In the Beginning

A Study Through the Book of Genesis

PRBC
PLEASANT RIDGE
BAPTIST CHURCH
WALHALLA, SC

Lesson 5: "The History of Creation" Chapter 2:1-7 *Wednesday, February 25, 2026*

I. God Rested *(verses 1-3)*

Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished.
2 And on the seventh day God
ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.
3 Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

- Creation was ***finished***. From the Hebrew word *klh (ka-lah)* this means to be completed, the work was done. Nothing else needs to be done.
    - Here, Moses is speaking of the work of creation.
- We hear this again in John's Gospel 19:30 with the same meaning. From the Greek word *teleo* meaning completed, accomplished, made perfect.
    - Here, Jesus is speaking of His mission, redemption, the required price and sacrifice for salvation and the remission of sins.
- God ended His work and ***rested***. From the Hebrew word *sbt (sha-bat)* meaning to cease work in order to recover strength; to keep as a day of rest; to stop; to beat a standstill.
- God ***blessed*** the seventh day. God gave a sense of praise over the seventh day; He was pleased over it.
- God ***sanctified*** the seventh day because He rested. From the Hebrew word *qds (kee-dash)* it means that God made the day of rest Holy; He set it apart; He hallowed it and removed it from common use.
    - The Old Testament Sabbath was ceasing of the work of trying to fulfill the Law (Exodus 20:8)
    - In March 7th of the year 321, the Roman Emperor Constantine I made an official civil decree making the day of rest Sunday.
    - This decree was for civil and government officials, not a spiritual decision. However, the Christian church as a whole welcomed the decree so that Christians could easily attend Christian worship services and observe their day of rest.
    - In John Chapter 5, Jesus heals a blind man on the Sabbath. By doing this, Jesus challenges the old rules and shows that His authority exceeds the limitations of the letter of the law.
    - The heart of the new Sunday Sabbath is to rest in Christ's work as the fulfilment of the Old Testament Law for redemption.
    - Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament Law through His work on the cross.
    - As believers, we are to find our true and complete rest in Christ who provides peace in our lives through His finished work.
    - Finding rest and peace is not just a one-time decision but a daily practice. ***Ask yourself: Am I trusting Jesus today? Is His finished work enough for my worries?*** Setting aside time to pray, meditate on Scripture, and reflect on Christ's sacrifice can help keep our hearts rooted in His peace.

II. The History of Creation *(verses 4-6)*

4 This is the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens,
5 before any plant of the field was in the earth and before any herb of the field had grown. For the Lord God had not caused it to rain on the earth, and there was no man to till the ground;
6 but a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground.

- The purpose for Chapter 2 is a history of creation.
- The words "in the **day**" *(day from the Hebrew word yom)* means in the time that God created the heavens and the earth. It is not referring to a literal 24-hour day.
- God had not yet created rain.
- At this point in the re-telling, God had not yet created man to till the ground.
- The "***mist***" that went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground, the word "***mist***" is from the Hebrew word *ed (end)* and means a freshwater stream.
- The earth was watered with freshwater streams.

III. God Created Man *(verse 7)*

7 And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

- God ***formed*** man – the word "formed" is from the Hebrew word *yasar* and means fashioned and purposed the visible shape and the full configuration of man. It also carries with it the thought of "the work of an artist."
- God ***breathed*** into man's nostrils the breath of life.
    - Man became a living thing when God breathed into his nostrils.
    - The "breath of life" is completely unique to the creation of man.
    - The breath of life is man's soul.
    - Having a soul not only made man a physical being, but also made him a spiritual being with the capacity of serving and fellowshipping with God.
    - The soul is eternal, just like God (made in His image).
    - God made man as a "counterpart" to live in relationship with Him.