



FUEL: Genesis 2:4-25

Quick Recap: **What are the key things that we learnt from Genesis 1:1-2:3?**

In Genesis 2:4 we come across the phrase "These are the generations of..." [In NIV it is "This is the account of..."] for the first time. This phrase occurs ten times in Genesis (2:4; 5:1; 6:9; 10:1; 11:10; 11:27; 25:12; 25:19; 36:1; 37:2) and is a bit like a chapter heading. We could say that Genesis has an introduction or prologue (1:1-2:3) and then ten chapters. The first chapter begins in 2:4 and ends in 4:26. This first chapter is especially important as it was written by Moses to persuade the Israelites who were just about to enter the Promised Land, and us now, that God's way is the best way to go, and that it's stupid to go your own way.

The setting for Genesis 2:4-4:26 is the area which we know today as the Middle East. **What words would you use to describe this part of the world?**

READ GENESIS 2:4-25

GETTING THE FACTS

What happens to the phrase 'heavens and the earth' in verse 4? What do you think the significance of this is?

What name is given to God in Genesis 2:4-25? How is the different to Genesis 1:1-2:3? What does this tell us about God?

1. God gave man the breath of life (v4-7)

In Genesis 1:26-27 we are told that God created man in His own image. **What extra details are we given about his creation in Genesis 2:7?**

What are we taught in Genesis 2:7 about man's relationship with God and with the ground?

God (see also Psalm 104:29-30): _____

Ground (see also Genesis 2:5, 15; 3:19): _____

2. God gave man a beautiful garden (v8-17)

How does Moses describe the garden God put Adam in? (verses 8-14) What does this teach us about God?

How does this garden compare to the Middle East during the time of Moses and in our day? What questions do you think an Israelite reading or hearing this would ask?

What job was Adam given to do in the Garden of Eden? (verse 15)

In what ways do we see God's goodness in the one rule He gave Adam in verses 16-17?

God alone knows what is good for human beings because He alone created them and also He alone knows everything. God gives this command to Adam in verses 16-17 so that he would know how to enjoy life as it's meant to be, life which is good. If Adam obeyed this command he would enjoy this good life. If Adam disobeyed this command he would decide for himself what was good.

What would happen to Adam if he disobeyed God's command and decided himself what was good and what was not? (verse 17) What is meant by this?

3. God gave man a suitable helper (v18-25)

At the end of verse 20 we are told that 'for Adam no suitable helper was found. **Why do you think Adam needed a helper? How does this help us understand the command given in Genesis 1:28 to be fruitful and increase in number?**

Matthew Henry wrote these famous words "*the woman is '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*". Men and women are equal, they were both made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27). Men and women are also different. Both physically and the roles they have been given by God to do.

In verses 24 God gives us His principles for marriage. **Explain in your own words what are they are?**

GETTING PERSONAL

What does this chapter teach us about what life is like when we live as God intended it to be?

In Revelation 21-22 we are given a picture of what life will be like for God's people in the future. **How does this chapter in Genesis, and these chapters in Revelation, encourage us to live in the here and now?**

What does this chapter teach about homosexuality, adultery, divorce, sex outside marriage, pornography etc? Why?
