

In the Beginning

A Study Through the Book of Genesis



Lesson 6: "Man's Life in the Garden" Chapter 2:8-17

Wednesday, March 11, 2026

I. God Planted a Garden (8-9)

⁸ The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed.

⁹ And 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.

- A. God planted a garden.
- B. He placed man in the garden.
- C. He created the vegetation for the garden:
 - 1. Trees that were beautiful.
 - 2. Trees that were good for food.
- D. The tree of life was in there.
- E. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil was there.

II. The Tending of the Garden (10-17)

¹⁰ Now a river went out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it parted and became four riverheads.

¹¹ The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one which skirts the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold.

¹² And the gold of that land is good. Bdellium and the onyx stone are there.

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

¹⁴ The name of the third river is Hiddekel it is the one which goes toward the east of Assyria. The fourth river is the Euphrates.

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

¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat;

¹⁷ but 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."

- A. God watered the garden:
 - 1. There was a river that flowed in the garden to water the garden. That river parted and formed four riverheads.
 - 2. Pishon – skirts the whole land of Havilah where there is gold, bdellium and onyx are there also.
 - 3. Gihon – goes around the whole land of Cush.
 - 4. Hiddekel – goes toward the east of Assyria.
 - 5. The Euphrates.
- B. God put man in the garden to tend and keep it.
 - 1. God placed man in the garden to have relationship with him and to provide for him.
 - 2. To tend and keep does not mean to work the ground. God had planted and the garden was producing. Man did not have to "work the ground" in order to have the garden's produce.
 - 3. God placed man in the garden to worship and obey Him.

C. God commanded man:

1. *Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷ but 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."*
2. Eating the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil would open man's eyes to sin, something that he had not yet experienced.
3. Obedience to God and His commands has always been key in man's relationship to God.
4. "You shall surely die" is a pronouncement of guilt as a judge would judge an offence and hand down a sentence.