

MAN IN THE GARDEN – GENESIS 2:7-17

1. The CREATION of Man — 2:7

And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. (Ge.2:7)

- God made man out of dust, the same elements that make up the ground. This is still day 6 of Creation (Ge.1:27-28).

2. The LOCATION of Man — 2:8-14

⁸The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. ⁹And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. ¹⁰Now a river went out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it parted and became four riverheads. ¹¹The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one which skirts the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. ¹²And the gold of that land is good. Bdellium and the onyx stone are there. ¹³The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one which goes around the whole land of Cush. ¹⁴The name of the third river is Hiddekel; it is the one which goes toward the east of Assyria. The fourth river is the Euphrates. (Ge.2:8-14)

- The whole earth was under man's dominion, but he needed a home.
- God planted a Garden, and "put the man" into that Garden (Ge.2:8,15).
- God views everything from the vantage point of His promised Land ("eastward in Eden").
- Two unique trees (Tree of Life and Tree of the knowledge of good and evil) were located centrally in the Garden (Ge.2:9).
- Because of the world-wide Flood there is no way to know where the Garden of Eden was located. You cannot compare any current rivers with the pre-flood rivers.

3. The VOCATION of Man — 2:15

Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. (Ge.2:15)

- To "tend and keep it" literally is "serving and keeping." Before the Fall man serves God. In the future believers "shall serve Him" forever (Rv.22:3).
- Since nothing dies or is 'broken' serving simply brings delight. Perhaps it is pruning to be creative.

4. The PROBATION of Man — 2:16-17

¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." (Ge.2:16-17)

- God "commanded" by forbidding a specific action. They were not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- To eat from this tree resulted in them knowing evil experientially, and begin the process of dying physically.

5. The RELATION of Man — 2:18-25

- All was "good" for man, but something was missing. Man, in the image of God, needed someone to relate to on earth.

