

THE GARDEN

GENESIS 2:8-14

EDEN: GOD'S PERFECT DWELLING PLACE FOR HIS VERY GOOD CREATION, MADE IN HIS IMAGE!

- Here begins the story of man's need for a redeemer.
- You can remove **every temptation** and live in a **perfect environment** without any **outside influence** and still succumb to your nature as a sinner, just as Adam will do shortly!

You can **take away the sin** but you still have **a sinner**. 😊

ADAM GETS SPECIAL ATTENTION

This region was called “Eden”; (Heb. noun **אֵדֶן**) *Eden* means delight, finery, or luxury.

- In Eden, God “*planted*” a beautiful garden in which were growing beautiful fruit trees of every kind, each already laden with delicious fruits. But now God specifically decorated it!
- ***Adam’s first knowledge of his Creator would be:*** of the One who loved him, who carefully, creatively, beautifully, and abundantly provided for him.

THE TREE OF LIFE

Among all the lovely shrubs and trees of the garden were two especially important and beautiful trees.

- It is noteworthy that this tree will be growing in profusion in the New Jerusalem (**REV. 22:1-3**), for the “*health*” of the nations.
- The fruit of this tree was “*good for food*” and Adam was told that he could “*freely eat*” of it (**GEN. 2:16**). However, he was not required to eat its fruit to stay alive—he was already created by God to live forever.

WHY DO MEN DIE?

- **DESPITE GOD'S CLEAR WARNING**, Adam and Eve both rebelled against God's word and ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, and thus "*sin entered into the world.*" **ROM. 5:12**
- **AS A RESULT**, death also came into the world when God—true to His word—told them that "*unto dust you shall return.*" **GEN. 3:19**
- **IN ADAM** "*by man came death,*" and "*in Adam all die.*" **1 COR. 15:21-22**

HOW LONG IS “FOREVER”?

- This tree of life—in **GEN. 3:22** we are told if you eat from it you will live “forever”—is this a contradiction?
- The solution to our problem may well be that the Hebrew word **OLA** could legitimately be translated “*a very long time*,” as it is in **ISA. 42:14; DEUT. 33:15**.
- This marvelous “tree of life” will be planted once again “in the midst of the paradise of God” in the new earth which God will create. **REV. 2, 21 and 22**

CAN'T WAIT TO TASTE IT!

THE OTHER TREE

The “*tree of knowledge of good and evil*,” which also had been planted somewhere in the garden.

Again, **GENESIS 3** gives additional details: **this was the more beautiful of the two trees!**

- Notice the apostle John’s warning of the things of this world in **1 JOHN 2:17-17**.
- The fruit itself may or may not have been harmful, but it would certainly be a tree of “*knowing*” evil as soon as man disobeyed God’s word concerning it.

EDEN: GOD'S GARDEN

The luscious garden in Eden would require an abundance of water, probably more than could be derived from the constant mist.

- Since there was no rainfall, the rivers would have to be supplied through a pressurized conduit from an underground reservoir of some kind, emerging under pressure as a sort of artesian spring.
- Four Rivers did this exact thing found at Banias in Israel today . . . in God's Garden—Eden.

IS EDEN IMPORTANT TO US TODAY?

We cannot pinpoint the exact location of Eden today from the biblical data.

But, in a figurative way . . .

- I think it is not coincidence that two of these rivers are exactly the ones that God uses to explain to Abraham where the promised land will be.

GEN. 15:18, 19

- God says obey and dwell in the garden, or disobey and be driven out to live life on your own!