

Genesis 2A

[Gen. 2:1](#) ¶ Thus the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their hosts.
[Gen. 2:2](#) By the seventh day God completed His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.

- The heavens and earth complete (and everything in them)
 - Transition statement linking chapter 1 with 2
 - Why do we have Chapter 2?
 - Compare & contrast
 - Some say two stories of Genesis
 - Day 6 expanded
 - Zoom in and Zoom out pattern to Genesis

- Before we start the zoom in for Chapter 2, interesting statement in verse 2
 - God rested
 - Tired?
 - Shabath – brought to an end, ceased
 - Why?
 - Doesn't need rest
 - Doesn't need 24 hours to cease
 - It's a peculiar and pointed effort by God to make a statement
 - Its something He intends to draw parallels with later

- Look at Sabbath
 - Ex 20:8-11
 - Deut 5:15

- God's rest was done to set an example for the Jewish nation under the law
 - Ex.: God doesn't tell Adam to observe a rest
 - Adam does work, but he doesn't get a command to rest
 - Also, God's rest was NOT a physical rest
 - Therefore, the Sabbath's ultimate purpose was not about a physical rest
 - Example: is the ultimate purpose of Baptism to clean the body of sin?
 - 1Pet 3:21 says no
 - it was a picture of a spiritual issue
 - Likewise, the Sabbath observance was given to picture a greater spiritual significance...what?
- First, we have been saved and transformed by Christ
 - 2 Cor 5:17
- Second, God Himself did the work to make reconciliation possible
 - Heb 10:11-14
 - God did the work of salvation
 - Compare to the work God did in His creation
 - Man was the beneficiary
 - Likewise, God did the work on the cross and we were the beneficiary (without doing any work of our own)
 - Some have chosen to trust in God's work for their salvation, and some have not
- Finally, Paul tells us in Gal 3:24 that the Law is a tutor...
 - The Sabbath is a perfect picture of how the Law is a tutor to lead us to Christ
 - Under the law, man's rest on the Sabbath is only temporary
 - Each man's work resumes on Sunday

- The rest was not lasting
 - No man could rest securely and perpetually on the Sabbath
- Likewise, anyone who might choose to justify himself by his own works
 - Either keeping the law or any other system of works will ultimately become frustrated by the fact that their efforts are never-ending
 - There can never be any assurance of salvation, no resting from their works
 - There is never an indication that enough has been done
 - Each day brings the need to do more
 - Any rest one might achieve is temporary at best
 - In the end, any man who relies on his own works to please God will die with his work incomplete
- Look at Heb 3:7-4:1-16
 - Unbelieving generation couldn't enter rest
 - Exodus generation died in the desert for their unbelief
 - Never entered God's rest
 - Entering God's rest = man's salvation
 - Pictured by entering the promised land
 - (Chap 4) Begins to show how the rest of Sabbath was always intended to represent the salvation men sought
 - First, it does NOT describe a period of time, specifically the period of time following God's creative work
 - God told the people of Israel they will not enter God's rest
 - If "rest" simply meant the time following Creation, then everyone would have already entered God's rest (that time has already come) 4:3-5
 - God's rest from creation is merely a picture of the true rest

- Second, God's rest is not a place
 - God spoke of Israel And even after Joshua's lead Israel into the promised land God was still speaking about the need to enter His rest in the Psalms
 - All of this points to the conclusion that when God talks about his rest, he
- But the Sabbath given in the law also illustrates that it is only a picture – that it cannot provide the ultimate fulfillment of what God promises
 - The work God did was complete and we can rest perpetually in God's work
 - Just as man lives perpetually in God's work of creation
 - When the Jews celebrated their Sabbath, they rested from their own work
 - They went back to work on Monday – not a permanent rest
 - Our own work of redemption is never complete – we die incomplete
 - The law showed that: Heb 10:1-2

[Gen. 2:4](#) ¶ This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made earth and heaven.

[Gen. 2:5](#) Now no shrub of the field was yet in the earth, and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, for the LORD God had not sent rain upon the earth, and there was no man to cultivate the ground.

[Gen. 2:6](#) But a mist used to rise from the earth and water the whole surface of the ground.

- Said already, this is a restatement of the account in Day 6 (zoom in)
 - Begins with an introduction statement (sets the scene for the events of Day 6)
 - The earth is created without plants
 - No rain...only mist to rise up and water the surface of the earth

- Interesting details
 - Suggests that rain was not part of the original design
 - Rain began with the flood event
 - Two interesting details from the flood story to corroborate the theory
 - Gen 7:11, the flood gates of the sky are opened (freed, loosed)
 - Gen 9:12-14, set (nathan - added) His bow to the sky
 - Never been there before
 - God held back rain until the flood so that He could reserve the rainbow as a sign of His mercy to the earth in the generations following the flood

[Gen. 2:7](#) Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

- More detail on the way God formed man
 - Compare to 1:27
 - This is the first part of that verse
 - Man was created from the material of the earth
 - Everything was created *ex nibilo* or out of nothing
 - Man created out of dust
 - Formed – yatsar, also means pottery
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