



“Master Gardener”

Gen. 2:8-17

May 11, 2025

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9 Out of the ground the Lord God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

10 Now a river flowed out of Eden to water the garden; and from there it divided and became four rivers.

11 The name of the first is Pishon; it flows around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold.

12 The gold of that land is good; the bdellium and the onyx stone are there.

13 The name of the second river is Gihon; it flows around the whole land of Cush.

14 The name of the third river is Tigris; it flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

15 Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.

16 The Lord God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely;

17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."

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- **“Lord God”** – Yahweh Elohim – the personal, covenant-keeping, mighty God.
- **“east”** of Israel – Israel is the reference point. Somewhere east.
- The area for the garden is Eden – means delight and pleasure.
- **Note:** God, the Master Gardener did not create a palace for man but a garden. A garden is living. Amazing beyond description. You see God’s attributes on display.
- **A garden has everything:**
 1. Beauty.
 2. Variety.
 3. Discovery.
 4. Growth.
 5. Silence for reflection.
- Vs. 8 is a lead sentence. What follows gives more detail.

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- The Master Gardener brings forth trees.

- **The trees serve 2 purposes:**

1. **"pleasing to the sight."** God is into aesthetics. God created trees so that man would enjoy and appreciate them.
2. **"good for food."** Think of all of the different kinds of fruit that come from trees - apples, oranges, grapefruit, lemons, pears, peaches, plums, cherries, avocados, figs, apricots, mangoes, pomegranates, bananas, limes, papaya, mulberries, walnuts, pecans, etc.

- The last 2 trees that God creates are rather shocking.

- "What is this all about?"

- 2 very different trees: 1 gives life and 1 gives knowledge.

- **Tree of life** - gives a life-giving substance that supports and sustains life. Both for man and possibly animals. Gerontology – the study of aging. No real answers. Only God gives eternal life.

- **Tree of knowledge** - impart knowledge about 2 different subjects – good and evil.

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- No rain yet (vs. 5).
- Water was provided by a river and by underground pressure, which, in turn, moved upward and watered the garden.
- From that 1 river, flowed 4 rivers.

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- Interesting that 3 precious stones or metals are mentioned - enhanced the beauty of the land for man to enjoy.
- **Note:** The stones/metal were not inherently evil. It is the love of them that is the problem.
- We don't know for certain where these rivers were in Eden, as the flood would have totally rearranged the terrain.

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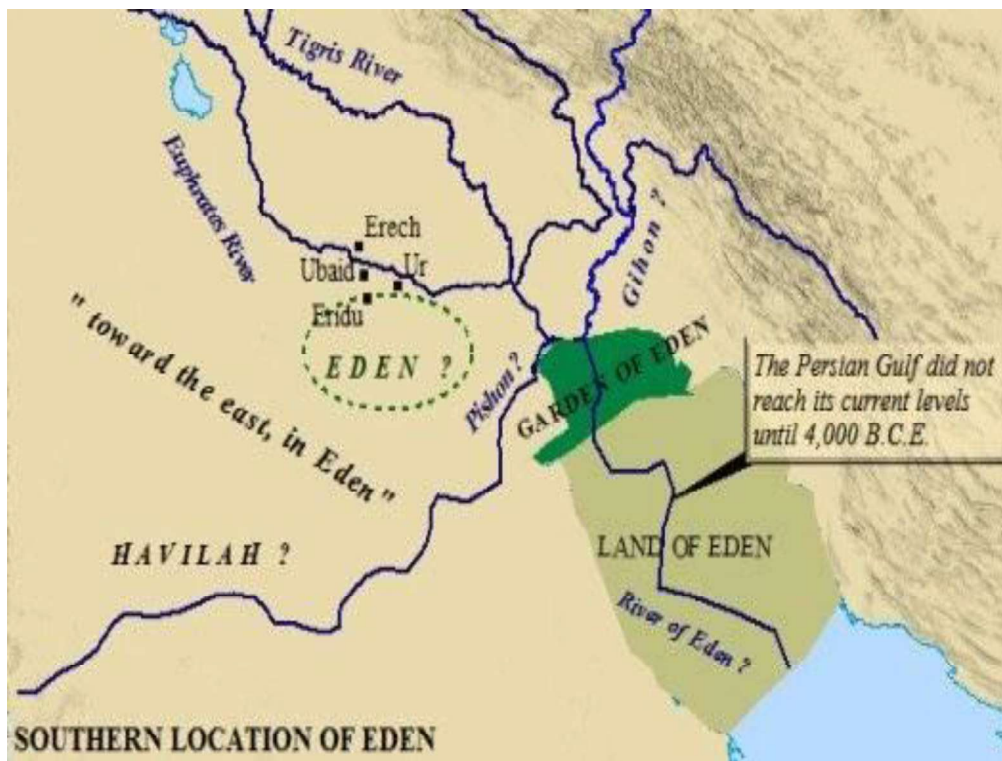
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- Man must have been created somewhere outside of the garden.
- Man was given work to do:
 1. Cultivate the garden. עֲבַד **abad** - work, labor, serve by being diligent.
 2. Keep it. שָׁמַר **shamar** Preserve, guard, protect it. Keep it beautiful. Don't let it grow wild, out of control.

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16 The Lord God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely;

- Now we come back to the trees again.
- Man was free to eat from any tree.
- Eat as much, and as often as you like – you have the freedom.
- But there is one tree you shall not eat from.
- So, if you have 10,000 trees you may eat from 9,999 of them.
- Freedom is never really free.

17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."

- 1 tree you shall not eat from.
- It is a tree that gives the opposite of life, which is death.
- Adam will die spiritually and eventually physically.
- So, man is on probation
- This poses a number of questions:
 1. What is the purpose of the probation?
 2. What is the nature of sin as set forth in the probation?
 3. What is the reward of the probationary time of Adam?
 4. How is it possible for a man whose inclination is only toward good, begin a sinful inclination to sin?
 5. Was Adam a representative for all mankind?

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1. What is the purpose of the probation?

1. to reveal the heart of man.
- 2, to establish the principle of consequences –
you receive life for obedience,
you receive death for disobedience.
3. to see if man will be satisfied with his role and place.

2. What is the nature of sin as set forth in the probation?

1. disobedience to God's Word.
2. to become like God.

3. What is the reward of the probationary time of Adam?

- eternal life.

Rev 22:2

- 2 On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

4. How is it possible for a man whose inclination is only toward good begin a sinful inclination to sin?
5. Was Adam a representative for all mankind?

Application

1. If you are a believer then God is the Master Gardener of your life. He is busy cultivating your life, uprooting the weeds of sin, watering your spiritual growth, and protecting you from destruction by the enemy.
2. Work is a wonderful blessing given to man each day. Sin has made it difficult. But God brings joy and fulfillment.
3. God puts before us our own probationary tests everyday. Will we be obedient to His Word or will we not?