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"Made from Dust"

Genesis 2:4-17

Introduction: Today we shall continue our study in the book of *Genesis* and in our study we have come to *Genesis* 2:4 where we will begin our study today.

Now before we get started in this section there are a few things that you need to understand. The events which we find in chapter 2:4-25 are not a 2nd Creation. The events which we find in *Genesis* 2:4-25 are the details of what took place on the 6th day of Creation.

1. Animals were created.
2. Adam was created.
3. Adam was placed in the garden.
4. Adam named the animals.
5. Eve was made from Adam's flesh.
6. Adam and Eve were married.
7. End of day 6.

As I approached these verses in study this week there were many questions which came into my mind and so as we move through this chapter we will consider some questions and at the same time do our best to answer them.

I. The Care of the Earth (2:4-6)

Notice *Genesis* 2:4-6

Before the flood of Noah's day there was never any rain which fell upon the earth for the entire earth was watered with a mist that went up from the earth itself. The entire earth would have been very much like a greenhouse with the canopy of water which was suspended above. The rays of the sun were filtered by the canopy of water and the mist went up from the face of the earth to water all the vegetation.

I wish we could picture all of this in our minds because the beauty is far greater than we can imagine. Let me give you some thoughts to consider.

1. No brown foliage.
2. No dead grass.
3. No thorns or thistles.
4. No briars.

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5. No disease.
6. No blight.
7. No pollution.

In Genesis 3 we find the curse which came on the earth as a result of sin.

Genesis 3:17-19

*¹⁷ And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: **cursed is the ground** for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;*

*¹⁸ **Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee**; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;*

¹⁹ In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

It was nothing like we see today but we do get small glimpses in the trees, flowers and other beautiful plants but we are still far from the fountain head of Creation.

II. The Creation of Man (2:7)

Notice Genesis 2:7

As I meditated on this verse this week one of the questions which came to my mind was; why did God use dust to make man?

He could have used whatever He desired but He chose to use dust. I wish it would say we God took the gold of the earth and made man or God took the silver of the earth and made man or that we were carved out of diamonds. But it says He used dirt!

As I thought on this I began to see that which I had never seen before. I believe there are 2 major reasons why God used the dirt to make man:

1. **Because He knew that sin would enter the human race very shortly and with sin would come pride and in their pride man would often think very highly of himself. When he made some accomplishment he would see himself as better than someone without an accomplishment.**

Galatians 6:3

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³ *For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.*

I have news for the man or woman who thinks they are better than someone else, we are all made out of the dust! God made us from dust so as to remind us where we have come from.

2. There is yet another reason I believe God used the dust to make man. We place very little value on dirt unless it is the form of acres but dust is something we despise in our homes or anywhere in our lives.

For God to use the dust of the earth shows us that God can take that which is "worthless" in our eyes and from it He can make something which will bring great honor to Him.

I am reminded that before I was saved I was more worthless than the dust of the earth. At least the dust could not use the Lord's name in vain, or it cannot curse God. But before salvation I could. Notice the description of the unsaved.

Romans 3:10-18

¹⁰ *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*

¹¹ *There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.*

¹² *They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.*

¹³ *Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips:*

¹⁴ *Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:*

¹⁵ *Their feet are swift to shed blood:*

¹⁶ *Destruction and misery are in their ways:*

¹⁷ *And the way of peace have they not known:*

¹⁸ *There is no fear of God before their eyes.*

You may say that you don't feel that bad but that is because you are so immersed in sin it feels natural. You are like a fish in the water. He

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does not feel wet because he is so used to the water. You don't feel lower than the dust because you are so comfortable in your sin.

But God can take you and change you into someone who can bring glory and honor to Him.

2 Corinthians 5:17

¹⁷ Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

We will come back to this at the end of the message.

III. The Caretaker of the Garden (2:8,15)

Notice Genesis 2:8,15

Adam had a job. You see he was not just created to sit around but he was created to serve God. His service for God would be a caretaker of the very garden which God planted.

Now let us remember there was no curse so work was very fulfilling. There was no monotony with the work.

Did you know that when we get to heaven there will be work there for us to do?

Notice the verses from Revelation which speak of what believers will do in heaven.

Revelation 7:15-17

¹⁵ Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

¹⁶ They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

¹⁷ For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Adam was given a responsibility of keeping God's garden.

IV. The Composition of the Garden (2:9-15)

Notice Genesis 2:9-15

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These verses give to us great detail about what was in the garden which God planted for Adam.

1. Beauty (:9)
2. Food (:9)
3. Water supply so large there were 4 rivers flowing from the spring. (:10-14)

Now when I read this I must ask another question: why did God give to us all the details?

I believe we are given all these details because God desires for us to see 2 points:

- 1. Adam was placed in a perfect surrounding and he still disobeyed God.**

Therefore, God cannot be blamed for the darkness and despair of this world.

I say this because I have spoke with people who always want to cast the blame upon God for all the pain in this world. God set man in a perfect environment and man chose to be disobedient and his disobedience brought devastation into the world.

Let me also add that to change a sinner's surroundings will not change him or her. It takes an inward change of the heart. The problem is a heart problem not an environmental problem.

- 2. The setting which Adam was placed in shows us exactly what God desires for us.**

John 10:10-11

¹⁰ *The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, **and that they might have it more abundantly.***

¹¹ *I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.*

V. The Commandment of God (2:16-17)

Notice Genesis 2:16-17

There was only one restriction that was placed upon Adam and that was he could not eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

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This raises several questions in my mind. Why was there a restriction? Why did God not just eliminate the forbidden tree in the garden? Why did God even place it there to begin with?

Man's loyalty to God had to be tested. Man was created with the ability to choose and had he not been given that ability we would be nothing but puppets.

We will talk about this at greater length as we get to chapter 3 but I just want you to know this commandment was given to test the loyalty of man toward his Creator.

Conclusion:

I want to make a twofold application here:

1. To you who are saved:

Let us not forget that God desires to take that which appears to be worthless, then give to them the gift of life, and use them to bring honor and glory to Him.

I say this because you may have a friend or a loved one you see as worthless. They are the very people Jesus came to die for.

Luke 19:10

¹⁰ For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

2. To you who are not saved.

God desires for you to come to Him and place your life in His hands. He will give to you eternal life and He will take the mess you are in and will use you to bring honor and glory to Him.

You must do 2 things:

- a. Repent
- b. Believe

Mark 1:14-18

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¹⁴ Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,

¹⁵ And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: **repent ye, and believe the gospel.**

¹⁶ Now as he walked by the sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.

¹⁷ And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men.

¹⁸ And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him.