

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of March 8, 2020

THEME: "Garden of Eden"

EXISTENCE

Sunday Read Genesis 2:7-8

"And God formed man of the dust of the ground, breathed into his nostrils, and man became a living soul." In one sentence of one verse of Holy Scriptures, God explained the origin of man. He implemented the plan that He had mentioned in Genesis 1:26, where God said this: *"Let us make man in our own image, after our likeness."* Humans are not gods, but they have been made in the image of God after His likeness. How are people like God? We see in this creation account that man is a triune being, the three things mentioned in this one verse: a body, the breath of God, and a living soul. Humans are triune beings, just as God is a trinity. The soul that God gave man is eternal like God! The fact that man was created with the breath of God means that he was created with spiritual life to go along with his body giving him physical life. That is the distinguishing factor explaining the difference between animal life and human life. Animals have only a body to give them an awareness and an enjoyment of the physical world. Man was created to have communion and fellowship with the Creator. As a matter of fact, God gave humans the responsibility of managing His earth and animal life. We read that in God's planning in Genesis 1:28-29: *"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 the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moved upon the face of the earth. 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."*

EMPLOYMENT

Monday Read Genesis 2:9-15

"And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it." That God made man to work is evident from the very beginning when He instructed him to manage His earth by taking dominion over all that He had made. In the Bible reading for today, we see that God gave Adam a specific assignment there in the Garden of Eden. It is interesting that this is the first thing God did after He had created the man; He gave him a work assignment as a gardener; He gave him a job! Adam was in charge of keeping the garden for God. Does that not tell us that God made man to work? That would be his means to meet his physical needs. The truth is that if a man does not work, God says he should not be fed. That is the clear statement of II Thessalonians 3:10: *"If any would not work, neither should he eat."* That working to provide for his family is God's expectation for a husband and father is evident from this statement in I Timothy 5:8: *"But if any provide not for his own, and especially for those of his own household, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel."* One of the requirements for a man to be a leader in his local church is that he be gainfully employed to provide for his family. Obviously then, employment is a plan of God! Now the Bible does teach us that we should be sensitive to the needs of those whose limitations prevent them from holding a job. It is those who are in need of assistance, but not those who are capable of working, but don't.

EXPECTATION

Tuesday Read Genesis 2:16-17

"And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 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." God is a God of law and order! It is telling that God originally had only one law limiting man from total freedom, the one mentioned in today's Bible reading. It was a law restricting man for his own good. The law carried with it a death sentence for violating the law: eating of the forbidden fruit meant instant death! Apart from that one thing, man had total freedom; he could eat of all the other trees. Why did God place this tree with the

forbidden fruit in the Garden? To me, it was to give humans made in the image of God a free will. Not to give man that freedom of choice would mean that God created a robot under his control, not a human being made after His likeness. God gave man a choice to obey Him; and He clearly explained the consequences of disobedience. We all then have a choice to follow God, or to ignore God and suffer the consequences.

ENJOYMENT

WednesdayRead Genesis 2:18-25

"The Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; and the rib, which the Lord God had taken from the man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man." Immediately after God had given the man a job and His holy law, God made a very significant observation about humans: *"It is not good that man should be alone."* Humans were made to have human companionship: family fundamentally and friends! Marriage between a man and a woman was obviously God's plan when He ordered them to replenish the earth because that is how God planned to populate the earth. That refutes the idea of homosexuality in God's plan for a marriage because reproduction is not possible for two men or two women. In other Scriptures, God made it very clear that same sex relationships were abomination in His sight in Leviticus 20:13. After God mentioned that man should not be alone, but should have a mate, God would make a woman to be His companion. I find it very interesting that God, before making the woman, paraded all the animals before Adam to see what he would call them. Adam did that and then we read: *"For Adam there was not found an help meet for him."* Before giving him a wife, God prepared the man by having him realize that it was not good for him to be alone. God then made the woman and officiated the first human wedding! God's plan is for a man to have a wife! It is true that God has given some the gift of singleness, but that is the exception and not the rule.

ENTICEMENT

ThursdayRead Genesis 3:1-6

"And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her: and he did eat." Having created a man and giving him employment, the appropriate law and then a wife and mentioning family life, God's creation was complete. It was then that we see the enemy of God go on the attack! The devil, in the form of a serpent, invaded Eden to allure God's people into disobedience to God. After cleverly misquoting God to Eve, the serpent suggested that God was denying them pleasure by what He had forbidden. He then enticed Eve by claiming that partaking of the forbidden fruit would not only provide pleasure and educational benefit, but would not result in death. Eve, and then Adam, yielded to those high sounding enticements and ate of the forbidden fruit. That introduced sin into the human race. The immediate result was spiritual death; they lost their desire to have fellowship with God, who is a Spirit. They actually tried to hide from God. Because of their guilt and shame, the result of sin, they did try a cover-up by making fig leaf coverings. That was their reaction to having become sinners. Instinctively, they knew something was wrong. They tried to remedy the situation with a cover up. Sadly, because of their sin, all babies born of man and woman come into the world with a dead spirit, separated from God. God was right; the devil, a liar.

ESCAPE

FridayRead Genesis 3:7-11

"And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden." We, as descendants of Adam and Eve can praise God that He did not give up on humans, an indication of His infinite and eternal love. Whereas Adam and Eve tried to escape from God, God sought them out. God wanted to restore fellowship with these two humans, the crowning touch of His creation. Although Adam and Eve tried to hide from God, an impossibility, God sought them out and confronted them. No one can escape the eye of God. When God questioned Adam about his sin, the man's first reaction was to blame the woman God gave him, making it sound like it was God's

fault by giving him a woman. But he finally did confess to his sin. When God confronted the woman, she first blamed the serpent, but then she did confess. It was then that God confronted the serpent and pronounced a curse.

EMANCIPATION

SaturdayRead Genesis 3:12-15

"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." In speaking with the serpent, who we know from Revelation 12:9. is the devil, God revealed His plan for dealing with man's sin to restore fellowship. God mentioned that the seed of the woman would ultimately destroy the devil, although the Redeemer of mankind would suffer in the process. With the benefit of looking back over history from a Biblical perspective, we can see that God was speaking of His virgin born Son shedding His blood to redeem mankind by dying and conquering death with His resurrection. By so doing, He provided a way for us to be set free from the penalty of sin as the Savior of the world! *"The Son shall make you free."*