

What is the Relationship Between God and Man?
(God planted a garden)

Genesis 2:4-25

Key Verse: 8

“Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed.”

In this passage we learn God wants man to be happy, and true source of happiness is a relationship with our loving God who provides for us.

* MAN AND THE GARDEN (4-14)

1. With which day of creation does chapter 2 seem to be primarily concerned? Read verse 5. How does this verse lead up to the creation of man?
 - “LORD God” this personal, revealed Lord. Four spheres of happiness provided for us: Physical, emotional, spiritual, and social. Also provides clear meaning and purpose for man to work it and take care of it. The relationship between God and creation: Creator to creation. Man to Creation: to work the ground.
2. Read verse 7. How did God create man? What is the source of man's life and value? What does it mean to be a living being?
 - Personally, by his own hand, intimately. Relationship is not only creator to inanimate object; God gave life to him, like a parent to a child. Gave life from God to make man a living being.
 - Man's value comes from his being created by God in God's image. Man is not valued based on the sum of his parts, but like a painting receives value by who created it, so people are infinitely valuable because we are created by God. We cannot put a value on human life because of this.
 - Change question to reflect man's dual nature. These two form a living being: flesh and spirit. Living being is one created by God. Without God's intervention, there would be no mankind or life at all.
3. Read verses 8-14. Describe the garden which God planted for man. How did God provide for man's happiness? What are the “tree of life” and the “tree of knowledge of good and evil”? What do these verses tell us about God?
 - How did God provide for man's physical and spiritual needs? What does this teach us about what man's needs are, and where we can find fulfillment? Draw out how these verses reveal the needs/wants/desires in man, and what makes man happy, and where these things come from. Who provided them?
 - Planted a garden in Eden: a place to meet with God, protected, boundary, space. It was planned clearly, Acts 17:26-27. Laid out intentionally. East, Eden: Geographically located.
 - Diverse foods: all kinds of trees, variety, not be bored, etc...
 - Pleasing to the eye: beauty. God knew what makes man happy, and pleases him.
 - Food: we love food! And eating can be enjoyed.
 - Verses 8-9 show providence for dual-nature, flesh and spirit. They were centrally important.
 - Verses 10-14: progressively expanding the garden, in exploration, and also tools and resources to develop, grow and process. The direction God had for the man and creation. God's intention for the garden, his man and creation.
 - These were planted in the middle of the garden, to imply that these are more important than others, and that the other trees wanted them to be thought of centrally, the spiritual happiness.
 - He knows what man needs, and provided everything we need, even what we don't really understand we

need to be happy.

* ADAM'S BIBLE (15-17)

4. Read verses 15-17. What work did God give man to do in the garden? How does this relate to man's mission in 1:28? What did God command the man? How does God's command give man real freedom? What do God's commands suggest about the relationship between God and men? What were the consequences about which God warned man?
 - What God expected man to do: work it and take care of it, and to obey the Bible. Another need to be happy: productive work, stewardship and responsibility. God put him there, so under his sovereignty they have faith to be happy, doing productive work. 2 reasons we work in the garden: This is our relationship with Creation, and our purpose of creation, and it makes us happy.
 - This is how man can fulfill his mission, which is part of what makes man happy. Purpose, meaning, and positive direction. Personal mission for Adam, and specific for him, as part of the greater mission of all mankind.
 - 3 commands: "You are free to eat from any tree", "but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil," "you will surely die." He wants man to be free, to trust God, to find freedom in God.
 - Man obeys, and there is freedom and happiness. Relationship depends on obedience to commands.
 - Death, disaster, and hardship.

* GOD ESTABLISHES THE FAMILY (18-25)

5. Read verse 18. Why did God say, "It is not good for the man to be alone"? Read verses 19-20a. How was man fulfilling his mission as the steward of the world? Why could no suitable helper be found among the animals? Read verses 21-22. How did God provide a co-worker for Adam and why is the woman suitable? How does God confirm and establish the family?
 - He observed man, is always watching and aware, and he evaluates what is good and what isn't. Man needs social life and community.
 - Taxonomy – working together with God, in obedience, as coworkers, stewarding the animals. They needed names. Good shepherd who knows sheep by name.
 - Suitable: she was like him, and would be able to understand him.
6. Read verses 23-25. How did Adam receive the woman? What is marriage in God's point of view? (Mk 10:6-9) What does this verse suggest about the relationship between a man and a woman? What does this chapter teach us about the relationship between God and man?
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