

## GOD CREATED THE GARDEN OF EDEN

Genesis 2:4-17

Key Verse 2:16, 17

### 1. Describe the condition of the earth before God created the Garden of Eden (4-6).

Genesis 1:1 - 2:3, were a bird's eye view/summary description of the creation. Chapter 2:4-17 goes into much deeper detail of man's creation.

Before the man was created there were no plants or shrubs to appear. There was no man to work the ground either. There were streams of water that came up from the ground and watered the plants. It was a land without life yet. But we see that the land was meant to support mankind. The earth without the man would be devoid of purpose and kind of silly. God's whole purpose was revealed through creating. It shows that the land had a purpose and direction dictated by God.

Also notice the terms used to describe God. In chapter 1:1 -2:3 the term God (Elohim) was used. But now the more direct term LORD GOD (Jehovah Elohim) is used. This identifies God as concerned and very personal in being involved in creating the Garden of Eden.

#### How did God create man (7)?

Verse 7, "the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, the man became a living being."

#### John 6:63

"<sup>63</sup>The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit<sup>[a]</sup> and they are life."

God breathed life into the man. Man was made with the same content as other creations. We are all made of Carbon and Proteins and such. But God added an extra thing. God put a piece of his own spirit in man and this is how man came alive. This is how we know about God. God places his spirit in a man and he becomes a living being, without it, man is nothing but dust and an animal.

#### What is the uniqueness of man?

When we look at animals, we see they are all flesh. When we look at Angels we see they are all spirit. But man has two natures. He is both flesh and spirit. He has a spiritual and a physical nature. Man was also made to work the garden and rule over and subdue it. Man is also unique because the creation is made for us to live in. Finally man is distinct because God made us - we did not evolve out of animals.

#### Deuteronomy 8:3

"<sup>3</sup> He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD."

## **2. What did God do for man (8)?**

The Lord God planted a Garden in the East for the man. In Eden the passage says. Then he put the man he had made in that garden. This was the place he was meant to live. God prepared the air for the birds, the sea for the fish, and now the garden for the man. God also prepared a spiritual environment by making a place that God and man could have fellowship.

### **Describe its physical environment (9-14)**

The physical environment must have been amazing. Kings and Queens live in huge palaces, but the Garden of Eden would have trounced even the best estate.

The LORD GOD made all kinds of trees.

Trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food.

The garden had a river flowing through it.

There was gold, onyx, and aromatic resin there. Very pleasing things to look at for man to decorate with.

### **and its spiritual environment (16, 17).**

In the middle of the garden God placed two trees.

1. He placed the tree of life. Which was meant to be eaten from and to live forever by doing so.
2. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil. But the Lord God commanded the man not to eat from this tree - otherwise he would surely die.

God prepared everything for man's spiritual needs and physical needs.

### **Why did God put man in the garden (15)?**

Verse 15, "The LORD GOD took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."

Man was placed there to enjoy serving God. God wants to bless mankind with paradise. God is concerned about man's well being. God wants man to keep the Garden as it is and be happy with it. Many people think that man can do something for God, but God is all powerful, he does not need us to do something for him. He does it all for us.

### **What does this passage show about God?**

Serving God's mission is the way to obey God's will. God created the garden with a specific plan. God also created it with all of man's needs presatisfied and predetermined. God knows us so well and always provides more than we need. God also provides for our spiritual needs because he knows us. God is also merciful to provide the tree of life for man to eat of and live forever.

### **About man?**

This shows us that each day we are to enjoy our God given happiness and to do our jobs as caretakers.

### **3. What command did God give man concerning the two trees in the middle of the garden (16, 17)?**

Verse 16 and 17, "And the LORD GOD commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden: 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."

This command is known as "Adam's Bible." In giving this command, God reveals his Father's love for man. Firstly, God said, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden;" With the words, "You are free," God said you are free to eat from the tree of life and live forever in fellowship with God.

Then God said, "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." Now in this command, God showed Adam what would cause him to die. God commanded not to eat, so eating this fruit meant to ignore God's authority, and it would be rebellion. Not eating does not require any practical struggle, but eating requires a willful decision, so, it would be real rebellion against God. Such rebellion against God would cause man to die.

### **What does the phrase "You are free to eat any tree in the garden" show us about God and man?**

1. God gave man a choice in the issue.
2. God was gracious in providing everything for man.
3. God wanted to make a personal relationship with man in this process.

### **Why did God give this command?**

Overall God gave this command to establish spiritual boundaries and a firm spiritual order. When man looked at the tree he would remember God's authority and provision and be very thankful to God. Freedom is a gift to keep spiritual order. We learn here that we must be humble before God. If we maintain this order and God's spirit in us then we maintain the Garden of Eden in us.