



Genesis 2:4-20—The Garden
From sermon 5.3.20

Read *Genesis 2:4-20*.

Questions, Answers, and Review from Sunday's sermon: Genesis chapter 2 has posed many complex questions for believers. Even Christianity's critics have tried to use this profound text as evidence of biblical inconsistency. A simple, but careful examination of some key terms clears up most confusion. If any issue or flaw arises, it is in our understanding, not in the Word of God. Adam is placed in the Garden of Eden—a paradise inside the perfect world.

1. Chapter 2 almost seems to go backward in Creation from the account in Genesis 1. It starts with man, then includes land, plants, water, and ends with the mention of animals. What was taught on Sunday about the answers to these reversals? Again, we know the Bible cannot contradict itself. It is the same account, but with details and a focus just on man (Adam). The words/wording for plant is better understood "crops" = those things Adam would have to till after his fall. The Creation of the animals (verse 19) was still before Adam was created. The details are just given here for their relation to Adam. Genesis 1 tells us they were created on the same day anyway.

2. What job did God assign to Adam? To name all the animals

2a. Why is that a point of interest? Up until now, God has done all the naming (Day & Night-Gen.1:5. Heaven-Gen. 1:8, & Earth-Gen. 1:10). It shows God's image in Adam and Adam's dominion

3. How much is water mentioned in the text and what is the spiritual significance? At least 7 references to water or rivers. Water is life, both biologically and as a spiritual symbol. God controls it and distributes it. Rain doesn't come until after the fall and the abundance of fresh water is removed as a part of Adam's curse (more in chapter 3).

Genesis 1:6-10—God creates water and separates it from space and earth

Genesis 2:6 & 10-14—God waters Eden with a perpetual fountain that becomes four major rivers

Genesis 7:11-12—God uses water to destroy the entire earth

2 Chronicles 7:14—God will, historically, use the withholding of rain as a judgment

Psalms 23:1-2—God (Jesus) is described as leading His people to life-giving waters

John 4:13-14—Jesus calls Himself the Living Water and will give this spiritual spring to believers

Revelation 7:17 & 22:1-2—In the eternal Kingdom, water will again be abundant and not rationed, as God's people return to paradise and union with Him. (same as with Light)

4. Where was the Garden of Eden located and what happened to it? We cannot be absolutely sure, but there are clues to both questions. The Scripture read "eastward". So, from Israel, it's most likely in Mesopotamia—Modern Iraq. The two known rivers also give evidence to this location. After God kicked Adam and Eve out of Eden, He stationed a guarding angel to keep anyone from entering. Most believe it was then destroyed in Noah's flood. (likely now at bottom of Persian Gulf)

5. If God is perfect, if He created everything perfect, and if He created everything just as He intended, why does He suddenly say "It is not good..." in Genesis 2:18? He obviously wasn't referring to His own nature/character or to His fashioning of man. But, He created man in His image = man was created for intimate relationship and partnership, as God is a Trinity. "It is not good" only refers to Adam's incompleteness. He already fully knew He would create woman to complete man.