

# God's Relationship with Man



The Chinese character for happiness and blessing.

Intimacy with God brought the greatest happiness to man. The loss of his closeness with God became the greatest curse.

Our purpose then is to recover this blessing if at all possible.

示	一	人	} 福
God	田	garden	
<p>God and man in the garden together is blessing!</p>			

- A. Preparation for Creating Man (Genesis 2:4-6)
- B. Means of Creating Man (Genesis 2:7)
- C. Purpose of Creating Man (Genesis 2:8-10)

## A. Preparation for Creating Man (Genesis 2:4-6)

God mentions the kingdom, before He mentions man. Some such as environmentalists might wonder whether it is moral to say that the world was made for man. They fear man's abuse because of his sin. God, however, charged man to watch over His creation.

### 1.) The Preparation of the Earth (Genesis 2:4)

*"This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made earth and heaven." (Genesis 2:4, NASB used).*

Genesis 2:4 initiates a series of ten basic-genealogical units unifying Genesis. We are astounded by its amazing organization.

The largest framework in which man will live is what we call the universe. One can debate this and limit it to the earth with heavens referring to our atmosphere.

Some use the scriptural phrase *'1000 years is as a day with the Lord'* and infer that this refers to a thousand years or a vague amount of time. This means that time is no problem to God, not that 1000 years is equivalent to one day!

示	且	} 祖	Adam then, is the first ANCESTOR, made from the ground into a living soul in God's image.
God	also		
<p>Man was made in God's image (like God).</p>			ANCESTOR
丿	土	儿	
alive	ground	person	
<p>Man was made a living soul from the ground.</p>			

This verse shows how both creation as a whole and man in particular is generated from God. Man is dependent upon God, just as a child is dependent upon his parents. These ten Genesis sections provide a continuum of life and purpose. Each depends on the previous one. This particular section establishes man and the world's dependence upon God. Genesis 1:26 focuses on man's dependence.

*Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." (Genesis 1:26, NASB).*

This dependence of life will be later reinforced in Genesis 5 and Luke's genealogy where we see Adam is the son of God. The Chinese character for ancestor suggests this.

## A. Preparation for Creating Man (Genesis 2:4-6)

### 2.) The Preparation of the Habitat (Genesis 2:5-6)

The Lord provides a few details of the general habitat. God was getting everything already. The garden, however, was not 'planted' until verse 8.

*Now no shrub of the field was yet in the earth, and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, for the LORD God had not sent rain upon the earth; and there was no man to cultivate the ground. But a mist used to rise from the earth and water the whole surface of the ground. (Genesis 2:5-6).*

**Genesis 2:5 mention two things that were not yet, even though they were already prepared for.**

- 1) No shrubs (no edible fruit) on earth yet.
- 2) No plants (grains) have yet sprouted.

This seems contradictory to what we see in everyday life so the Lord tells us two good reasons for it!

- 1) The Lord had not yet sent rain.
- 2) There was no man (literally 'Adam') to cultivate the ground.

God had made seeds for the decorative (fruitless) bushes and grain, but were held back from growing. Some suggest that this is perhaps a precursor to the fall. If man fell, then these plants would be needed. For example, because of sin, man would need more substantial grains, but he would have to work hard for it.

Verse 2:6 serves as a pause to allow his readers to catch up with what is being said. The readers of Genesis were familiar with rain. In order not to confuse the readers, the Lord told us how at that time a mist used to rise from the earth and water the ground. Mist, not rain, was used by God to water the ground.

Some conclude from this that there was no separation in the cloud cover as of yet. One solid cloud mass protected man and earth and allowed mankind and beasts to live longer as they were better shielded from the sun's dangerous rays. This would change with the flood for this is when the ages of mankind suddenly declined.



### Summary

This is the world God brought into being for man. He readied everything for him. God has a purpose for all of this but first we need to better understand how Yahweh made man. This will help us understand how mankind is to relate to God and how he functions.

## B. Means of Creating Man (Genesis 2:7, 1:26-27)

This verse gives us some insight into how Adam was formed. Let's note some particular facts.

*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. (Genesis 2:7).*

### (1) Yahweh God made man.

Man did not make or 'invent' God. God invented him from scratch. Man did not have an existence outside of God's creative purposes. Man and creation are totally and constantly reliant on God's grace. Man's life should focus on what God's purposes are for him. Here man will find true happiness.

The Name of God is first used in conjunction with His title 'God.' They are at first put together in this account (2:4) to make sure there was no confusion that they were not two different identities. 'LORD' is the poor English translation for God's Name, Yahweh. This Name is never to be said irreverently or even casually. As we continue on in this section, we will discover that God uses His Name when He speaks of fellowship with man. This was not needed in chapter 1.

### (2) Breath of Life

God breathed into man's nostrils the breath of life. Life is from God. He has the right to give and take. Life is the animation of the body. In 1:20,21 there are living creatures. Breath is life. We know now how our breath brings oxygen into our bodies to all the cells to function properly.

**B. Means of Creating Man (Genesis 2:7, 1:26-27)**

**(3) God 'formed' man.**

Man did not arrive on the scene by accident but by design. Because of further research, evolution has been shouted out of the arena. The cell was formerly thought to be simple compounds of material. The cell, it has come to be discovered, is an intensely complex manufacturing plant that could not come about by accident. They then try to change the evolutionary theory to accommodate 'sudden' development.

Those who contemplate the evolution of man, run into a host of unsolvable questions especially if they hold to God's Word. Was Adam a real man? Did God lie about how He made man? Who was God talking to in the garden? Who fell? Or perhaps each of us is tested to see whether we will fall?! Who was the son of God and how was he made in the image of God?

ノ	土	口	}	生
alive	ground	mouth		口
Speaking first came about when man was made alive from the ground.				To speak
走	告	}	造	
walking				
When God breathed into man and made him a living soul, he walked!				To create

If there was no Adam, then there could be no woman, or how else can one explain woman's creation? They couldn't evolve together. They would die out in one generation if not made simultaneous. God clearly says man was made from dust and not a humanoid. Not one of these questions can be answered. The question is whether one believes God or the myths of evolution. "Form" speaks of a special touch in his making. It was not just throwing chemicals together. The DNA chain demonstrates a complexity of life that only creation can explain.

**(4) Man came from the dust.**

Man is a humble creature even if Adam was made in the image of God. God's origins are not spoken of because He is eternal. He was before and after time. Man's roots, however, are from the ground. The Hebrew word for man or Adam is the same and is almost the same word as ground. They all come from the common root of 'red' (red-colored earth). Below are two Chinese characters that show how important on how God spoke (i.e. mouth) and formed man from the ground.

*Our humble frame leaves no room for pride.*

Because of sin, our earthly natures must remain here (die). From dust to dust. We should not be surprised to see that the chemicals in man and other animals are similar.

## (5) The image of God

Life is more than man's physical presence. Does a man have a soul? Is it different than life? Yes. The soul is the real person; the body is the needed 'shell' to work through. Man is a combination of physical and spiritual. Man can exist without his human body for a short time (after death before judgment); he is nonexistent without a soul. He would be a mere animal. Man's soul comes from being made in the image of God.

There are many very long discussions as to what the image of God means. The phrase comes from chapter 1.

*Then God said, "Let Us make man in **Our image**, according to **Our likeness**; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." And God created man **in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.** (Genesis 1:26,27).*

The concept is repeated several times. Furthermore, He clearly states that both male and female were made in God's image. Man was made with God's likeness. It is evident that this likeness would enable him to rule over the earth with his reason and will. Let's discuss both outer and inner 'images.'

### Outward Glory

It is possible that this likeness outwardly refers to the cloak of light that surrounded man. After man fell, he felt naked. His glory was taken from him. He was clothed with light as God. The following verses make a special connection between the glory (light) of God and the image of man.

*For a man ought not to have his head covered, since he is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man. (1 Corinthians 11:7).*

*O LORD my God, Thou art very great; Thou art clothed with splendor and majesty, Covering Thyself with light as with a cloak, (Psalms 104:1,2).*

We remember God's glory shining upon Moses when he met with God. He had to cover his face. We saw the same thing with Jesus, Moses and Elijah during the transfiguration. Note the Chinese characters that seem to indicate this.

### Inward Glory

Maybe a glorious light was seen on the outer man to show his God's image, but there are also many inward differences that sets him apart from other creatures. Some of these also are special characteristics we find in God where appropriate.

- Sense of a higher being (worship).
- Self-aware (memory).
- Concern for moral values (conscience/truth).
- Possesses a will and can reason abstractly.
- Creative (make tools, design).
- Concern about the future (death).

Clearly, man is different from animals and not merely a higher form. It is interesting that those who say man evolved are often the ones that deny an immaterial part of man, but it is precisely this immaterial part of man that sets him apart from animals. Man is conscious of God's values because he was made in His image.

Because man is made in the image of God, this makes man accountable to God for the way he responds to Him. When man disobeys, there are consequences. Man is called to exercise his will in such a fashion that he completes on earth what is in heaven.

*"Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven." (Matthew 6:10).*

## When does life start and end?

## What about cloning?



**C. Purpose of Creating Man (Genesis 2:8-17)**

How do you know that Adam ate spicy foods?

**1) The Garden of Eden**

God did not create a garden but 'planted' one. But note, the garden is not Eden. The garden was in in the eastern section of Eden (towards the rising sun). Eden was not itself a garden but a fairly large district. The Hebrew word 'Eden' means pleasure or delicacy.

We are surprised at the space taken to describe the rivers. Only one verse to describe man's creation (2:7), but five to describe the river. There is a hidden message here.

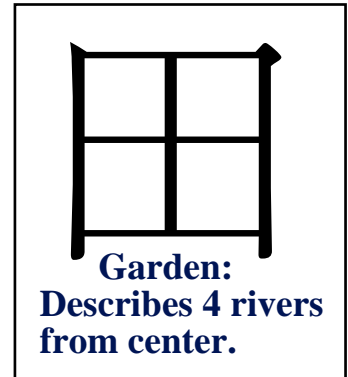
One river flowed out from Eden. Either it was a spring that came from the ground or a tall mountain stream that flowed down to the garden. Once the river reached the center of the garden, it divided itself into what would become four huge rivers. This would necessitate a huge garden. The names of some of the rivers are familiar to us; others are not.

- River #1 was Pishon: flows around Havilah ... good gold, bedllium and onyx stone.
- River #2 was Gihon: Flows around Cush (Ethiopia)
- River #3 was Tigris: Flows east of Assyria
- River #4 was Euphrates.

There are two Chinese characters for garden, one is for describing the garden, the other describing its occupants.

The river stood for the blessing that came from God and would bring enriching provision to the world. One could easily see how the Garden would seem like the throne of the world subjected to a higher throne above. This thought of God's divine blessing flowing to earth from His above throne is very common in scripture. See Psalm 65:9-13.

*And he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, (Revelation 22:1).*



**2) Adam's Calling (2:15)**

Man was not originally in the garden. God made man and then the garden. After the garden was made, God placed man there. We don't live in the new home until it is finished! Man was charged to do two things:

- (1) Cultivate the garden: implies the growing of crops.
- (2) Keep the garden.: manage so that it stays ordered



**3) Adam's Command (2:16-17)**

God had already commissioned Adam to cultivate the garden. He was not to lazy around. Heaven will not be eternally doing nothing!

*"He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much." (Luke 16:10-12).*

The commands in 2:16-17 are very different than his instruction of keeping the garden. This command includes both general guidelines as well as a prohibition. This was the test. The test of their faithfulness and compliance. Adam had, after all, lots of fruit to eat from. In verse 2:16 God clearly points out the vastness of Adam's choices. "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely."

'Any' tree points to the choices in life. We might think of it as entering a modern supermarket. The choices are many - they were also free. This is where the supermarket model stops! God wonderfully provided for them.



#### 4) Why did God put a tree in the Garden?

木  
Two trees

God put two trees in the middle of the garden: tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God did not try to trick man. It was clearly placed so that man would not accidentally eat from it.

*"But from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die" (Genesis 2:17).*

The prohibition was a window of opportunity. Man had a chance to show himself faithful. He was not tempted beyond what he could handle. In fact, if anything, everything was tilted to help man choose to be faithful. God created many many trees all of which were good.

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Instruct

God not only gave Adam an opportunity to win by obedience but He didn't leave it up to 'chance.' God directed man what to do. The Chinese character to forbid means instruction with reference to the two trees. He couldn't lose!

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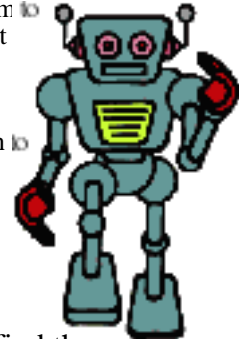
Forbid

We have opportunities to follow or not follow Christ. We can obey God in that or disobey Him. Some things have become such a pattern in our lives like reading and meditating on God's Word, that we no longer think of the issue of obedience. But it is. It is also the important link to doing more. There is also a prohibition. After a host of trees, man was only not to eat from one tree.

#### Conclusion

Happiness in life comes through closeness with God. In chapter 3 we see it was God's custom to walk with man. This includes joy, contentment and fulfillment. God didn't make man a robot because He wanted to have a close relationship with man. God could not force man to love Him so God took the 'risk' and made Him in His image with a will.

It really boggles our mind to see how God wants to invest so much in man. God wanted man to choose to serve from his own free will. God did create a lot of things to obey Him. But God wanted man to freely love Him from his own heart.



#### Lesson #3 Assignment

- Think about the people around you. Listen to them. Look at them. Do you find they are discontent with life or fulfilled. What makes you think so?

Also choose one of the following assignments.

- If you met one of these discouraged people at lunch and they asked you what they should do with their lives, what would you say? Explain in 1 or 2 paragraphs as to how you can use at least one of the thoughts we learned today to encourage them to open their hearts to a loving God.

The goodness of God in creation,  
The special way God made man,  
The special hopes God has for man (garden - heaven),  
God's desire to have a relationship with man (not robots but people)

- We often run into situations that are like the forbidden tree in the garden. Explain one situation in your life you know you could have chosen to go the wrong way. Did you? Why or why not? If you run into that situation again, how could you better show your love to God?