

In Step with Jesus 195

April 19, 2026

Key Text: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; ²³ they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. (Lamentation 3: 22-23)

Introduction

As we continue reading Genesis, the book of our origins, let us take a moment to give glory to God for who He is in our lives. He is our creator and sustainer, the keeper of our souls, and the lifter of our heads. He is our refuge and strength; He is ever present to help us in times of trouble. “Therefore, we will not fear though the earth give way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.” (Isaiah 46:2-3). In other words, we shall not fear, even if we are facing earthquake, tsunami, and cyclone. God is among us and He will help us sooner than we expect. In fact, His help is always near. Instead of being afraid of the circumstances we face, especially in these last days, let us pray without ceasing and our prayer shall be, “LORD open my eyes to see the help you have already provided in this situation. Open my eyes to see and enjoy the benefits you have already loaded me with. Open my eyes to the way of escape you have already made in the trial I am facing right now.” This is a prayer that God will always answer. And as surely as He opened the eyes of Gehazi, Prophet Elisha’s servant, to see that the armies of the LORD who were on their side, were greater than the armies of their enemies, He will open our eyes to see His goodness and instead of trembling, we shall find reasons to praise and adore our beautiful God. As we continue to reflect on the goodness and beauty of our God, let us read more about His creative work in Genesis chapter two. We shall read Genesis 2: 4-17 and see what we can learn about our loving Father in Heaven.

Genesis 2: 4 – 17

⁴These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens ⁵When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground, ⁶and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground— ⁷then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. ⁸And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring

up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁰A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers. ¹¹The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. ¹²And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. ¹³The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush. ¹⁴And the name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria.^[d] And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

¹⁵The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. ¹⁶And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat^[e] of it you shall surely die."

Reflections

Our text for today provides further emphasis about the fact that God is our creator and sustainer. The subtle emphasis of the text is that God created all things without the help of man, but in the best interest of the man but the man cannot take the glory for anything. No, not after considering the fact that God made him from dust. There were precious stones in the land; gold, bdellium, and onyx were there, but God left them and chose to make us of the dust of the earth. In comparison to those precious stones and all the other beautiful things that God had made, the dust was pretty useless, but God chose to make something as beautiful as you and me from Dust. God could have also spoken life into the dust for man to become a living soul, but He condescended to the dust to breath into its nostrils. Thus, in that intimate contact, God impacted His life giving Spirit into man. God could have also allowed the man to live as he pleased, considering the fact that He created man in His own image and that His spirit was in Him, but God in His wisdom, gave him clear instructions on how to sustain the life he had. He could eat of every tree in the garden except the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. To eat of that fruit is to separate himself from the source of life.

After reading the creation account, you can see with me that the simple law of not eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, represents more than just what to eat and what not to eat. Obedience to that law would reveal more about the man's love, trust, and loyalty to God His creator, provider, sustainer, and friend. In this world of sin and betrayal, humanity struggles with love, trust, and loyalty in this generation more than ever before. But I want to encourage you to make a choice to trust God no matter what happens. Everyone and everything may fail but God never fails. God bless you as you chose to trust Him this week.