

A More Detailed Look at the Creation of Man

Genesis 2:4-25

Part 1

Getting the Big Picture

Toledot

“This is the account” (NIV, NASB), “These are the generations” (ESV) divides up the book of Genesis into 10 different sections. This makes up the most basic outline for this book.

Genesis 2:4 man in the garden

Genesis 11:27 line of Terah

Genesis 5:1 line of Adam

Genesis 25:12 line of Ishmael

Genesis 6:9 line of Noah

Genesis 25:19 line of Isaac

Genesis 10:1 line of Ham and Japheth

Genesis 36:1 line of Esau

Genesis 11:10 line of Shem

Genesis 37:2 line of Jacob

The Relationship Between Genesis 1 and 2

It is a Matter of Perspective

Genesis 1 gives us the big picture of creation while *Genesis 2* give us a detailed picture of the creation of man and his place in the garden of Eden.

God Reveals a Bit More of Himself

LORD God (NIV)

In *Genesis 2:4* we have the addition of a new name for God, the LORD God (Yahweh Elohim). Elohim has already been used to describe our God as the creator. The use of the name Yahweh brings with it the idea of relationship with man. *Exodus 3:14*

Garden of Eden

Genesis 2:8-15

Location

It would seem that the location of the Garden of Eden would be somewhere around modern day Iraq. This is established by the known location of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers in Iraq.

Role of Man in the Garden

Before sin came into the world man was given the role of taking care of the Garden of Eden. We do not know exactly what this entailed, but the concept of work was given to man before there was sin.

Tree of Life

- The Tree of Life was a literal tree in the Garden of Eden.
- We do not know whether God gave special power to the tree or simply viewed the tree as symbolic.
- The Tree of Life signified eternal life, which before the fall was conditional and after the fall it is a free gift with the evidence of perseverance. *Romans 6:23, Revelation 2:7*

Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil

- The Tree of the Knowledge of good and evil was a literal tree in the Garden of Eden.
- We do not know whether God gave special power to the tree or simply viewed the tree as symbolic.

- This tree gave those who ate it an experiential knowledge of good and evil. Up to the point of Adam's sin he would have only had a theoretical knowledge of evil.

A More Detailed Look at the Creation of Man

Genesis 2:4-25

Part 2

Salvation and Eden

- In the book of Revelation the picture of the new heavens and earth is a picture taken from the Garden of Eden only kicked up to a far greater degree. *Revelation 21:1-8, 22:1-5*
- The concept of the river flowing out of the Garden of Eden is picked up in both the book of Ezekiel and the book of Revelation as referring to that time of blessing that commences with the New Covenant era and culminates with the new heavens and earth.
Ezekiel 47:1-12, Revelation 22:1-5

God's Command to Adam

Genesis 2:16-17

Representation

- The command not to eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil is the only command recorded before the fall.
- Adam did represent all of mankind in the Garden of Eden. When he sinned in *Genesis 3* we were all blamed for his sin. *Romans 5:12-19*

Not a Covenant of Works

- In *Genesis 2* there is no mention of a covenant. Covenant is a high profile term that is used in Scripture to describe God's plan for salvation. *Hebrews 8:6-13*
- Covenant Theology speaks of a covenant of works.
The first covenant made with man was a covenant of works, wherein life was promised to Adam; and in him to this posterity, upon condition of perfect and personal obedience. (Westminster Confession of Faith, chapter 7, paragraph 2)
- The bible speaks of an old and new covenant. There is no mention of a covenant of works and a covenant of grace. *2 Corinthians 3:14, Hebrews 8:13*
- The only possible mention of a covenant with Adam is found in *Hosea 6:7* but the context puts it in relation to Israel.
- There is nothing in the *Genesis 2* account that speaks of eternal life as the result of man's obedience. Adam already had eternal life though he could lose it.
- There is no mention of a probationary period of obedience for Adam and then he would be "confirmed in righteousness" and not be able to lose his salvation.

No Basis for Requirement of "Positive Righteousness"

- According to the Covenant of Works in Covenant Theology there is an requirement of obedience to God's law that must be met by the obedience of Jesus and this obedience must be imputed to us along with the forgiveness of our sins in order for us to be accepted by God.
- The cross provides all that we need for our acceptance with the Father.
Romans 8:3-4, Hebrews 10:14-18, Romans 5:12-19

God Makes a Helper for Adam

Genesis 2:19-25

- The naming of the animals showed that Adam was the one in control.
- Animals were not able to provide a suitable helper for Adam.

- The woman is the divinely devised helper for man.
- This is why marriage is the normal state for most men and women. *Titus 1:6, Matt. 19:11-12*
- The man is the head of his wife. This comes from the order of creation.
1 Corinthians 11:7-9, 1 Timothy 2:11-15
- Adam and Eve were not ashamed by their nakedness in the sense that they were not bothered by it. This signified that they were in an unfallen state.⁴