

"In the Garden"

Genesis 2:4-25

The Garden account tells us:

What should have been
What could have been
What can be
What will be

God made man unique creation:

Man was a very special formation (Body)
Man was given special breath (Spirit)
Man was given special life (Soul)

God provided for man a unique place:

A garden just for him
A garden with full provisions
A garden with beautiful conditions

God gave the man important responsibilities:

Responsibility to work the garden
Responsibility to obey God's directions
Responsibility to name the animals

God created the man to need relationships

A relationship with God
A relationship with creation
A relationship with a person

God provided a wonderful gift of marital intimacy:

Intimacy of shared burdens
Intimacy of physical unity
Intimacy of committed relationship
Intimacy of absolute trust

The greatest tragedy of history: the fall of man
The greatest gift of history: salvation through Christ
The greatest hope of history: redemption of creation

4 This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

When the LORD God made the earth and the heavens — 5 and no shrub of the field had yet appeared on the earth and no plant of the field had yet sprung up, for the LORD God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no man to work the ground, 6 but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground — 7 the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

8 Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. 9 And the LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground — trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

10 A river watering the garden flowed from Eden; from there it was separated into four headwaters. 11 The name of the first is the Pishon; it winds through the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold. 12 (The gold of that land is good; aromatic resin and onyx are also there.) 13 The name of the second river is the Gihon; it winds through the entire land of Cush. 14 The name of the third river is the Tigris; it runs along the east side of Asshur. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; 17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

18 The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

19 Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field.

But for Adam no suitable helper was found. 21 So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. 22 Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

23 The man said,

"This is now bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called 'woman,'
for she was taken out of man."

24 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

25 The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

NIV

Sermon Notes

September 13, 2009

Genesis 2:4-25

"In the Garden"

Pastor Philip C. Rogers

Middletown
Church of the Nazarene
Middletown, Indiana

Master copy of notes and audio version of the sermon at
www.middletownnaz.com