

**GOD'S ORDERED PARADISE!**  
**GENESIS CH2:1-3**

**ILLUSTRATION**

Play different types of theme music:

1. Coronation Street Theme music
2. East Enders Theme music
3. BBC Match of the Day Theme Music
4. Star Wars Theme Music
5. Hans Zimmer – Man of Steel

Both the Old Testament and the New Testament ascribes Moses as the writer of the first five Books of the Bible (the Pentateuch – Exodus Ch17:14; Deuteronomy Ch31:24; Joshua Ch8:31; 2 Kings Ch14:6; John Ch1:17, Ch5:46, Ch7:19, 23; Romans Ch10:5; 2 Corinthians Ch3:15). The account opens with a clear statement about the Creator and Creation. The opening ten words in Genesis Ch1:1 are the **foundation** of all that is to follow in the Bible. The purpose of the statement is threefold:

1. to identify the creator
2. to explain the origin of the world
3. to tie the work of God in the past to the work of God in the future.

**GOD RESTED ON THE 7<sup>th</sup> DAY! V1-2**

***“Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.”***

Stephanus, the 16<sup>th</sup> century printer-scholar who introduced the “verse divisions” that we use today, it is said of him, that, “Stephanus made his verse divisions while riding horseback” (Cited in Kent Hughes, Genesis, page 41). It is really suggesting that he made a right mess of things, particularly here in Genesis! Stephanus aside, if we read Ch1 – Ch2:1 as a whole, with no verse divisions, we see the contented satisfaction of God in the conclusion of Day six. ***Let's try this from Ch1:31 – Ch2:1!*** God is marvelling over and joyous over what He has created! This is ***really the pinnacle of God's creative work, a well ordered, beautiful, bountiful, and blessed planet, swarming with life, with no sin, under the joyous watch of the Lord!***

***“And He rested on the seventh day from all His work that He had done.”*** God has ***now completed all His creative work!*** He is resting from His creative work, and prepared for another “type” of work. ***What kind of other work?*** God is preparing to interact with His creation, through sustaining it, caring for it, directing it! This starts to be seen in **relationship work** – v7, v8, v15-22!

God is not resting, because He is shattered, as He is omnipotent, all powerful!  
God is not resting, because He is leaking His omnipotence! His omnipotence is infinite!  
God is not resting, because He is out of creative ideas! He has fully completed His creative work! The phrase ***“and all the host of them”***, is the only place in the entire Bible where this ***phrase is used! It is complete!***

A new work for God has started (John Ch5:17).

**GOD BLESSED THE 7<sup>th</sup> DAY! V3**

***So God blessed the seventh day”, the Hebrew word for “blessed” is – “baruch”.*** We saw it used back in Ch1:22 + 28. The only part of God's creation that is said to be blessed is that part which is given **life**, animals and humans - v22 + v28 and now!

Remember that part of that blessing for us concerning verses 22 + 28 are:

1. It is estimated that there are over 20, 000 species of edible plants!
2. It is believed that there are over 2000 different types of edible fruit worldwide!
3. It is estimated that there are 2.16 million species of wildlife (insects, fish, animals etc.) on our planet!
4. It is estimated that there are over 8 billion people on our planet earth!

In Hebrew "**berakah**" means "blessing" and the Biblical nuance of "blessing" – Blessing in the Bible is a word of **vitality, creativity and fulfilment**. Has the Lord our God not blessed us!

Kent Hughes says it extremely well "...he made it spiritually fruitful. We know that the two preceding blessings in the creation account, first on living creatures and then on Adam and Eve, bestowed fertility because in both instances God said 'Be fruitful and multiply' (1:22; 1:28). The meaning here is essentially the same but in the spiritual realm. 'God's blessing on this special, holy solemn day a power which makes it fruitful for human existence. The blessing gives the day, which is a day of rest, the power to stimulate, animate, enrich, and give fullness to life.' The seventh day is one of perpetual spiritual spring – a day of multiplication and fruitfulness. This would become of great importance and benefit to God's people<sup>2</sup> (Cited in Kent Hughes, Genesis, page 43).

### **GOD MADE THE 7<sup>th</sup> DAY HOLY! V3**

**"And made it Holy"** God made it Holy! Only God! The Elohim God, supreme and mighty God, ceased from His wonderful creative work and set the seventh day apart from all the other days! There is no Announcement, Command, Separation, Report or Pronouncement (evaluation)!

It has no "evening or morning", God pronounces the day **blessed** and then **holy!** Spiritually perpetually spring and the first thing in the whole of Scripture to be "**hallowed**"

***It is therefore elevated higher than the other days, by God and for God! This blessed, perpetual spring and holy day has no end, and still is! We are to experience God in an intimate relationship, established through Christ's death, and find our rest in Him! As we do so, the original ordered paradise, re-emerges and starts again in and through us!***

### **APPLICATION**

Essentially I usually say at the start of every new year:

1. We will continue to experience unfinished tasks this year!
2. We will continue to experience unsolved problems this year!
3. We will continue to experience unresolved conflict this year!

***And this year there is a fourth! Continue to experience rest in Christ!***

How well are you resting in Christ?

Do you understand what Biblical rest in Christ is?

How do we find our rest in Christ?

We function best, when we follow God's instructions!