



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Genesis 1 – 19 Sermon Series

Supports Session 2: The First Week

Sermon Title: “God’s Gracious Provision” (Genesis 2:4-20)

Connection to Session 2

In the first week, God created the world. This message is about the creation of man and how God provided him with food, work, and protection. All of God’s creation and sustenance is a gift of His mercy and love. We can all appreciate and thank Him for these each day.

Introduction/Opening

Have you ever struggled, even dreaded work? Many of us have! While we might have a tough time waking up in the morning to go to work, perhaps it’s time to reframe it through the eyes of the Lord. God has been gracious, providing people with two important gifts: life and grace.

Outline

1. God’s Life (2:4-9)

- a. The mist of life (vv. 4-6).
 - i. God set a place for man to inhabit.
 - ii. God’s perfect creation and perfect provision was seen in the garden prepared for man.
- b. The breath of life (v. 7).
 - i. God literally breathed into man to bring him life. The image of God was alive in Adam!
 - ii. *Illustration:* The birth of a child is, of course, an exciting moment. All of the anticipation of the birth, from the nine months of pregnancy to the labor leading up to the birth, is punctuated with joy when those in the room hear one thing: the baby’s cry. It is, to a parent, an assurance of life.
 - iii. Life is precious. Life is an act of grace. Life is beautiful and wonderful.

- iv. Life is a gift.
- c. The provision for life (vv. 8-9).
 - i. First, we saw that God provided the mist that caused the plants, fruit, and flowers to grow in verse 6.
 - ii. Then, verse 7 explains how God breathed life into an independent, thinking, and loving being.
 - iii. Finally, in verses 8-9, we see God's perfectly planned provision was ready to feed man.

2. God's Grace (2:10-20)

- a. God's work is an act of grace (vv. 15,19-20).
 - i. In verses 5 and 15, man was given a job: to work in paradise!
 - ii. In fact, paradise does not mean the absence of work but is instead the presence of purpose.
 - iii. Adam had two jobs in the garden: cultivating and caring.
 - 1. Cultivating (v. 15): the task of working the soil, preparing conditions for the plants to grow.
 - 2. Caring (vv. 19-20): having authority over creatures, naming them, caring for God's creation. Adam was the first environmentalist!
- b. God's refuge is an act of grace (vv. 16-17).
 - i. God protected Adam with commands.
 - 1. Rules and commands are not designed to hurt but to protect.
 - 2. A child who plays on the front yard needs to be carefully watched. Why? Because children can wander into the road and tragedy can occur. Parents give boundaries for the child to be protected.
 - ii. God gave one rule to protect life: they could eat from any tree except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (vv. 16-17).
 - 1. Of course, we know that Adam and Eve failed in that.
 - 2. A whole slew of commands came after the fall so that we can be protected.

- a. It got more complex.
 - b. It got more complicated.
3. As Christians, however, we have two important commands that Jesus said everything hangs on (Matt. 22:37-39):
- a. Love God
 - b. Love people
 - c. If you follow these commands, everything else begins to fall into place.

Conclusion

So, what does this all mean? God's plan from the very start was to display His glory in His creation, including us. His gift of life and His gift of grace provides us a preview of what the whole world will see when Jesus comes again. This Jesus, King of kings and Lord of lords, brings life and brings grace, seen in the gospel. And this gospel is available for you to receive.

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