

St. Paul's Dorking Small Groups 27th September 2009

Kingdom, Power and Glory –God's Creation-Genesis 2 : 4-25



Word: Key points from Sunday's sermon

The story of Creation as told in Genesis 2: verse 4 to 25 is sometimes called a second creation account but this is misleading.

True it was almost certainly written by a different author but the point is that in this account man is the pivot whereas in chapter 1 of Genesis man is the climax, coming after everything else.

The story works outwards from man himself to man's environment, garden, trees, river, beast, birds etc. in a logical way to reveal the world as we are meant to see it, a place expressly prepared for our delight and our discipline.

This contrasts with the chronological order of chapter 1 where we read what happened on day 1, day 2 etc.

The two accounts approach creation from different perspectives but are complementary.

Chapter 1 is the creation story on a broad canvas using a telescope rather than a microscope. Our chapter focuses on the specific item of creation humanity and its relationship with God and the created order.

Note that our chapter uses the term LORD GOD as opposed to just God as in chapter 1. This double name, Yahweh Elohim, adds its own impressiveness to our version of the story and establishes the unity of the two terms, the personal name GOD and the title THE LORD.

Just God is used for the divine title in chapter 1. This was a word that Hebrews shared with other tribal groups, a common name for a divine being. It could be used as with gods with a small g.



Witness: questions to discuss

Guidance: Before discussion pray this prayer

Lord help us as we reflect today to be more thankful for what we have received, to be more content with and to care for what we have, and to be more mindful of other people in need.

Use the parts of the prayer for your discussion

1. God has made this beautiful world for us to enjoy. He wants us to love it, to rejoice in its beauty, to be amazed at the mountains and valleys, the rivers and lakes and seas and waterfalls, the trees and shrubs and plants and flowers. You might like to share with each other what part of the world each likes best. And WHY.

2 We need to be content with and to care for what we have. How best can we care for God's world? What changes do we personally need to make ?

3. God has provided parameters or limits. What are these and how can we obey them ? "thou shalt not eat...." You might look at the Ten Commandments

4 Harvest Festival reminds us that we should be more thoughtful about and generous to others in need How do we do this ? The book of Leviticus gives a window into the mind of God regarding produce "when you reap the harvest of your land (your global village of today) you shall not reap right into the edges of the field neither glean the loose ears of your crop...you shall not completely strip your vineyard not glean the fallen grapes Exodus goes even further and says that we should give our FIRST FRUITS (ie the very best) By the time we get to the end of the Old Testament (Malachi) we read that the only offerings being given to God were what people didn't want. What has happened ? How have they gone wrong ?!

