

Nearness of God

Genesis: The Front Door To The Bible

Genesis 2:4-25

Nearness of God

- Genesis 1:
- God is the creator of the heavens and the earth
- God is omnipotent and sovereign over all creation
- God gave the world structure and form and filled it with his creations.
- Men and women are made in God's image to exercise rule and dominion over creation.

Nearness of God

- In Genesis 1 the name of God is Elohim- as general word for God.
- In Genesis 2 the name of God is YHWH Elohim.
- The God of Israel is the God of creation & the God of creation is the God of Israel.

Nearness of God

- Wordplay in Genesis 2
- The man- adam or humankind. Earth/dirt- adamah
 - Man comes from earth and returns to the earth
- Man without “the”- the specific person Adam.
- Husband/man- ish. Wife/woman- ishah
 - Signifying their relatedness- of the same kind.

Nearness of God

- Genesis 2 presents a problem- the earth had yet to produce vegetation because of a lack of rain and someone to tend and care for it.
- How will this be solved?

Nearness of God

- Genesis 2 presents a God who is near and actively involved in creation. A God who is powerful but present.
 - Forms man- like a potter forms clay
 - Breaths into man's nostrils the breath of life.

Nearness of God

- God puts man to work and care for the garden- this is what ruling and exercising dominion looks like.
 - First problem solved: who will take work the land- the man.
- Knowledge is not found in the fruit as much as it is in obedience to God. Wisdom grows when we are obedient to God's words. To do what God says is good.

Nearness of God

- Second problem in Genesis to: the man is alone.
 - God brings all the animals to the man to be named and no suitable helper is found.
 - Suitable- an opposite, counterpart.

Nearness of God

- The man instantly recognizes in the woman his opposite, his counterpart that is of his kind.
- The problem of the man (ish) being alone is solved by the creation of the woman (ishah).

Nearness of God

- First- God is presented as being near and involved in the life of his creation. God is still omnipotent and sovereign but also caring.

Nearness of God

- Secondly- work is part of God's good creation. Working and caring for God's creation is what ruling and exercising dominion looks like.
- Work is not a result of sin. Creation's reluctance to produce for man is a result of our sin.
- The good life isn't free of work, rather it is about engaging in meaningful work of caring for and tending to creation.
- Humanity is part of God's creation lest we forget.

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- Third: Men and women are opposite/different/counterparts but equal. (Ish and Ishah)
 - Helper does not mean inferior or subservient.
 - Being created first doesn't mean better.
- Man and woman are meant to stand side-by-side as they carry out the command to care for and rule over creation.
- Fourth- marriage involves a new priority in relationships and commitment envisioned as becoming one.

Nearness of God

- Do you see God as distant and unconcerned about your life?
 - He's not. He cares for you. He knows what is happening in your life. You're not alone.
- What is your attitude toward work? What does it mean for work to be part of God's good creation?
 - What part of God's creation are you to tend and care for?
- Do we rejoice that men and women are different but equal? We are each other's opposite and counterpart- but equal.