

The Garden of God
Genesis 2:4-14
September 4, 2016

Genesis 2:4-14 *This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created. When the LORD God made the earth and the heavens— 5 and no shrub of the field had yet appeared on the earth and no plant of the field had yet sprung up, for the LORD God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no man to work the ground, 6 but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground— 7 the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. 8 Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there He put the man He had formed. 9 And the LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. 10 A river watering the garden flowed from Eden; from there it was separated into four headwaters. 11 The name of the first is the Pishon; it winds through the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold. 12 (The gold of that land is good; aromatic resin and onyx are also there.) 13 The name of the second river is the Gihon; it winds through the entire land of Cush. 14 The name of the third river is the Tigris; it runs along the east side of Asshur. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.*

I. Perfection of Eden (4-6)

- Two different creations?
 - Many have attacked Genesis for having two different creation accounts
 - There is only one creation account: **Genesis chapter 1**
 - What does “account” mean?
 - Account = generations
 - This is actually shown in several places

Genesis 5:1 *This is the written account of Adam's line. When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God.*

Genesis 6:9 *This is the account of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God.*

Genesis 11:10 *This is the account of Shem. Two years after the flood, when Shem was 100 years old, he became the father of Arphaxad.*

- **Genesis chapter 1** is the creation (Day 1 to Day 6)
- So from **2:4** to the end of Revelation is the explanation of the creation of man and his fall and God's provision of man's salvation
- This is the account of man—not creation
- No shrubs and plants
 - What is Moses saying?
 - Is this Day 3 of creation? Was Moses confused?
 - No—this is Day 6 of creation
 - Plants have been created on Day 3
- What are these shrubs and plants?
 - These plants have not been found yet on earth
 - These are plants that appeared after the fall
 - Hebrew words
 - Shrubs = *siyach*
 - Plants = *eseb*

- We see this in **Genesis 3:18-19** (same order of words)

Genesis 3:18-19a *It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants [eseb] of the field. 19a By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food*

- Shrubs = thorns and thistles
- Plants = planted crops (wheat, barley, rye, oats, etc)
- Why no shrubs and plants?
 - Remember during creation everything was perfect
 - Nothing to spoil creation or hard work to make things grow
 - Thorns and thistles are weeds—there were no weeds during this time
 - Cultivated plants did not appear
 - They were both dependent on rain and cultivation
- No rain
 - This is an interesting verse since rain never occurred until the Flood
 - How do we know this?
 - God installs a rainbow for the first time

Genesis 9:12-13 *And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between Me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: 13 I have set My rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth.*

- Streams coming up from the earth

Genesis 2:6 *but a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground.*

- Some translations translate “mist” for streams, but streams is the best translation
- Fed by spring water—saturated ground
 - Think oasis or river running through a desert
- Why is this important?
 - Before the Fall, Eden was perfect
 - Moses is reminding his readers the perfection of Eden
 - And what we are missing
 - After the Fall
 - Rain is a judgment of God

Matthew 5:45 *that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.*

Amos 4:7 *I also withheld rain from you when the harvest was still three months away. I sent rain on one town, but withheld it from another. One field had rain; another had none and dried up.*

- He gives it and He withholds it for His purpose
- Man now has to cultivate the earth to get food

II. Creation of Man (7)

- Out of dust

Genesis 3:19b *until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.*

- Man's body has the same elements as the dust
- Man is a physical being—like the animals
- Breath of life
 - God have man life
 - Same breath of life as the animals

Genesis 7:21-22 *Every living thing that moved on the earth perished--birds, livestock, wild animals, all the creatures that swarm over the earth, and all mankind. 22 Everything on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils died.*

- Living being
 - This is different from the animals
 - We have an eternal soul, spirit
 - Man is created to have a relationship with God

III. Location of Eden (8-14)

- The garden
 - God planted the garden Himself
 - He did it for man as his home
 - Eden = well-watered place
 - It was planted to the east
 - East of what?
 - East of Israel—the promised land
 - What does this Garden look like?
 - Lush garden with the best trees and plants
 - For looking and eating—all for man
 - It was also full of minerals—gold, onyx, etc
- The two trees
 - Tree of life
 - This unique tree has the ability for making one live forever

Genesis 3:22 *And the LORD God said, "The man has now become like one of Us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever."*

- However, we do not have access to it because of sin
- It is God's mercy that we do not live forever in misery of sin
- We cannot eat this fruit until we are transformed to the image of His Son

Revelation 22:1-2 *Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb 2 down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.*

- Tree of knowledge of good and evil

- This is not a poisonous tree—remember everything in creation is perfect
- This tree does not cause man to suddenly understand evil by its fruits
- This is a tree set aside to test Adam
- This tree is set aside to see if Adam would follow God's command

Genesis 2:16-17 *And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; 17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."*

- Where does this knowledge of evil come from
 - Disobeying God
- The four rivers
 - Rivers came from underground water
 - Remember there was no rain
 - It seems that these rivers are large rivers—not tiny rivers
 - We do not know where these river flowed to because it flowed through the land before the Flood
 - Everything was altered during the Flood
 - River from Eden
 - It started in Eden and then divided into four rivers
 - It watered the whole lands
 - Interestingly this type of watering will be repeated during the Millennial Reign of Christ (**Ezekiel 47:1-12**)