

## THE BOOK OF BEGINNINGS

*"The garden is the 'garden of God,' not in the first instance an abode for man as such, but specifically a place of reception of man into fellowship with God in God's own dwelling place. The God-centered character of religion finds its first, but fundamental, expression in this arrangement."*

*—Geerhardus Vos, **Biblical Theology***

**"God & the Garden"****God's Special Creation: Mankind & The Garden: Genesis 2:7-15****1. The Uniqueness of \_\_\_\_\_ (2:7)**

God's two-fold creative action:

*"...the Lord God formed the dust of the ground..."*

*"...breathed into his nostrils the breath of life..."*

**Result:**

⇒ This is a reference to biological life. Life as we know it, where our bodies are "alive" as the result of biological processes.

**2. The Uniqueness of the \_\_\_\_\_ (2:8-14)**

*Eden— 'eden [Hebrew], meaning 'luxury/delight; paradeison [Greek], the word from which we get 'paradise.'*

- This was the place of God's provision for the desires of mankind.

*"And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring every tree..."*

*"And a river flowed out of Eden to water the garden..."*

- It was a place of worship, similar in some ways to the tabernacle and later temples.

⇒ The Lord is described as walking in Eden as he is later in the Tabernacle (Gen. 3:8; Lev. 26:12; Deut. 23:15; 2 Sam 7:6-7)  
 ⇒ Eden and the other sanctuaries were entered from the east and guarded by Cherubim (Gen. 3:23; Ex. 25:18-22; 26:31; 1 Kings 6:23-29)  
 ⇒ There was a tree or representation of a tree present (Gen. 2:9; 3:22; Ex. 25:31-35).  
 ⇒ Gold and onyx are used in reference to the decoration of the Tabernacle, Temple, and priestly garments (Gen. 2:12; Ex. 25:7, 11, 17, 31). It is also found on the foundation of the New Jerusalem (Rev. 21:20).  
 ⇒ Solomon decorated the Temple with garden imagery (1 Kings 6:29-32; 7:18-20, 23-26).

*"The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and to keep it."*

⇒ These Hebrew words (ob'dah & sha'mar) are used together in Numbers to describe the work of the Levites (Num. 3:7-8; 8:26; 18:5-6)

**Conclusion: Mankind was to serve God as a \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen. 1:28; 2:15)**

**Ex. 19:6a**— Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.

**1 Pet. 2:9**—But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

**Rev. 1:5b-6a**—To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father

### 3. The uniqueness of the two \_\_\_\_\_

#### The Tree of Life:

⇒ Symbolic of life in its \_\_\_\_\_ form (both physical and spiritual).

This tree would have served as the \_\_\_\_\_ means by which  
God would give to Man the fullest experience of eternal life.

#### The Tree of the Knowledge of Good & Evil:

⇒ Its presence emphasizes the \_\_\_\_\_ nature of Mankind's situation in Gen. 2.

This was the God-appointed means by which He would \_\_\_\_\_ Mankind.

#### **The Command of God:**

*And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 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."*

*"...You may surely eat..."*

*"...you shall surely die."*

### Resurrection Hope for Adam's Children

#### 1 Cor. 15:42-49 [NASB]

- The background of the passage is Paul dealing with certain gnostic ideas within the Corinthian church. What they do with their bodies in the present is important because a physical resurrection awaits them. Their coming eternal life will not be a disembodied, spiritual reality but will instead be lived out in a New Creation.

<sup>42</sup> So also is the resurrection of the dead.

It is sown a perishable body, it is raised an imperishable body;

<sup>43</sup> it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory;

it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power;

<sup>44</sup> it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.

If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

<sup>45</sup> So also it is written, "THE FIRST MAN, ADAM, BECAME A LIVING SOUL." [Quoted from Gen. 2:7b]

⇒ Paul quotes this verse to show that God always intended mankind for a higher state of existence, even \_\_\_\_\_ the Fall!

The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

⇒ Through His work, Christ has both purchased forgiveness for sin and secured the reality of physical \_\_\_\_\_ for His people so that they might reign with Him (Rev. 20:4-5) & eventually inhabit the New Creation with Him (Rev. 21:3).

<sup>46</sup> However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual.<sup>47</sup> The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven. <sup>48</sup> As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly. <sup>49</sup> Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly. [Probably a reference to Gen. 5:3]

⇒ **We are naturally born in the image of the 1st Adam.**

⇒ **In order to inherit eternal life, we must be born again in the image of the 2nd Adam (Jesus Christ).**

1 Cor. 15:21-22—For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead.

For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.

Rev. 2:7— He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.'