

Genesis 2.8-17

"Good and Evil"

Studies focus on the WHO question – Who is maker of Heaven, Earth, Man?
ALMIGHTY GOD / Elohim – God the Creator / Yahweh – Lord: LORD GOD

Another Question / How? did God make the world?

Mysterious Teaching “God spoke and it was so”

A MORE TROUBLING QUESTION – Not Answered – WHY?

WHY? – Did God bother to make the world or man? Lonely? Not man, God!

WHY? – Did God give Adam the freedom of choice?

WHY? – Are the consequences of Adam’s choice so severe and eternal?

ALL PAINS and PROBLEMS in 2010 – and AFTER – Traced Directly to EDEN

1. Created by God

God made man in His own image / Personality, Morality, Spirituality

Whole, Complete, Lacking in Nothing – PLACED IN A PERFECT WORLD

EDEN Man’s Home / Creation / Place

a. Real v. 8 “a garden in the east”

Book Written by MOSES – led Israelites thru wilderness to Promised Land
EAST – Somewhere across great Arabian desert - Tigris / Euphrates River
Valley

v. 10 “a river with four headstreams....third river Tigris, fourth Euphrates
1st and 2nd Rivers UNKNOWN TODAY / Lost during Flood? Tributaries of T &
E?

“CUSH” known today as a section of Arabia and Ethiopia

“ASSHUR” known today as the land of Assyria

MOSES used names of places known to his Israelite readers / Fact not Fiction
Eden – Hebrew = DELIGHT / TODAY – EDEN popularly regarded as MYTH

Roget’s International Thesaurus – “Eden” / NOT IN HISTORICAL SECTION
Section on “IMAGINATION” along with Atlantis, fairyland, utopia, paradise,
kingdom come, heaven, cloudland, dreamland, and Happy Valley

IF EDEN IS MYTH THEN ADAM AND EVE ARE MYTHICAL FIGURES

SIN BECOMES FIGMENT OF MYTHICAL REALM / man not too bad off

Genesis / even these Early Chapters / Clearly Presented as Historical Document
Eden is as Real as Almaty / Like any Garden ignored by Man / OVERGROWN

BIBLE SAYS SIN IS AS REAL AS YOU AND I / Rebellion against God

“Any want of conformity unto, or transgression of, the law of God” WSC

SOLUTION FOR SIN – Also specific act, specific person, specific place & time
Lord Jesus Christ died on a Roman cross in Israel in the days of Pontius Pilate

b. Beautiful 1.31 “God saw all that he had made, and it was very good”

Each of the Creative Days were PRONOUNCED AS GOOD

All of Creation was Beautiful / Eden was ESPECIALLY BEAUTIFUL

2.9 “trees that were pleasing to the eye”

2.11 “land of Havilah, where there is gold. (The gold of that land is good; aromatic resins and onyx are also there)”

EVEN THE FALLEN WORLD IS BREATHTAKING IN MANY PLACES

Places here that can take your Breath Away – like BEHIND A CITY BUS

World was BEAUTIFUL – EVEN BEFORE man was Created / for God’s Glory

Beautiful EVEN WITHOUT Christian Bumper Sticker or Slogan / Attached to It
BEAUTY WAS INHERENT / DECLARATION OF GOD AND HIS GLORY

“He makes the clouds his chariot and rides on the wings of the wind.
He makes the wind his messengers, flames of fire his servants” Psalm 104.3,4

c. Useful v. 9 “trees...good for food”

1.29 “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food”

At this point MAN was VEGETARIAN and FRUITARIAN

Eden was like California / Land of Fruits and Nuts
SHAR CAME AFTER FLOOD / LOTS of ROADKILL AVAILABLE

Beauty NOT Linked to VALUE –Fallen State THINK only Beautiful is Valuable
God’s World – Everything is Beautiful and Valuable and Useful

“For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer”
1 Timothy 4.4

d. Perfectly Suited / Garden PERFECT for Duties and Responsibilities of Man

Heb “adaamah” = Ground / “Adam” = Man // Man is FROM G & FOR THE G
Created from the Ground / Called to Work the Ground

People are made to Work / NOT PART OF CURSE / Part of Creation

v. 15 “God took..man..put him in the Garden to work it and take care of it”

RUDYARD KIPLING "Oh, Adam was a gardener, and God who made him sees,
That half a proper gardener's work is done upon his knees"

Exodus 20.9 “Six days you shall labor and do all your work”

Eccles 9.10 “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might”

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving”
Colossians 3.23,24

TROUBLES OF WORK / SWEAT ON BROW / RESULT OF THE CURSE

JOY OF LIFE / not found in Work / not even Church Work / JOY in the LORD

SIGN POSTED ON OFFICE BULLETIN BOARD “The management regrets that it has come to the attention that workers dying on the job are failing to fall down. This practice must stop, as it becomes impossible to distinguish between

death and the natural movement of the staff. Any employee found dead in the upright position will be dropped from the payroll.”

SECRET OF JOY / WORK WITH THE LORD AND FOR THE LORD

Like Snow White's 7 Dwarf's / Sing on Way to work, whistle while you work
HERE YOU MIGHT GET MUGGED FOR BEING A WHISTLING SPIRITIST

Christian Work Ethic / Show REALITY OF FAITH IN DAILY LABORS

WORK FOR GOD / EVEN IN HIS CHURCH / LEADERSHIP & SERVICE
freedom is not spectating but serving

Gift of Life / Perfect Man in a Perfect World

MAKES SIN EVEN MORE DREADFUL / Adam in no way a Fish out of Water
CANNOT be BLAMED for DEFICIENCY OF NATURE OR ENVIRONMENT

2. Created for God

a. Purpose WHY am I HERE? WHO am I? Great Questions of PHILOSOPHY

Some: IDENTITY and PURPOSE defined by STATE > Relation as CITIZEN
- Others defined by THINGS, POSSESSIONS > Stroll the Malls for MEANING
- Others defined by FAMILY > LOYAL Daughter or Son gives MOONCAKES
- Hugh Hefner defined by SEX > HAPPINESS comes from HOOK-UPS

ALL these SLIP through our FINGERS like SAWDUST > No LASTING Worth

The purpose of man – the meaning of man – is to stand in love as a creature
before the Creator. Francis Schaeffer

Image of God / Sense of Morality / Capability of Knowing & Doing Good & Evil

UNIQUE Rights and RESPONSIBILITIES of PEOPLE > IMAGE of God
God SPEAKS to Them // Spoke the Creation to BE // Words, Propositional Truth

Blessed is the man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding, for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold. She is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her. Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. Her ways are pleasant ways, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who embrace her; those who lay hold of her will be blessed. Proverbs 3.13-18

PROVERBS > Beginning of WISDOM > FEAR the Lord

1st Words Spoken by GOD to Man > Set Forth STRUCTURE & STANDARD
There IS a GOD > AND it's NOT YOU! Sovereign, Exalted, Unique, Worthy

Q. 1. What is the chief end of man?

A. Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

Westminster Shorter Catechism, 1647

b. Freedom v. 16 "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden"

GILGAMESH Creation Epic:

Plant > "old man becomes young" growing near Cosmic River

BIBLE: 100's, perhaps 1000's, of trees and fruits available for man to Enjoy

BASICALLY MAN COULD GO ANYWHERE AND DO ANYTHING

FREE TO DO WHAT HE WAS MADE TO DO / serve & worship God
LOVE for GOD is NOT FORCED or MECHANICAL > FREE and WILLING

The animals...are in contented bondage to their surroundings, their behavior a product of inborn and incoming urges. Man is called to set a course and hold to it; and in deliberately allowing or rejecting the pressures on him he shows himself free. Derek Kidner

TRUTH "I have come that you might have life, and that more abundantly" Jn 10.10

FREEDOM CONFOUNDS the UNBELIEVER > Think we are FORCED
'Why SERVE the POOR, GIVE Freely, GO to Church, LOVE the Unlovely?'

WHO or WHAT is FORCING You? BRAINWASHED? FOOLISH?

“...in your service is perfect freedom”

Book of Common Prayer

IF TRUE IN OUR FALLEN STATE / How much more for that first perfect Man

MAN’S GLORIOUS FREEDOM becomes MAN’S TERRIBLE FREEDOM

Possibility = deny God / disobey His Law / disrespect His authority

MAN WAS NOT MADE A ROBOT OR PUPPET / Choice is Real Possibility

MARTIN LUTHER "BONDAGE OF THE WILL" – FALLEN MAN

Free to do what we want to do, only thing we want to do is disobey God

“All who sin have become slaves to sin” John 8.34

c. Responsibility > Freedom MAINTAINED in OBEDIENCE to God

v. 17 “you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil”

ONE SMALL LIMITATION TO MAN’S FREEDOM

TREE was NOT EVIL – Made by God > ALL He made was VERY GOOD

But EVIL did EXIST as POSSIBILITY and would soon become REALITY

Beyond my PAY GRADE to ANSWER WHERE, WHEN, HOW Evil BEGAN

CONVINCED – God is TOTALLY Sovereign, Good, Just, Wise, Powerful, Holy

HOW God can DIRECT Evil in RIGHTEOUSNESS is within HIS ABILITY

MOST Important Command of MOSES

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Deuteronomy 6.4-6

MOST Important Command of JESUS

Jesus: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Matthew 22.36-38

Jesus: "If you love me, you will obey what I command." John 14.15

LOVE means PLEASING THOSE you LOVE /
 LOVE for SUPERIOR – Child to Parent – Means OBEDIENCE to THEM
 CHILD cannot say ‘Loves’ Parents AND BLATANTLY DISOBEYS Them

“God will give to each person according to what he has done” Romans 2.6

TREE WAS SYMBOL - God could have pointed to stone, "do not move"

referred to a river "do not jump across"

Tree – Issue of Source of Knowledge / Where will we learn Good and Evil?
 Who will establish our Moral Code? Friends? Society? Films? Parents? Tree?
 God?

TREE REMINDS THEM THEY ARE NOT GOD / RESPONSIBLE TO HIM

"tree is in the center of the garden" PRIMACY OF LAW AND JUSTICE

COPERNICAN REVOLUTION - earth is not center of universe - SUN

GOD & HIS STANDARD - NOT MAN & HIS DESIRES - AT
 CENTERPOINT

Paul said “the commandment is holy, righteous, and good” Romans 7.12

“Apart from the law sin is dead..when the commandment came, sin sprang to
 life...

sin, seizing the opportunity, afforded by the commandment” Rom 7.8,11

SOMETHING ABOUT LAW AROUSES THE APPETITE FOR SIN
 WE’RE TOLD WE CAN EAT ANY FRUIT BUT ONE / ONE LOOKS GREAT

JOINED ORGANIZATION SAID WORKERS CANNOT DRINK ALCOHOL
 thought of having a Beer / something I rarely did / often popped into my mind

LAW MAKES OUR CHILDREN INCREASINGLY INTERESTED IN SIN

Always hearing “this is bad, no, don’t do that, stay away”/ CURIOSITY AROUSED

“The very commandment that was intended to bring life actually brought death”
7.10

STRUGGLE is not WRONG or SINFUL > Made to GROW thru Struggle
During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him
Hebrews 5.7-9

PERFECT MAN > Learns Lessons of Life RIGHTEOUSLY
PARENTS want to PAMPER and PROTECT – We Should – But Life is HARD
GROWTH to FULL MATURITY requires STRUGGLE – even for JESUS

d. Consequence v. 17 “when you eat of it, you will surely die”

1st Mention of DEATH IN BIBLE / 1st Mention of Moral Choice

PROBABLY Man was NOT NATURALLY MORTAL > Would NOT DIE
Symbolized by PRESENCE and ACCESS to the TREE of LIFE
If IMMORTAL: GIFT of God who ‘alone has immortality’ 1 Timothy 6.16

Before the Fall, between Adam and death, which is part of his natural lot as an element in his human heritage, there stands the Living God; His presence is sufficient to ward off death...
R. Martin-Achard

Death = SEPARATION / Increasing Effect

1) Immediate v. 17 “when you eat of it you will surely die”

EVIDENCE 3.8 “they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden”

Spiritual Separation of Man from God

Ephesians 2.1 “you were dead in your transgressions and sins”
2.12 “separate from Christ...without hope and without God in the world”

Because of PRESENT DEATH - LIFE BECOMES MEANINGLESS

Writing about Widows Paul said /

“the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives” 1 T 5.

Romans 5.12 “Just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and IN THIS WAY death came to ALL MEN, because ALL SINNED”

WE SINNED WHEN ADAM SINNED / LONG BEFORE OUR BIRTH /
GUILT

REPRESENTATIVE PRINCIPLE IN SCRIPTURE / we are in Adam
PERFECT MAN / PERFECT WORLD / PERFECT OPPORTUNITY

If Adam could Fall in Perfect Garden / We too would fall in this Sin Tainted
World

One Football Player JUMPS OFFSIDE / WHOLE TEAM is Penalized

Spiritually Dead ALREADY / We just don't Stink, well.....

2) Eventual Someday OUR BODIES WILL CEASE TO FUNCTION

5.5 “Adam lived 930 years, and then he died” / Separation of Body from Soul

Our Death Warrant is written into our Birth Certificate

“For the wages of sin is death” Romans 6.23

“The soul who sins is the one who will die” Ezek 18.20

American Funerals / Nervous Greeting to Grieving Families at Viewing

“My doesn't he look so natural, so peaceful”

BIBLE =DEATH TERRIBLE ENEMY / NOT NATURAL / NOT PLAN OF
GOD

TOMBSTONE IN AN INDIANA CEMETARY

“Pause stranger, when you pass my by, As you are now, so once was I.
As I am now, so you will be, so prepare for death and follow me”

ONE PASSERBY WROTE ON TOMBSTONE

“To follow you, I am not content, until I know which way you went”

3) Eternal SEPARATION OF SOUL AND BODY FROM GOD

TERRIBLE FUTURE FOR THOSE OUTSIDE OF CHRIST

“They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord” 2 Thessalonians 1.9

“Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death” Revelation 20.14

IF only BORN ONCE you will DIE TWICE / BORN TWICE, only DIE ONCE

WHY QUESTIONS

WHY? – Did God give Adam the freedom of choice?

WHY? – Were the consequences of Adam’s choice so severe and eternal?

AN EVEN BIGGER WHY QUESTION –

WHY? – Did God send His own Son to redeem us from sin and give us new life?

2.9 Two Trees – Middle of Garden / One Leads to Death / Other Tree of Life

How to Get to Tree of Life?

Fulness of Time – God made another Tree

“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: ‘Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree’” Gal 3.13

CROSS is ALSO a Tree of the Knowledge of GOOD and EVIL

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. 1 Peter 2.24

Through TREE of JESUS EVIL People can be made GOOD

The God of our fathers raised Jesus from the dead--whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel. Acts 5.30,31

LAST CHAPTER of BIBLE / BELIEVERS ACCESS THE TREE OF LIFE

“On each side of the river stood the tree of life....And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations”
Revelation 22.2

Wonderful display at BICF / Nations gathered here to rejoice in Grace of God

Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach. It is not up in heaven, so that you have to ask, "Who will ascend into heaven to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?" Nor is it beyond the sea, so that you have to ask, "Who will cross the sea to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?" No, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it.

See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you
Deuteronomy 30.11-16

Genesis 2

8. Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed.

9. And the LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground--trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

10. A river watering the garden flowed from Eden; from there it was separated into four headwaters.

11. The name of the first is the Pishon; it winds through the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold.

12. (The gold of that land is good; aromatic resin and onyx are also there.)

13. The name of the second river is the Gihon; it winds through the entire land of Cush.

14. The name of the third river is the Tigris; it runs along the east side of Asshur. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

15. The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

16. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden;

17. but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."