

## Bible Study –Genesis 1:26-2:24

### Introduction

It is important for people to teach their children about their origins and specific family culture to preserve their heritage and to convey their sense of importance and belonging. How do you convey heritage to your family and children?

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Moses wrote in the Pentateuch the history of the creation of the world and the children of God’s heritage. He captured this history orally and in writing to convey their special relationship to God in a world that did not believe in the God of Israel.

### Background – God Reveals Himself as a Personal God and the One who Provides Purpose (Creation)

The term for God changes as you move from Genesis chapter 1 to Genesis chapter 2. In Genesis chapter 1 the Hebrew word Elohim is a plural noun that is translated “God.” (Gen. 1:26, 29. . . “Then God said”) It is followed by singular verbs and adjectives implying the oneness of the divine trinity. “Elohim,” is one who stands in a covenant relationship which is ratified by an oath (that can never be broken). In Genesis chapter 1 He is the creator and God of the universe.

In Genesis chapter 2 the name for God changes to the “LORD God” (YHWH Elohim, Gen. 2:4, 7). It is a reference to the God of the Israelites. Genesis 1 and 2 affirm that YHWH (the God of Israel) and not any other ancient Near Eastern deity is Elohim (the universal God). And unlike the other gods of ancient Near Eastern culture, who were aloof, unresponsive, and difficult to appease, He creates and interacts with His creation.

The modern understanding of “creation” is to bring something into existence. We consider existence to be either material (having molecules, taking up space and extending to energy and subatomic particles) or experiential (abstractions such as love or time). In the ancient world something existed only when it had a function – a role to play.

Genesis 1:2 (NASB) says the following: “The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. In ancient Near Eastern cultures some material things were in a state of non-existence.

In parts of ancient Near Eastern cultures the precreation state of non-existence had two elements: primal waters and total darkness. The sea, a dark night sky, and the desert were seen as places without purpose or function. Similarly, The Bible in Deuteronomy 32:10 uses a Hebrew word to refer to the desert that means “formless”- a place without purpose or function

In chapter 1, the phrase “the earth was formless and void” is a reference “to the Near Eastern understanding meaning the earth was “without function” rather than without “form.”

Why would the ancient world consider darkness and deserts “without function?” \_\_\_\_\_

### God Creates the World According to Purpose

1. Moses, writing about the creative act of God, teaches the Israelites and addresses the function mindset of the Near Eastern culture:

a. What does the Bible say was the purpose (function) of each of these God creations?

Light (Gen. 1:3-5): \_\_\_\_\_

Expanse in the midst of the waters (Gen. 1:6-8): \_\_\_\_\_

Dry Land (1:9-10): \_\_\_\_\_

Seas (Gen. 1:9-10): \_\_\_\_\_

Lights in the expanse of the heavens (Gen 1:14-15)

- b. What image and design (function) did God give man and woman? (Gen. 1:26-27)

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**God Creates Man According to Purpose**

- c. What purpose did God give man (man and woman)?

(Gen:1:28)

Fill the: \_\_\_\_\_

Take Dominion and: \_\_\_\_\_

- d. Under what condition does God sanction the act of procreation (sex)? \_\_\_\_\_

2. The Biblical record of the creation continues with God forming plants for food, a help mate for the man (Adam) and the perfection of the Garden of Eden.

The creation account (Genesis 2:5-9) gives more details as to God's:

- a. Purpose for creating man. There was no man to \_\_\_\_\_ the ground.

- b. Original place for man \_\_\_\_\_

(Eden in the Hebrew means "Delight." Man was put in the Garden of Delight.)

- c. God's method for creating man: He was formed from \_\_\_\_\_

When God created man and woman and breathed into them, God made man His image and representative in the earth.

**God Creates Woman According to Purpose (Gen. 2:21-24)**

The Biblical record of the creation continues with God forming plants for food, a help mate for the man (Adam) and the perfection of the Garden of Eden (Delight). All of these were important functions.

1. Some Bible versions also change how they refer to "man" in Genesis chapter 2. Instead of using the translation "man" or "the man", these Bibles begin to use the transliteration of the Hebrew word for man "Adam." In Genesis 3, Adam names the woman, "Eve," which comes from a Hebrew word meaning "life," "living," or "life-giver." Their names are symbolic of all men and women.
2. God places in high honor and an esteemed position the man and his help mate. They together possess the image of God. They together are to have dominion of the earth and to subdue it. They together are to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.
3. God breathed into man the breath of life and man became a living \_\_\_\_\_

Question: In what way was the man and woman made in the likeness and image of God? Gen. 2:7, 18, 21-23.

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**Conclusion:** God created everything. Everything that God created has a purpose. (Colossians 1:15-20)

**Application:**

What does the creation story tell us about humankind? (Eph. 2:10) Is anyone born by accident or a mistake?

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What have you learned from this passage about your worth? (1 John 4:19)

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What do you want to remember the next time you are lacking confidence or feeling self-doubt?

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**Foreshadowing:** God Provides a Test of Man's Free Will According to Purpose (Genesis 2:16-17)

The last key element of Genesis chapter 2 is the charge that God gives to Adam. He is to freely have dominion and subdue all the earth and eat from the Garden. Yet, one tree he is not to eat from. What tree is that?

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