

- a) Expand Eden to the ends of the earth! (15)
- b) Fill and multiplying into the earth. (18-25)
- iv. This calling to subdue the earth and make it fruitful for the benefit of others as a priestly calling, a calling to bring others to our King, is throughout the Scriptures.
 - a) Exodus 19:5-6
 - b) 1 Peter 2:9
- c) John 15:1-8

In John's Gospel we are told that Jesus died in a garden, was buried in a garden, raised in a garden, and thought to be a gardener in the garden! The death and resurrection of Jesus is all about returning us to Eden.

LIVE THE STORY

The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community. The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

- Why is the call to serve and watch over that was given to Adam both a priestly service and agricultural?
- How do we see the call to priestly ministry throughout the Scriptures? What is the goal and purpose of this ministry?
- How does the understanding of man's calling in Eden as presented and explained from Genesis 1–2 effect your perspective of your own purpose in life? ...your purpose for work and finances? ...the purpose (for students) of your studies? How has this adjusted your thinking and actions?
- Why must mission never become and end all of our purpose and existence as a church? Why must getting bigger never be the purpose? Why can many good things never become consuming if we are going to fulfill God's purpose for us?
- What does it mean to say that work or finances are not “amoral” issues? ...that everything is God's domain and to be used for His kingdom? What adjustments does this call you to?

Genesis: Truth for Understanding Our World (Part 4)

Jerry Cisar — October 4, 2015

Text: Genesis 2:4-17

Introduction: Tell It Again

I. Telling it Again: *Creation (2:4-25)*

- A. Genesis 2:4-25 backs up and tells the last part of the creation story again...in a different, non-contradictory, way.
 - i. Vs 4 tells us that it is.
 - ii. The creation work of 2:4-25 must come before the 7th day of 2:1-3.
 - iii. 2:18 tells us something is **not good** and 1:31 ended with everything **very good**.
 - iv. The blessing of 1:28 to *be fruitful and multiply* is not possible until after 2:25.
 - v. Jesus told us they were about the same thing in Matthew 19:4-5 when he connected 1:27 with 2:24 and applied them as talking about the same event.
- B. So how long was day six?
 - i. How long is 2:4-25?
 - ii. The 24-hour days of chapter one
 - a) Anthropomorphic Language

b) Genesis 32:24-30

II. Telling it Again: *Purpose* (2:5-9)

A. **The world was created with a purpose:** *to be the dwelling of God with man, the place of His rule. We were created with a purpose: to extend that benevolent reign to one another and to rule over the rest of creation in a way that keeps it ordered for the benefit of God's kingdom.*

B. Eden vs. the rest of the world

- i. As the margin of the NIV, and ESV indicate it may mean that no shrub or plant had yet appeared in the *land*—meaning a particular region of land.
- ii. The water was *something* rising up from the ground to water the earth.
- iii. Remember, the whole earth wasn't a garden; God planted a garden in Eden.
- iv. God made man from the dust of the ground.
 - a) Both Eden and the garden within it are **distinct from** where God first made the man, for he took the man and placed him there.
 - b) The various gods in mythology had gardens too, but in order to provide food for the gods; not God planting one to provide food for His people.
 - Eden was the inner garden of the King!

Allen Ross (Recalling the Hope of Glory): *"This garden was to be the one place in the world where all the beautiful and beneficial gifts of God were concentrated. When the end of the story tells how the sinners were not allowed to remain in this garden, we learn that there was something far more important about it than its beauty and fruitfulness, something spiritual. It was where the LORD God walked in the midst of his creation (Gen. 3:8), where the man and the woman had immediate access to God in a perfect environment — before they rebelled. It was the place of God's presence on earth. Nothing else could account for the special life-giving properties of the garden — it was the "garden of the LORD" (Gen. 13:10).*

III. Telling it Again: *Mission* (2:15-17)

- A. The calling to join God's work is elevated here (15).
- i. The language used here *"work and take care of"* may be better, *"serve and watch over"*.
 - ii. The purpose of the work God gave man was to do the Father's work; to join Him in subduing the earth.

Colson and Percy, (How Then Shall We Live?) *In our materialistic culture, work is reduced to a utilitarian function: a means of attaining benefits for this world, this life – whether material gain or self-fulfillment. Work no longer has a transcendent purpose as a means of serving and loving God. No wonder, then, that many are questioning the very meaning of work.... This offers Christians a rich opportunity to make the case that work is truly fulfilling only when it is firmly tied to its moral and spiritual moorings. It is time for the church to reclaim this crucial part of life, restoring a biblical understanding of work and economics. (392)*

B. Subduing and multiplying go together

- ii. The retold account of 2:4-25 reveals how man is to fulfill the 1:28 mandate and blessing.