

Genesis Assignment 2

Genesis 2:4-25

Another Account of Creation

1. In the first account of Creation (Genesis 1:1-2:3) mankind is presented as the last of the created living creatures and therefore the highest and noblest creation of God. In the second account of Creation what is the first living creature created by God. What does this mean?
2. Notice that this account begins with a similar declaration as the first account, "In the Day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens." The first account listed seven Days. How many Days are named in the second account of creation? What is the significance?
3. Why did God create the vegetation that covers the earth and why did he plant a garden called Eden (in the Greek LXX, Paradise)? What two trees were planted there.
4. What was the first commandment that God gave to his creature Man.
5. What is the significance of naming the rivers and the lands
6. In verses 2:7 and 2:15 we see one of Scripture's clearest outlines of mankind's telos, the reason for which he exists. What are these reasons?
7. In verses 18-20, why did God create "every beast of the field and every bird of the air"?

8. When God created the woman, what was the man's first reaction?
9. Note, verse 23 is a poem in Hebrew which plays on the two words man and woman (Hebrew ish and ishshah.) This is the institution of the covenant of marriage.
10. What is the meaning of the statement, "And the man and the wife were both naked and were not ashamed."

These two creation accounts establish many theological truths that are as relevant today as ever in history. Here are a few of the more important lasting truths.

1. Mankind is made in the image and after the likeness of God. See notes in ICSB.
2. The Telos of man is to tend his soul before his creator and to exercise dominion over the creation as the noblest of all creatures.
3. Sacraments are a creation ordinance (Sacrament = an outward and material of an inward and spiritual grace.) In the Garden of Eden God established two sacraments, eating the fruit of the Tree of Life conferred the grace of physical and spiritual life, while the union of the man and the woman in Holy Matrimony conferred the inward grace of "one flesh."
4. Holy Matrimony is the Sacrament which, as the Liturgy says, "was instituted in the time of man's innocency." This estate was blessed by Christ at the wedding of Cana and he also used this passage as the definition of marriage (One man and one woman in union.)