

Today's Message: **VERY GOOD!**
Genesis 2
Pastor Gary Stump

Don't we all long for very good?

Genesis 1:31a (NLT) Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!

Is this world very good today?

- Famine
- Disease
- War
- Natural Disasters
- Genocide
- Human trafficking
- Political Corruption
- Lack of Water
- Crime and Violence
- Refugees
- Racial Strife
- Broken marriages and families

How do we get back to very good?

What does "very good" even look like?

Genesis 2:1–25 (NLT) So the creation of the heavens and the earth and everything in them was completed. ² On the seventh day God had finished his work of creation, so he rested from all his work. ³ And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day when he rested from all his work of creation. ⁴ This is the account of the creation of the heavens and the earth. When the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, ⁵ neither wild plants nor grains were growing on the earth. For the LORD God had not yet sent rain to water the earth, and there were no people to cultivate the soil. ⁶ Instead, springs came up from the ground and watered all the land. ⁷ Then the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man's nostrils, and the man became a living person. ⁸ Then the LORD God planted a garden in Eden in the east, and there he placed the man he had made. ⁹ The LORD God made all sorts of trees grow up from the ground—trees that were beautiful and that produced delicious fruit. In the middle of the garden he placed the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. ¹⁰ A river flowed from the land of Eden, watering the garden and then dividing into four branches. ¹¹ The first branch, called the Pishon, flowed around the entire land of Havilah, where gold is found. ¹² The gold of that land is exceptionally pure; aromatic resin and onyx stone are also found there. ¹³ The second branch, called the Gihon, flowed around the entire land of Cush. ¹⁴ The third branch, called the Tigris, flowed east of the land of Asshur. The fourth branch is called the Euphrates. ¹⁵ The LORD God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it. ¹⁶ But the LORD God warned him, "You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden—¹⁷ except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die." ¹⁸ Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him." ¹⁹ So the LORD God formed from the ground all the wild animals and all the birds of the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would call them, and the man chose a name for each one. ²⁰ He gave names to all the livestock, all the birds of the sky, and all the wild animals. But still there was no helper just right for him. ²¹ So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. While the man slept, the LORD God took out one of the man's ribs and closed up the opening. ²² Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib, and he brought her to the man. ²³ "At last!" the man exclaimed. "This one is bone from my bone, and flesh from my flesh! She will be called 'woman,' because she was taken from 'man.'" ²⁴ This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one. ²⁵ Now the man and his wife were both naked, but they felt no shame.

World is longing to get back to "very good!"

Romans 8:19–22 (NLT) For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. ²⁰ Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, ²¹ the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. ²² For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

The King on His Throne

Matthew 25:31 (NLT) "But when the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit upon his glorious throne."

The King will rule in peace

Isaiah 2:1–5 (NLT) This is a vision that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:² In the last days, the mountain of the LORD's house will be the highest of all—the most important place on earth. It will be raised above the other hills, and people from all over the world will stream there to worship.³ People from many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of Jacob's God. There he will teach us his ways, and we will walk in his paths." For the LORD's teaching will go out from Zion; his word will go out from Jerusalem.⁴ The LORD will mediate between nations and will settle international disputes. They will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will no longer fight against nation, nor train for war anymore.⁵ Come, descendants of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

Justice will cover the world

Isaiah 11:1–10 (NLT) Out of the stump of David's family will grow a shoot— yes, a new Branch bearing fruit from the old root.² And the Spirit of the LORD will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.³ He will delight in obeying the LORD. He will not judge by appearance nor make a decision based on hearsay.⁴ He will give justice to the poor and make fair decisions for the exploited. The earth will shake at the force of his word, and one breath from his mouth will destroy the wicked.⁵ He will wear righteousness like a belt and truth like an undergarment.⁶ In that day the wolf and the lamb will live together; the leopard will lie down with the baby goat. The calf and the yearling will be safe with the lion, and a little child will lead them all.⁷ The cow will graze near the bear. The cub and the calf will lie down together. The lion will eat hay like a cow.⁸ The baby will play safely near the hole of a cobra. Yes, a little child will put its hand in a nest of deadly snakes without harm.⁹ Nothing will hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain, for as the waters fill the sea, so the earth will be filled with people who know the LORD.¹⁰ In that day the heir to David's throne will be a banner of salvation to all the world. The nations will rally to him, and the land where he lives will be a glorious place.

Righteousness will be His rule

Isaiah 32:1–2 (NLT) Look, a righteous king is coming! And honest princes will rule under him.² Each one will be like a shelter from the wind and a refuge from the storm, like streams of water in the desert and the shadow of a great rock in a parched land.

The desert will bloom

Isaiah 35:1–2 (NLT) Even the wilderness and desert will be glad in those days. The wasteland will rejoice and blossom with spring crocuses.² Yes, there will be an abundance of flowers and singing and joy! The deserts will become as green as the mountains of Lebanon, as lovely as Mount Carmel or the plain of Sharon. There the LORD will display his glory, the splendor of our God.

The light will shine

Isaiah 60:1–3 (NLT) "Arise, Jerusalem! Let your light shine for all to see. For the glory of the LORD rises to shine on you.² Darkness as black as night covers all the nations of the earth, but the glory of the LORD rises and appears over you.³ All nations will come to your light; mighty kings will come to see your radiance."

The world will produce abundance

Amos 9:13 (NLT) "The time will come," says the LORD, "when the grain and grapes will grow faster than they can be harvested. Then the terraced vineyards on the hills of Israel will drip with sweet wine!"

SO WHAT? Will you enter God's rest?

Hebrews 4:1–3 (NLT) God's promise of entering his rest still stands, so we ought to tremble with fear that some of you might fail to experience it.² For this good news—that God has prepared this rest—has been announced to us just as it was to them. But it did them no good because they didn't share the faith of those who listened to God.³ For only we who believe can enter his rest.

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PO BOX 681 • FISHERS, IN 46038 • www.onwardchurch.org
PASTOR GARY L. STUMP • gary@garystump.org • 317.513.0227

ONWARD CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2021

1. LIVESTREAM ON FACEBOOK LIVE—We will continue to livestream our service on Pastor Gary's Facebook Live and it will be available on our website (www.onwardchurch.org) and our YouTube channel (see below for link)

Gary's FACEBOOK LIVE link: <https://www.facebook.com/gary.stump.3>

Onward Church YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSHetYKObsv3tYGbNtwgnOg>

2. NO YOUTH GROUP TONIGHT

3. WEDNESDAY LADIES BIBLE STUDY—9:30-11:15am @ Kathy Stump's (12928 Whitehaven Lane, Fishers, IN 46038). Ladies will be studying *Gideon* with Priscilla Shirer. The study books will be able to be purchased for \$13 at the first meeting. For more info contact: Kathy Stump 317-292-7632 or Laurie Abell 317-432-6851.

4. TRUTH AT WORK CONFERENCE—Friday, November 12; 9am to 1pm; Northview Church, Carmel. Tim Tebow, Crawford Loritts, Jessica Nam Kim, John Venhuizen are this year's keynote speakers. Tickets \$50. Let Pastor Gary know if you would like to attend.

5. FEBRUARY 26-27 2022 ONWARD MARRIAGE RETREAT at Brown County Inn. Theme: *Experiencing Biblical Sabbath within your Marriage*. Speaker: Matthew A. Vander Wiele, Ed. D.

Brown County Inn
Nashville, IN 47448
(812) 988- 2291

Rooms: This is the only cost to you

Double Queen - \$100.00 plus tax

King - \$110.00 plus tax

Important: There are only **40 rooms** reserved - Rooms can only be held until **January 26th** then you risk not being able to attend.

Please call 812-988-2291 to reserve your own room - Please reserve under **ONWARD MARRIAGE RETREAT** and give them the PROMO CODE **0270**

Schedule and Times to Come!

Looking forward to seeing you! Matt and Abby Vander Wiele

6. 2022 ONWARD TO JERUSALEM BIBLE STUDY TOUR—OCTOBER 18-29, 2022. Cost of the tour will be approximately \$3,800 per person (double occupancy). A deposit of \$500 will hold your spot. For more information, please write Pastor Gary at gary@garystump.org.