

What God Calls a Home

Genesis 2:4–25

An Expositional Sermon by Dr. Bradley Rushing

Big Idea

God orders human life and home around His presence and covenant purposes in the world.

I. God designs our homes to center on His presence and provision (vv. 4–17)

- God is now called “the Lord God” (Yahweh Elohim). This shows His covenant name and His nearness.
- He prepares a place where humans will live with Him and work with Him.
- God forms the man from dust and breathes life into him.
- God plants a garden in Eden and puts the man there.
 - Eden is a kind of earthly sanctuary where God walks with His people.
 - Rivers flow out from Eden as a picture of life spreading from God’s presence.
- God gives abundance. Trees that are beautiful and good for food. Water, provision, and delight.
- The man is put there “to work it and keep it.”
 - The words “work” and “keep” are later used for priests in the tabernacle.
 - Adam’s work in the garden is worship in the presence of God.

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II. God designs our homes to embrace His calling and trust His boundaries (vv. 15–17)

- God places Adam in the garden on purpose.
- Adam receives a calling: “work it and keep it.” Work is part of God’s good design, not a result of the fall.
- God gives generous freedom.

- “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden.”
- His first word is blessing and invitation, not restriction.
- God also gives one clear boundary.
- “But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat.”
- The tree represents the right to define good and evil. That right belongs to God alone.
- Sin in Eden is the attempt to sit in God’s chair and decide truth for ourselves.
- Our culture still says, “Live your truth. You do you.” Genesis says, “You belong to the God who made you.”

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III. God designs our homes to be built on covenant love between husband and wife (vv. 18–25)

- God makes “a helper fit for him.”
- Adam names the animals but finds no partner among them. Human companionship requires another image bearer.
- God fashions the woman from Adam’s side.
- Adam’s first recorded words are a poem of joy and recognition.
- God gives the pattern for marriage.
- Marriage in Eden is covenant love before sin. Naked and not ashamed. • This is God’s blueprint for marriage and sexuality. Anything outside of it is sin.
- Sin has twisted God’s design, but Christ came as the Last Adam to redeem and restore.
- In Christ, God can begin to heal homes that feel nothing like Eden.
- He forgives what has been broken and teaches us how to live under His presence and purposes again.

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