

**Subject: *Life in God's Garden***

**Scripture: *Genesis 2:4-17***

How did Moses know what to write? He didn't learn it from any human source because no one was around to witness how it happened. He didn't learn it from the common myths of early civilization. Moses didn't figure this out, but God revealed it to him. As with the previous sermons from Genesis, we see not only what God created, but He revealed about Himself. The Bible is God's self-revelation.

Verses 4-5 fill in the details of what God did in creation week. These verses reveal what happened on Day 1 and Day 2 of creation week. Verse 6 describes the condition on earth at that time. It was an ideal climate like a greenhouse.

## **1. THE PEOPLE IN GOD'S GARDEN**

In verse 7, the word "formed" describes the work of a master craftsman. Genesis 2 reveals how God created Adam and Eve. Genesis 2:7 tells us how God made Adam's body from the dust. This statement adds some details to what we find in Genesis 1:27. Genesis 2:21-22 tells us how God made (literally, "built") Eve from the rib taken out of Adam. We are all made from the same elements. We all come from dust and we return to dust.

**Ecclesiastes 12:7** *Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.*

**1 Corinthians 15:49** *And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.*

The physical composition of human beings is really not impressive. Dr. E. F. Lawson of London said that a human being who weighs 140 pounds is made up of enough water to fill a 10-gallon drum, fat for 7 bars of soap, carbon for 9,000 pencils, phosphorus for 2,200 matches, magnesium for one dose of laxative, iron for one small nail, lime to whitewash a chicken coop, and enough sulphur to rid one small dog of fleas." Yet the Bible says we are "fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psa. 139:14). All these physical components are woven together in a very complex way.

The most important part of a person is the part you don't see, the non-physical part. God breathed into Adam the breath of life and he became a living soul (being). We know from Genesis 1:26-27 that Adam and Eve were made in the image of God.

**Job 33:4** *The spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.*

## **2. THE PREPARATION OF GOD'S GARDEN**

Verse 8 is the first mention of the Garden of Eden. God made a perfect place for perfect people, Adam and Eve. It was a lush garden or paradise. The exact location of Eden is unknown, but it was most likely in southern Mesopotamia (Iraq). "Eastward" refers to the direction from which Moses lived and wrote Genesis near the Promised Land. A river flowed out of the Garden of Eden and parted into four rivers (vs. 10-14). The last two rivers, the Hiddekel (Tigris) and the Euphrates, are both still in Iraq.

Genesis 2:9 tells us that God made every tree pleasing to the eyes and good for food. Two very special trees are mentioned: the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The tree of life was placed in the midst (center) of the garden. According to the Book of Revelation, God will place a tree of life in the New Jerusalem.

**Revelation 22:2** *In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.*

The tree of the knowledge of good and evil becomes very important in Genesis 2 and 3.

### **3. THE CULTIVATION OF GOD'S GARDEN**

God assigned responsibility and work for Adam (vs. 15). Work is a good thing, not a bad thing. God will have work for us to do in heaven. It won't be a burden; it will be a blessing.

**Revelation 22:3** *And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him.*

### **4. THE REGULATION OF GOD'S GARDEN**

God set rules for life in the garden. He issued a command and a warning (vs. 16-17). He gave Adam the freedom to enjoy fruit from all the trees, except one that was off limits. God makes the rules. It was God's privilege to set limits. The rules were clear—you may eat from every tree but one. Don't eat that fruit. If you do, you will die.

God did everything to make it easy for Adam to obey. He gave him everything for his enjoyment and satisfaction. He put him in a perfect environment. He gave him a sound mind to understand what He expected. And he made it clear what the consequences would be if he disobeyed and ate the forbidden fruit.

If Adam ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil he would surely die. When Adam and Eve disobeyed God (Genesis 3) they died immediately in the spirit. They were separated from God. Eventually they died physically (Genesis 5:5). Death involves separation. The Bible tells us about three kinds of death:

- A. *Spiritual death* is separation of the soul from God
- B. *Physical death* is separation of the soul from the body
- C. *Eternal death* is separation of the soul and body from God forever

In God's mercy He has provided a remedy for sin and death. The remedy for spiritual death is new birth (regeneration) in Christ. We are dead in trespasses and sins (Eph. 2:1).

**Romans 6:23** *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

The remedy for physical death is resurrection.

**1 Corinthians 15:22** *For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*

There is no remedy for eternal death (Rev. 20:8, “the second death”).

## **How Should We Apply this Message?**

### **1. We should honor God as our Creator**

He created Adam and Eve and He created us. God created us and all things for His glory.

**Psalms 100:3** *Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.*

This is one of the great truths we should teach our children and grandchildren and remind them over and over.

**Ecclesiastes 12:1** *Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth...*

God is the Creator of all things and the owner of all things. The Garden of Eden was God’s garden. He was the owner and Adam and Eve were the stewards (managers, caretakers). We must remember to honor God as the owner and we are only stewards.

### **2. We should thank God as our Provider**

**1 Timothy 6:16** *... the living God gives us richly all things to enjoy.*

**James 1:17** *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights...*

God gave Adam and Eve all good things to enjoy in His garden. They should have been thankful for God’s goodness, and so should we. Do you have a grateful attitude?

### **3. We should fulfill God’s personal assignment for our life**

God gave Adam a job to do in the garden. He gives us all a job to do and a role to fill. Are you fulfilling God’s role for your life?

**Revelation 4:11** *Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*

### **4. We should obey God’s commands and heed His warnings**

God has the right to tell us what to do and what not to do. His commands are not a burden, and His warnings are not to be neglected.

**Ecclesiastes 12:13** *Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.*