

**Series: God & Man & Woman #735**

**Title: Genesis 2.5-6**

Thank you for joining me today from wherever you are and by however you listen as we meet together coast-to-coast here in the United States and all the way around the world! Just this reminder: when we left off last time we had seen in Genesis 2, in Isaiah 7 and 8, and in Matthew 1 that God is with us. The main point to grasp thus far in our journey in Genesis is this: From the very beginning **God created us. And God is with us. God has made us so that He can be with us.** Any doubts about this are resolved in Jesus Christ! Jesus (who is God) walked among us.

God is not standing back in the shadows of life, disinterested in you, waiting for you to clean up your own act so that He can approach you. No. God is on the move – pressing in on you in your life, right there where you are. As we are going to now see God loves people, God desires to be with people, God has made us all for Himself, and in order to do that God prepares a home for us. God makes the earth that He created habitable and hospitable for the first man and the first woman. This is where Genesis chapter 2 and the next two verses take us. Genesis 2, verses 5 and 6.

With these verses I want to show you that God wants to be with Adam and Eve. Therefore, God prepares a home for them where He can meet with them.

So, let me read the text and then teach it. I am reading Genesis 2, verses 4-7 and I do so for context, which is very important to us when reading the Bible in segments (as we only have time for brief exposition). This is Genesis 2, beginning in verse 4, **“<sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> But a mist used to rise from the earth and water the whole surface of the ground. <sup>7</sup> 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.”**

Right there at the end of verse 4 we read that the LORD God made earth. That summarizes what God did in Genesis chapter 1. But then in verse 5, which I have just read, we get into the details of the condition of the earth. No shrub of the field was yet in the earth. No plant of the field had yet sprouted. I'll stop here so we can talk plants. Question: why are plants emphasized? Answer: because this is the beginning of the description of the Garden where the LORD God will place the first man and woman. In verse 8 we will learn that God planted a garden. Well, the garden was lush in plant life. In fact, Adam and Eve were vegetarians.

So, in order for there to be a garden, there has to be plants. I do not know if you're into plants. Any gardeners out there? Plants are of some interest to me. Now, I cannot tell a lie. I am not a gardener although I would like to be. Every time I drive by a garden – could be in someone's backyard or it could be in a Garden Center, a store with a field where they grow plants – I wish that I could go outside there and work the soil. But maybe that is just a fantasy? It is one thing to watch the garden and the gardener from the comforts of an air-conditioned car, quite another to bend down there for backbreaking work under the hot sun!

Still, there is something wholesome and natural about man and woman in the garden. The other reason I am interested in plants is because I am eating more and more of them. Determined to become more fit than fat, I've been using lunch to munch on greens. An apple, some almonds (no salt) and a big bowl of garden greens have become my mid-day meal. And this week I have been looking down at the plants in my bowl thinking about two things, really. First, this must be what it is like to be a cow sent out to pasture looking down on greens the whole day and grabbing them by the teeth and second, I have been thinking about these verses in Genesis. Plant life.

Back to the text: if God is going to have a garden then first He makes the plants. And here in verse 5 we have two kinds mentioned. God often creates in twos. Look at your Bible with me if you can. We have the shrub and the plant. What we have here is essentially the difference between a perennial and an annual. The shrub is the perennial. A perennial plant regrows every spring. It continues from year to year. Once planted you do not have to think about it. When springtime comes, up comes this plant or flower. Notice

in the text how God says, “...**no shrub of the field was yet in the earth.**” God had not yet planted his perennials.

And then there is the plant. The plant is the annual. This is a plant that is new every year. You do have to think about these each spring. We get in our car or we take the bus and go to the Garden Center, pick out the annual plants and flowers and bring them home. Notice how in the text (Genesis 2, verse 5) God says, “...**no plant of the field had yet sprouted...**” or we could say has sprung up.

And, stick with me on the details here, also notice the rest of verse 5, “**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.**” Interesting. These plants sprout or spring up as a result of two things: rain and the cultivation of man. But as of yet there is no rain and there is no man. Therefore, no plant. (No annuals.)

Verse 5 is telling us the condition of the plant life prior to the making of man. Can't we see how God is systematically implementing His plan? Genesis 2 reads very clearly, step-by-step, in fluid motion and shows God to be One who prepares a home for man and woman. Let me quote Gerhard Charles Aalders, the Dutch Old Testament scholar, from his commentary on Genesis. He writes, (quote), “Here we have a...distinction between the wild plants that spring up naturally out of the Palestinian soil after the rains, and those plants that need the sowing and tending of human hands. Thus we are reminded here that all of these varieties of plants were created by God (83, *Genesis: Volume I Bible Student's Commentary*). (Unquote.) That was Dr. Aalders. And I am likely pronouncing his last name wrong! My apologies to those of you who are Dutch.

He is right both about the distinction in detail between the shrub and the plant, and also about the creative genius that is God! That's why I have spent time on Genesis 2, verse 5. I want you to see God as He prepares for man and woman. I love this about Him. He is meticulous in how He prepares for us. And I think that is true in your life and in mine. God did not just put this much care into Adam and Eve. God put this much care into you and me. After all, we're still enjoying the variety in plant life! And, we're eating some of it also. And there will be more to say about plants when we get into the actual garden with the first people.

But now let's go to verse 6. Let's see what God does next. I'll re-read Genesis 2, verse 6 for you: “**6 But a mist used to rise from the earth and water the whole surface of the ground.**” What is this? It's water that comes up from beneath the ground. And that is the water God uses to nurture the soil. It is not until after Adam and Eve sin that rain falls from the sky to the ground and waters the earth. Here, pre-fall, it is a mist that rises from beneath the ground. The closest thing we can compare it to is an in-ground sprinkler system. Perhaps you have seen these or you have one?

Underneath the ground are pipes that take water out to the sprinklers, which usually set on a timer, pop up from the ground and send water flying over the lawn or garden. More and more homes have these, but you can also find them at say golf courses, government buildings, or schools.

What we have here in verse 6 is very different than how the earth is watered now. And here I have one more quotation for you, this time from Henry Morris in his excellent book *The Genesis Record*. And this uses some scientific terminology that's easy to understand but if you would like what he says, I can send it to you so that you can read this for yourself and really digest it. Just email me or write a letter to my Post Office Box and I will send this to you.

Henry Morris writes (quote), “The original hydrologic cycle was thus drastically different from that of the present day. The present cycle, which began at the time of the great Flood, involves global and continental air mass movements, and annual and seasonal temperature changes...This present cycle centers around the solar evaporation of ocean waters, transportation to the continents in the atmospheric circulation, condensation and precipitation in the form of rain and snow, and transportation back to the oceans via rivers. In the original world, however, there was no rainfall on the earth. As originally created, the earth's daily water supply came primarily from local evaporation and condensation (84, *The Genesis Record*).” (End quote.)

God is all-wise! He knows exactly how to water the earth, either from below (the past) or from above (the present). And God is in the process of preparing a home for man and woman. We'll pick-up here again on Monday as we move through Genesis chapter 2.

One of the special treats sometimes available to us in the creation is to wake up early and see say a field covered in fog. A mist hovers over the ground creating condensation that leaves the grass and the flowers wet. They're nice and moist. I always find that peaceful to look it, to walk in. It reminds me of God's garden. Well, maybe you'll tend to your garden this weekend. Maybe you'll just eat some greens. Whatever the case may be, enjoy it and join me on Monday for God Is!

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