

# Building on Biblical Foundations

## Genesis 1:20 – 2:17

### “The Revealing of Jehovah”

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#### Genesis 1:20 –2:17

#### **GOD CREATES THE FIFTH DAY:**

*Verses 1:20-22 “And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. <sup>21</sup>And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup>And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth.” (KJV)*

So God creates the whales (or some translations say sea monsters), the fish of the sea, and the birds on the fifth day.

*Verse 23 And the evening and the morning were the fifth day.*

#### **GOD CREATES THE SIXTH DAY:**

*Verse 24 And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so.*

*Verse 25 And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good.” (KJV)*

Last week we learned how God, with a word, created the elements of the world, the sky and seas, the land and sun and moon and the establishment of day and night. We also saw how God created within each living thing the ability to reproduce after its kind, the seed. Truly the foundations of life were laid. Today we will add to that the animal kingdom and the creation of man and woman.

We learned that God was named by the word Elohim – meaning the Supreme God in the plural form, the Trinity.

*Verse 26: “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.*

<sup>27</sup>So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. <sup>28</sup>And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.” (KJV)

Let’s take a closer look at all of this.

**God: Elohim** – meaning “Supreme God, plural”

**Said: Amar** – meaning “to utter”

**Let Us Make: Asah** - meaning to do, make (unlike *bara* which meant to create as in the other creation verses we have read). This word also can mean to appoint or bestow.

**Man: Adam** - meaning man, mankind

Let’s stop here for a minute – so the Supreme God (the Trinity) uttered – “Let us bestow upon man” . . . what?

**Our own image: Tselem** - an image, resemblance or representative figure

**After our likeness: Demuth** – which means likeness

God does something different here. He’s been creating - *bara* – all of these things – and then he declares – utters – what he is about to do. . make something – a man – as an representative of himself, in his own likeness

And mankind is given dominion – authority to rule or reign over – all of creation.

**Verse 27 – 29:**

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

In this verse we go back to the word *bara* for created. So this is the verse where God actually creates man and woman.

Verse 28: <sup>28</sup>And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

<sup>29</sup>And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which *is* upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which *is* the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.”

And the word for **meat** here is **oklah** – meaning for food, or eating

**Verse 30:** “And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein *there is* life, *I have given* every green herb for

meat: and it was so.<sup>31</sup> And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good.

And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.”

Notice at this point everything is eating herbs, grasses, fruit. No animals.

## **Chapter 2:1**

*“Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.*

*<sup>2</sup>And on the seventh day God ended his work, which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.*

*And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.*

*<sup>4</sup>These are the generations (History) of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens,*

*And every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was not a man to till the ground.”*

Here is the first time we see the name of God: **Yhvh: which is the proper name of the God of Israel – also known as Jehovah.**

Jehovah is the proper name of God – meaning he was, he is and he who is to be. He alone has his being of himself, and he gives life to all creatures and things.”

“YHVH (יהוה) is the personal name of God and his most frequent designation, occurring over 6,800 times.

The name YHVH also bespeaks the utter transcendence of God. God is the Source and Foundation of all possibility of utterance and thus is beyond all definite descriptions.

This special Name of God (YHVH) was moreover combined with "The God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob" to be God's Name forever, "my memorial unto all generations" (see [Exodus 3:15-16](#)).

In the traditional Jewish view, YHVH is the Name expressing the mercy and condescension of Almighty God:

The Holy One, Blessed be He, said to those, You want to know my name? I am called according to my actions. When I judge the creatures I am Elohim, and when I have mercy with My world, I am named YHWH." (Exodus Rabbah 3:6).

**ELOHIM** is the Name given for God as the Creator of the universe (**Gen 1:1**) and implies strength, power, and justice.

WHILE **JEHOVAH**, expresses the idea of God's closeness to humans.

It is interesting to note that this name of God is first introduced when God created humans. It is at this point he becomes personal with his creation. Back to that in a minute.

Cited from: [https://www.hebrew4christians.com/Names\\_of\\_G-d/YHVH](https://www.hebrew4christians.com/Names_of_G-d/YHVH)

*“And every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was not a man to till the ground.”*

Let’s look at this passage regarding the plants. They grew before there was rain, before there was mankind to plant and reap. This is another affirmation of the Lord providing the food for mankind directly, without even the assistance of nature. The herbs were made and appointed to be food for mankind.

**Verse 6** But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground.

**Verse 7** And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

This is something different – the Lord breathes the “breath of life” into the man.

HEBREW: Neshamah meaning breath, divine inspiration, intellect

There is no mistaking this is a different account of how everything else has been created. More than just a word spoken, man is formed from the earth – (adamah – Hebrew meaning ground) and the LORD (Jehovah Elohim) breathes divine life into this new creation. He imparts his own life into Adam. Adam is becomes more than just a living creature, he is given intellect, emotion, reason, creativity, compassion and the ability to govern or rule over. This also gives humans the ability to choose, give us free will. And this is important. God made humans for relationship with himself. He gave us the ability to choose to be in relationship with Him. We will talk more about this in a while.

**Verse 8** And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

And the Lord also planted a garden. As I was reminded Friday night – that makes the Lord the very first gardener.

**Verse 9** And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

God gave Adam every tree that is pleasing to look at and good for food, satisfying man's desire for both beauty and appetite.

And he also planted two special trees:

### **The Tree of life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.**

Books can be written about these two trees.

What is the tree of life? There is some hint in Revelation where we see it again twice –

#### **Revelation 2:7**

*“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to **eat of the tree of life**, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.”*

#### **Revelation 22:2**

“In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, *was there the tree of life*, which bare twelve *manner of* fruits, *and* yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree *were* for the healing of the nations.”

*In the first instance – this is spoken to the churches –*

“All who persevere, shall derive from Christ, **as the Tree of life, perfection and confirmation in holiness** and happiness, not in the earthly paradise, but in the heavenly. This is a figurative expression, taken from the account of the garden of Eden, denoting the pure, satisfactory, and eternal joys of heaven; and the looking forward to them in this world, by faith, communion with Christ, and the consolations of the Holy Spirit.” Taken from Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary

#### **And in the Revelation 22:2**

“In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, *was there the tree of life*, which bare twelve *manner of* fruits, *and* yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree *were* for the healing of the nations.”

**Once again we will find the Tree of Life at the restoration of all things lost. We also find this tree in Ezekiel's vision -**

“The vision of Ezekiel is exactly parallel to the present: “On the border of the river there was wood very much, on both sides: every kind of tree; its leaf withers not, and its fruit

ceases not; all months does it ripen; its fruit serves for food, and its leaf for healing” ([Ezekiel 47:7-12](#)).

### **And so what is the tree of Life?**

This is the Tree of Eternal Life - and to eat of this tree is to partake of the knowledge of God himself, to attain the highest form of wisdom. This is not merely a knowledge of things it is so much more.

This is the great loss that we will discuss next week. The fruit of this tree is traded for the fruit of another . . . the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

By planting these two trees in the Garden God gave humanity a choice. We could choose eternal life and intimacy with God or we could choose knowing as God knows. Without a choice there is no loving relationship. To be forced to love is not love at all.

But let’s finish with the creation of Eden and save that for next week.

**Verse 10** And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads.

**Verse 11** The name of the first *is* Pison: that *is* it which compasseth the whole land of Havilah, where *there is* gold;

**Verse 12** And the gold of that land *is* good: there *is* bdellium and the onyx stone.

**Verse 13** And the name of the second river *is* Gihon: the same *is* it that compasseth the whole land of Ethiopia.

**Verse 14** And the name of the third river *is* Hiddekel: that *is* it which goeth toward the east of Assyria. And the fourth river *is* Euphrates.

**Verse 15** And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

**Verse 16** And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

**Verse 17** “But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

I am going to stop here this week. There is a lot to examine in these verses. One obvious question is why two accounts of the creation of man? And of beasts. I’ve done quite a lot of research and I have come to two conclusions. I will let the Lord reveal which one is correct.

1. The Lord made mankind on the 6<sup>th</sup> day and then made Adam and Eve on the 8<sup>th</sup> day.
2. The Lord made mankind on the 6<sup>th</sup> day – including Adam and Eve – and Chapter 2 is just a more precise description of how mankind was made.

Each one of these theories is plausible. Neither can be confirmed at this time. When we come to a scripture that cannot be answered with the tools we now possess we need to ask one very important question: Does it matter? If I believe one and not the other how does it affect my understanding of God, of myself, humanity and the world?

I have wrestled with these questions for a while and I can tell you that my answer is no. Truly my understanding of who God is and who I am is not altered by either of these accounts.

**The most important truths remain the same:**

1. God made humans different than all other creatures.
2. God made men and women in His own image.
3. God breathed life into humanity – bestowing upon us something more than all of the other created things.
4. God gave mankind the responsibility to govern all other created things.

There are a few other issues that we will raise as we go along through the Bible. From where did Cain get a wife? Did the children of Adam and Eve marry each other and reproduce? Depending on how we understand the story of creation affects how we answer these questions, but whether Cain's wife was from the 6<sup>th</sup> day creation of mankind, or one of his sisters really has no bearing on our understanding of God or ourselves. And if God wants us to have a better understanding of this history he will reveal it. I am okay with that.

I don't need to know everything. I ask, I seek and I knock. The Word of God says if we ask for wisdom he will give it to us liberally. There are many things that I have inquired about and I get understanding and then there are some others that I don't. This is one of those. There are a few as we go through the Old Testament that have made me stop and wonder. There are a few in the New Testament too. And for certain there are things today that I honestly cannot fathom.

I suppose that is the challenge of trusting.

Next week we look into the commands that God gave Adam and the creation of his companion Eve and the choice they make, and its consequence.

We are building a foundation. This week we added four more building blocks. Precept upon precept we are building a firm foundation on the Word of God.

As we study creation you may want to visit this site:

<http://www.Answersingenesis.org>