

**GOD'S GARDEN!**  
**GENESIS CH2:8-14**

**RE-CAP!**

Both the Old Testament and the New Testament ascribes Moses as the writer of the first five Books of the Bible (the Pentateuch – Exodus Ch17:14; Deuteronomy Ch31:24; Joshua Ch8:31; 2 Kings Ch14:6; John Ch1:17, Ch5:46, Ch7:19, 23; Romans Ch10:5; 2 Corinthians Ch3:15). The account opens with a clear statement about the Creator and Creation. The opening ten words in Genesis Ch1:1 are the **foundation** of all that is to follow in the Bible. The purpose of the statement is threefold:

1. to identify the creator
2. to explain the origin of the world
3. to tie the work of God in the past (creation) to the work of God in the future (salvation)

**ILLUSTRATION**

What elements make a place a paradise? Paradise is a place of everlasting beauty, happiness, delight and bliss!

What does paradise look like to you?

According to the study, the most beautiful place in the world is:

1. Peyto Lake in Canada
2. Meeru Island in the Maldives
3. Jurassic Coast in the U.K.
4. Yosemite, located in California's Sierra Nevada mountains
5. Lake Tekapo in New Zealand

**GOD'S GARDEN IS A BEAUTIFUL PLACE! V8**

Genesis Ch13:10 the garden in Eden is called "the garden of the Lord", and in Isaiah Ch51:3 + Ezekiel Ch28:13 "the garden of God".

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden! The word "Eden" is believed to mean "delight or bliss" and is positioned in the "East" according to the standpoint of the author, Moses! Over the centuries many have tried to locate the exact place of "Eden", all we can say for sure is that the place existed, was initially the most beautiful garden on the whole of the earth and that God planted it!

Along with being the "Creator God", Yahweh Elohim (the promise making, promise keeping God) is also a gardener, deliberately creating a useful place where He put the man (Adam – Ch2:8 + 15-17)!

We know from Genesis Ch1:3, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25 + 31 that God pronounced after each creative day, that creation was good (and day 6 very good). God intended

that the environment for human beings would be a world of pure beauty!

### **GOD'S GARDEN IS A PERFECT PLACE! V9**

What makes it perfect? God's presence, God's abundant provision and God's eye pleasing creation! Perfect!

Moses records for us the names of two trees, namely, "The tree of Life and "The tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil! The Tree of Life is situated in the centre of God's garden and in the Book of Revelation Ch2:7 there is a promise concerning that tree - ***"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`"***. In the Bible the term "tree of life" appears in Genesis Ch2:9, Ch3:22 + Ch3:24. Proverbs 3:18; 11:30; 13:12; 15:4; and Revelation Ch2:7, Ch22:2, 14 + 19).

There were also other trees in the garden, "the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food". The garden is without sin and perfect, with all kinds of magnificent trees bearing delicious fruit!

### **GOD'S GARDEN IS A USEFUL PLACE! V10-14**

According to Kent Hughes "Verses 10-14 contain a digression about the garden that seems very clear in what it says but is nearly impossible to make any sense of. What is clear according to verse 10 is that a river rose from a subterranean source, perhaps as already described - `a mist (or river) was going up from the land` (v6). Eden's abundant river then watered the garden and flowed out and then separated into the headwaters of four rivers: the Pishon, the Gihon, the Tigris and the Euphrates" (Cited in Kent Hughes, Genesis, pg 53).

There are today rivers in Iraq called the Tigris and Euphrates, incredibly long (each 1000 – 1200 miles long!), in a region called Mesopotamia, meaning "between two rivers"!

Through the flood there may have been topographical (the re-arrangement of physical things) changes! The two rivers Pishon (Only mentioned here!) and Gihon have never been accurately identified, so the exact location of God's garden, cannot be found! However, it is believed to have once existed in what we call modern Iraq!

### **APPLICATION**

My Father if it is possible, may this cup .....(Matt Ch26:39; Mark Ch14:36 + Luke Ch22:42)

1<sup>st</sup> Peter Ch2:24 – Jesus dies on a tree!