

Bible Study
Genesis 2.4-25

Following the great 'big picture' story of creation in Genesis 1, Genesis 2.4ff focuses in on the 6th day, when the first man and woman make their appearance. Today's passage comes before 'the Fall' when evil, rebellion, sin and death came into the world. It speaks of a time of peace and harmony between humanity and the earth, between human beings and each other and between people of God.

Please read verses 4 to 7

Q1 Do you think these verses tell a different story of creation from that recorded in Chapter 1, or do they just add detail?

Q2 Do you believe that science has 'disproved' the Genesis account of creation OR are the scientific and biblical explanations complementary?

Q3 What does verse 7 teach us about the relationship between human beings and (a) the earth and (b) God?

Now please read verses 15 to 20

Q4 Do you think verse 15 is relevant when the exploitation of the earth's resources is considered? How well is the human race fulfilling its responsibility of care?

Q5 Why does God say that the man needs a helper?

NOTE that this does not mean helper in the sense of an inferior who helps out. It means an equal and complementary other.

Q6 Adam is allowed to name the animals and birds. Does this authorize human exploitation of animals and birds?

Finally verses 21 to 25

Q7 Matthew Henry explains verse 21 as follows:-
'Not made out of his head to top him, not out of his feet to be trampled upon by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be beloved.'

How well do human relationships between the sexes reflect this truth?

Q8 In what way do verses 23 to 25 establish the basis of marriage? Note that Jesus quoted verse 24 when he was asked an awkward question about divorce (Mark 10.7-8).

Things have clearly gone wrong since the harmony of God's original creation?

Q9 How can things be put right again?

As Christians of course we look to the cross of Jesus for our healing and reconciliation with God. We also know that, just as the original man needed a 'helper' in the form of a woman, so the Christian disciple needs another 'helper' in the form of the Holy Spirit

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you for ever.

John 14.16

(English Standard Version – 'Helper' is a better translation than the NIV's 'Counsellor')

Final questions to think about...

Q10 What can we do to be better 'helpers' for God in his creating, nurturing and protecting role?

Q11 How can we be more effective as each other's 'helpers'? How far does this responsibility for others extend?