



In the Beginning

A study of Genesis Chapters 1 - 11

Christian Life Assembly

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The Journey 2018

In the Beginning

- Gen 2:8 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.
- By this time all matter had been created, so the language shifts from created to “planted” regarding what has been commonly called the Garden of Eden.



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- Moreover, in this garden that God planted we see two unique and unusual trees – the tree of life, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- A good question at this point is this, “if eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was so destructive as to cause death, why create it, and why allow Adam anywhere near it?”.
- It was probably God’s way of introducing moral choice to man – it set up a choice for man between good and evil.



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- We know from reading chapter 3 of Genesis what man eventually did with the tree and the choice that came with it.
- And we know from chapter 3 and on through history the havoc man's decision caused - the introduction of sin, and death to the planet.
- For now, let's just log in our minds that these two special trees existed because God wanted them there.



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- The question that interests many is, “where was the garden of Eden”? – and can it be found today?
- Maybe a better question for us would be – “if mankind could find the location of the garden of Eden, what we do with it?”.
- It would no doubt become some area that would be elevated and designated as sacred despite the fact that it was there that sin entered the world.



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- Gen 2:10 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.
- If the Tigris and Euphrates mentioned are the same rivers by those names today, that would put the Garden of Eden somewhere in the Middle East, likely in Iraq – but are they the same rivers?



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**Where was Eden according to
Answers in Genesis?**



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- If you recall, the original creation called for one large land mass and not the continents we have today.
- 2nd Peter 3:5 They deliberately forget that God made the heavens long ago by the word of His command, and *He brought the earth out from the water and surrounded it with water.*
- So if there was one original land mass, and we have 7 continents and thousands of islands now, it is quite evident that the world is not the same as it was at creation.



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- We should not assume that the Garden of Eden, if it exists at all, is where it was in Genesis 2.
- 2nd Peter 3:3 Most importantly, I want to remind you that in the last days scoffers will come, mocking the truth and following their own desires. 4 They will say, “What happened to the promise that Jesus is coming again? ***From before the times of our ancestors, everything has remained the same since the world was first created.*** 5 They deliberately forget that God made the heavens long ago by the word of his command, and he brought the earth out from the water and surrounded it with water. 6 ***Then he used the water to destroy the ancient world with a mighty flood.***



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- Gen 2:15 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.”
- So here we have Adam placed in God’s garden and given just one command.
- He is also given the consequence of his choice should he ever do the unthinkable, disobey God.



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- It is highly doubtful that the tree of the knowledge of good and evil contained any “secret sauce” so to speak that opened mankind’s eyes to sin.
- It was much more basic than that – obey God and live, or disobey God and die.
- Really not fundamentally different than today other than Adam and Eve did not start with the disadvantage we call a sin nature.



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- So an appropriate question at this point would be this one – what is sin?
- 1st John 3:4 Everyone who sins is breaking God's law, for all sin is contrary to the law of God.
- But wait, Adam and Eve's sin was way before God gave us even the ten commandments – what law were they breaking?



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- They were breaking the law of God written into their DNA and the “law” that said, “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.”
- When we think of the “law” we tend to think of Moses, the ten commandments, and the rest of the law God gave to Israel.
- What God gave to Moses was not morally different from what He gave us all in our genetic code, except for His ceremonial statutes.



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- The fact that we believe sin exists and is contrary to God's plan for the universe is fundamental to our worldview.
- It gives answers to some pretty basic questions and problems in this life.
- Secular psychologists cannot explain why man is as he is - we can.



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- Our culture has all but announced a war on the idea of sin – what was once part of our common understanding is now part of the politically correct crowd’s forbidden words.
- If there is such a thing as sin, then the sinner just may be accountable and our culture will have none of that!
- But we know better – we are clear eyed about the immense and immensely important role of sin in the world.



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- There is a sense in which every child born into this world, starting with Cane, operates under the burden of a nature that is inclined, bent, towards sin. ([Voddie Bauchman](#))
- It is not to say, “we must sin”, but it is to say, “we will sin”.
- James 1:13 And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, “God is tempting me.” God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else. 14 Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. 15 These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.



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- Since we covered the creation of woman in an earlier lesson, we now prepare to go on to chapter 3 and what happens there will dominate the kind of world view that we construct.
- In chapter 2, God set the stage for mankind to make choices – obey and be blessed, or disobey and be cursed by God.
- In chapter 3 we will see the devastating results of the choice that Adam and Eve made.



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- When we came to the end of chapter one, we read this, “Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!”.
- We were not there to see just what “very good” looks like, but we can see what our world is like today.
- As we look at our world today can we really say that everything God made is still very good?



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- Romans 8:18 Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later. 19 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.*
- What was created and assessed as “very good” was cursed and subjected to decay – that applies to all of creation.



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- Some have said that Genesis 3 is among the most important chapters of the bible because without it most of what we see and experience in this world would be hard to explain, and the rest of the bible would seem needless.
- Sin is a real thing – sin is that thing that is the root of every problem known to mankind.
- Without sin there is no murder, theft, rape, war, disease, poverty, injustice, and the list goes on. (more on this next week)



Questions

