he would never die. God allowed Adam to freely eat of that tree.



There was only one prohibition on Adam. They were instructed not to eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. This tree gave an understanding of Evil that Adam had

never understood before. Remember that God had created Adam perfect, without sin. To eat of this tree would result in the death of whoever ate of it. God promised Adam that when you eat of it, he would surely die.

Because God is sovereign, he had the right to limit Adam. God created Adam, so he had dominion over him. We have lost this view of God in our society. We try and live our lives independent of God, independent of any responsibility owed back to God. We don't understand our relationship with God because we have forgotten we were fearfully and wonderfully made by God. All we are is because of God's great love for us. Instead, we want to be our own god. We are like the people of Israel that replied to God in Jeremiah 18:12, *“We will follow our own plans, and will every one act according to the stubbornness of his evil heart.”*

Sadly, the more things change, the more they stay the same.

H. Death is the Punishment for disobedience to God.

Genesis 2:17 says, *“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 die.”*

Up to this point, Adam had only experienced the goodness of God. God provided a world that would provide just the right amount of light and darkness, the perfect

balance of oxygen to breathe and the right amount of cloud cover so that the earth would not be too hot or too cold. Earth was placed the right distance from the sun so it didn't burn up or freeze. God provided Adam and Eve the perfect place to live, the best food, and perfect companionship with God. Adam and God even walked in the garden together. This was a CLEAR direction and instruction from God.

What did God mean when He told Adam that he would die?

1. Separation from God

First, there would be a separation from God. Adam had walked with God, but if he ate of the tree, their relationship would be broken. They would no longer have the close friendship they once enjoyed. Adam would die. Adam would be separated from God who was the source of life. The part of Adam that knew God so dearly, the spiritual side, would die as well.



When we are born, we inherit the spiritual nature of our parents. That relationship with God when we are born is one that is separated from God. We are self-willed, self-directed, and rebellious towards God. We are not born as a blank slate. We have a sin nature within us. Many want to believe we are born good. But the Bible teaches we have a sin nature within us that we have received from our parents.

2. Separation from the Body

Secondly, God was very clear; the Lord said he would die. That was a physical death. God didn't say the minute someone ate of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil he would fall over dead. No, it would take time for that to occur. It meant that one day Adam would be cut off from the land of the living.

When Adam sinned, he was cut off from the source of life. We are the offspring of Adam and we have inherited the same cut off position as Adam experienced. One day we too will die physically. How we respond to God's offer of forgiveness through Jesus Christ will determine if we will be separated from God eternally.

3. Separation forever in the Lake of Fire.

The third area of separation involves a place called the Lake of Fire. This is a place of eternal separation from God. God has prepared it for Lucifer and his fallen followers. God also will send people that reject His offer of reconciliation.

God desires that no one be separated from Him, but out of the hardness of our hearts, God will allow the natural consequence of our rebellion to result in eternal judgment and condemnation in Hell.

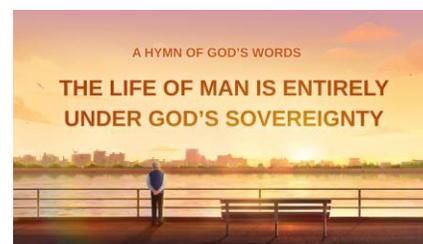
Many people gloss over this truth of what Adam did in the Garden of Eden. This separation from God is important for us to understand. Those that have rejected Jesus Christ are eternally damned. We need to know that clearly. Think about your family, your neighbor, and your loved ones. What have they done with Christ? Have they rejected Him, or have they accepted Him? All of eternity hangs in the balance with the answer to that question.

We need to recapture the reality of this truth in our lives once again. Once we grasp the truth of eternal separation from God for failure to receive Jesus Christ as our Savior, we will have a desire for all to come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. We must tell others of the salvation they can experience when they trust Christ as their Savior. There is no other name under heaven whereby we must be saved. There is no other way of salvation.

I. God's position of authority over Adam

We need to recapture the reality of our relationship with God.

When we make something then we have authority over it. When you build a bookcase, then it is yours. When you bake a cake, it is yours to share or keep to yourself. The same is true for God. Just as God had authority over Adam, He also has authority over you.



Because God knows everything, then He knows what is best for us. Often, we want to reject God and his authority over our situations. However, as we understand God as a loving, kind, merciful Father, then we learn to trust Him no matter the event.

J. Conclusion

Psalm 119:73-74 says, *“Thy hands have made and fashioned me; give me understanding that I may learn thy commandments. Those that fear thee shall see me and rejoice, because I have hoped in thy word.”*

Proverbs 1:7 says, *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.”*

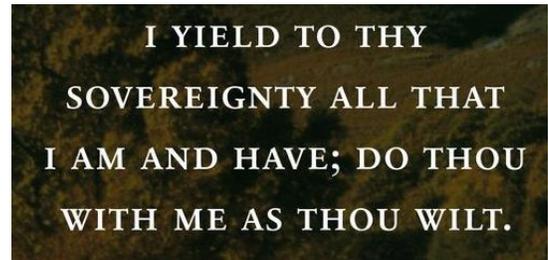
Let us not be foolish, let us gain knowledge by beginning with a proper understanding and fear of God. He is creator of all. He is our Maker. God is all knowing and all powerful. God is holy and righteous who demands death as the payment of sin.

We have learned that God alone existed from eternity past.

He created all things out of nothing.

He has all knowledge and is everywhere all the time and is unchanging.

God created man and designed man to be under God's sovereign authority.



God has given us His word to communicate His plan for our lives. We need to read the instruction manual and yield our life to our Maker.

Let us abide in His word – the Bible and become obedient to it once again.

LET US PRAY