

In Genesis chapter one, we were given the grand, sweeping narrative of creation. We saw the Almighty God—Elohim—speak the entire cosmos into existence by the sheer power of His Word. It was the "big picture" of creation, displaying His majesty, His infinite power, and His sovereign glory.

But as we turn the page into Genesis chapter two, the Holy Spirit does something wonderful for us. He slows down the narrative. He zooms in. We move from the vastness of outer space right down to the quiet intimacy of a garden planted in Eden.

Here, God unveils what I like to call His "Original Blueprint" for humanity. In these twenty-five short verses, we are going to discover three massive, life-altering truths that every single one of us needs to grasp: The Rest, The Relationship, and The Rescue.

First, we're going to look at The Rest—what it truly means that God rested on the seventh day, and how Jesus Christ becomes our ultimate Sabbath rest, freeing us from the endless treadmill of religious performance and self-righteousness.

Second, we're going to see The Relationship—how the personal, covenant-keeping God, Yahweh, formed man from the dust, placed him in a paradise of choice, and established the sacred covenant of marriage between one man and one woman for one lifetime.

And finally, as we trace this blueprint through to the teaching of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew, we are going to see The Rescue—how Jesus came to heal our hard hearts, restore our broken lives, and offer us a brand-new beginning through the power of His cross and resurrection.

God has a design for your life, your home, your marriage, and your eternal destiny. So, let's go through the Word together—chapter by chapter, verse by verse—and see what the Lord has to say to our hearts.

Look with me at Genesis chapter two, starting in verse one...

Read Genesis 2:1-25

The Completion of Creation

The chapter opens by telling us that the heavens and the earth were finished. Every star was in its place, every molecule was formed. And then we read in Genesis 2:2 that on the seventh day, God ended His work and He rested.

Now, let's be clear: God wasn't "wiped out and exhausted." He didn't need a nap because He had a long week. Our God is omnipotent; He doesn't run out of gas. This rest was the rest of completion. The work was done. There was nothing more to add.

Since that day, we haven't seen new matter created. Instead, as scientists often point out through the second law of thermodynamics, we see a world that is gradually wearing down. The "clock" was wound up, and now it is slowly ticking toward its conclusion. God set apart that seventh day, the Sabbath, as a holy day.

The Substance vs. The Shadow

For the nation of Israel, the Sabbath was a mandatory covenant. But we often get folks asking, "Pastor, why do we worship on Sunday? Are we breaking the Law?" We need to look at what the Word says. In the book of Acts, we see the early church gathering on the first day of the week—the day Jesus rose from the grave!

In the Bible, the number seven speaks of completion, but the number eight speaks of a new beginning. Jesus is our "eighth day." He is the new beginning! The Apostle Paul tells us in Colossians 2:16-17 (NKJV):

"So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ."

You see, the Sabbath was a shadow, but Jesus is the substance. He is our rest. We don't find our righteousness by keeping a certain day; we find our righteousness by resting in the finished work of Jesus Christ. If you are still trying to earn your way to heaven by rules and regulations, you haven't entered into His rest yet.

Practical Application

1. Enter the Rest: Stop trying to "perform" for God. If you are stressed and burned out trying to be "good enough," remember that Jesus is your Sabbath. Rest in His grace today.
2. Protect the Home: If you are married, remember that God designed marriage for companionship and "oneness." Make it a priority to "cleave" to your spouse and keep the world from pulling you apart.

The Personal God: Yahweh

Notice a change in the text starting in Genesis 2:4. In chapter one, God is called Elohim—the Mighty Creator. But here, He is called LORD God (Yahweh Elohim). Whenever you see "LORD" in all capital letters in your NKJV, it refers to that sacred name of God.

Why the change? Because Yahweh is the name God uses when He relates to man. It's His "covenant name." It shows us that God isn't just a "Force" out there in the universe; He is a personal God who wants to walk with you, talk with you, and provide for your every need.

The Power of Choice

In the middle of this perfect Garden, God placed two specific trees: the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Now, people often ask, "Why did God put that tree there if He knew man would eat from it?"

The answer is simple but profound: Love requires a choice. God didn't want a bunch of robots. A robot can't love. For Adam's love and obedience to be meaningful, there had to be the opportunity to disobey. God gave man a free will—an awesome and terrifying gift. He said, "You can eat of everything, but don't eat this one." He gave us the power to choose our own destiny.

The First Marriage

Finally, we see that God looked at man and said, "It is not good that man should be alone" (Genesis 2:18). Man was incomplete. So, God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, took a part of his side—some say a rib, but it speaks of his very essence (possibly DNA?)—and fashioned woman.

When Adam saw Eve, he didn't give her a scientific name like he did the animals. He broke into poetry! "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh." God established marriage right there: one man and one woman, cleaving together, becoming one flesh, in a lifetime relationship. It's the foundational building block of society.

Genesis 2:24-25; Matthew 19:3-9

Remember, we're looking at God's "Original Blueprint" for humanity. But the tragedy of the human story is that man has always had difficulty living according to God's plan and His holy intentions.

By the time Jesus began His earthly ministry, man had drifted so far from the shore of God's design that the religious leaders—the Pharisees—were more interested in finding "loopholes" than in honoring God's heart.

The Pharisee's Trap and the Hardness of Heart

The Pharisees came to Jesus in Matthew 19 with a question designed to corner Him. They asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?" They were looking for a legalistic debate. They wanted to see if Jesus would side with the strict school of thought or the "anything goes" school of their day.

When Jesus answered that marriage is a sacred bond, they thought they had the "gotcha" moment. They cried out, "Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce?" They thought they had trapped Him into contradicting the Law of Moses.

But I love what the Lord did here. He didn't get bogged down in their legalism. Instead, He antedated Moses. He went back before the Law, back to the Garden, and said, "From the beginning it was not so."

Jesus explained that the provision for divorce in Deuteronomy wasn't there because God liked divorce; it was there because of the hardness of man's hearts. Because man's heart became hard and refused to submit to God's divine ideal, a concession was made. But that was never the plan. The plan was—and is—one man and one woman, for one lifetime, becoming one flesh.

The Problem with "Modern Love"

We look at our society today and we see the wreckage. We see the broken homes, the scarred children, and the hollowed-out lives, all because we've abandoned the "beginning purposes" of God.

I'll tell you, it use to break my heart as a pastor to hear a husband or a wife say, "Well, I just don't think I ever really loved them." What a tragic thing to say! Where is your head? What were you thinking? If you don't love someone, you have no business standing before God and making a covenant.

The problem often starts long before the wedding. Our modern dating system is upside down. Couples are getting deeply involved physically before they even know each other emotionally or spiritually. The relationship is built on the shifting sand of physical attraction rather than the solid rock of Christ-centered character.

Listen to me, young people: True love is patient. It will wait for God's ordained time. If a guy is trying to hustle you into bed before you're married, he doesn't love you with the kind of sacrificial love you need in a husband. He loves himself, and he's using you to satisfy his own flesh. Get rid of him! True love protects; it doesn't exploit.

Restoration Through the Cross

We serve a God of restoration. While we have all failed in various ways to live up to God's "Original Blueprint," we are not without hope. You see, Jesus didn't just come to teach us about marriage; He came to save us from our hard hearts.

Jesus saved us when He shed His blood on the cross. That blood washes away our failures, our broken promises, and our sexual sins. And when He walked out of that grave three days later, the resurrection declared that He is God, Savior, and Lord. He has the power to take a heart of stone—a hard heart—and turn it into a heart of flesh that can truly love.

Practical Application

- For the Married: If your heart has grown hard toward your spouse, stop looking for "loopholes" or exits. Go back to the "beginning." Ask God to soften your heart and help you serve your mate with the same sacrificial love Christ has for the Church.
- For the Single: Guard your heart and your body. Do not settle for a "physical-first" relationship. Build your future on a foundation of spiritual unity and emotional friendship.

A Challenge for the Believer

I challenge you this week to examine the "hardness" in your own life. Where are you resisting God's "Original Blueprint"? Whether it's in your marriage, your purity, your speech, or your integrity surrender that area to the Lordship of Jesus Christ today.

Are you using your "power of choice" to honor God? Every day, we are faced with "trees" in our own lives—choices to obey God's Word or follow our own flesh. I challenge you this week: in every decision, choose to prioritize the things of the Spirit over the things of the world.

An Invitation to the Unbeliever

Perhaps you're reading this and you realize your life is a series of broken pieces. You've tried to do things your own way, and it has left you empty. I have good news: Jesus loves you. He died for every mistake you've ever made.

If you're ready to experience a "new beginning" today, you can give your life to Jesus right now. It starts by simply acknowledging the truth: that we have all sinned and fallen short of God's "Original Blueprint" for our lives. We are in desperate need of a Savior.

Believe in your heart that Jesus loves you so much that He shed His precious blood on the cross to pay for your sins, and that He rose from the dead to give you life. The resurrection declares that He is God, Savior, and Lord. Simply invite Him to take the throne of your life. He promises to take that heart of stone and give you a new heart, a new spirit, and a glorious new purpose.

It is the most important decision you will ever make, and I would be honored to help you take that step. Remember, it's not about a "magic formula" of words; it's about the sincere cry of your heart to the God who created you and loves you beyond measure.

A Simple Prayer of Salvation

If you are ready to surrender your life to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, you can pray something like this right where you are:

"Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner. I recognize that I haven't been living according to Your original blueprint for my life, and I've tried to be my own god. I believe that You are the Son of God, that You shed Your blood on the cross to wash away my sins, and give me life. I believe that You rose from the grave declaring that You are God, Savior and Lord. Right now, I open the door of my heart. I invite You to be my Savior and my Lord. Thank You for forgiving me. Thank You for giving me a new beginning and a new purpose. Amen."

Your Next Steps in the Walk of Faith

The Bible says that when you come to Christ, you are a "new creation." Just like a newborn baby needs nourishment and care, your spiritual life needs to be fed. Here is how you can begin to grow:

- **Get into the Word:** Start reading the Bible every day. I always suggest starting in the Gospel of John. It's a beautiful place to see the heart of Jesus and understand who He is.
- **Talk to Him (Prayer):** Prayer is just talking to God like you'd talk to a friend. Tell Him your struggles, thank Him for His blessings, and ask Him for guidance. He's listening!
- **Find a Fellowship:** We weren't meant to walk this road alone. Find a Bible-teaching study group—one that teaches through the Word, chapter by chapter and verse by verse—where you can be encouraged and held accountable by other believers.
- **Publicly Confess Him:** Tell someone about the decision you made today! Jesus said that if we confess Him before men, He will confess us before His Father in heaven.