



## **GENESIS 2-3 THE GARDEN OF EDEN; SATAN & SERPENT WORSHIP; EXPULSION**

In contrast with Genesis 1, which is a bird's eye view of Creation, Genesis 2 now focuses exclusively on how and where Adam and Eve were created. In films, it is called the close-up of a scene.

The first thing Adam and Eve do after the end of the sixth day of Creation is to rest on the Sabbath day, which God instituted for them. It is the first divine law given, as *The New Bible Dictionary* admits, "From the reason given for keeping the sabbath day in the Ten Commandments we learn that the example for the sabbath rest had been set **by God himself** in the creation. The Sabbath therefore is a creation ordinance (Ex. 20:8-11)...The language is purposely strong so that man may learn the necessity of regarding the Sabbath as a day on which he himself is to rest from his daily labors...[In the New Testament, it was the Jewish tradition about the Sabbath] that our Lord inveighed. His remarks were not directed against the institution of the Sabbath as such and not against the OT teaching. But he did oppose the Pharisees who had made the Word of God of none effect with their tradition. Christ identified himself as the Lord of the Sabbath (Mk. 2:28). In so speaking, he was not deprecating the importance and significance of the Sabbath nor in any way contravening the OT legislation. He was simply pointing out the true significance of the Sabbath with respect to man and indicating his right to speak, inasmuch as he himself was the Lord of the Sabbath." (Article, "Sabbath").

### **The Garden of Eden**

God placed Adam and Eve in a garden called Eden. The Hebrew root word means "delight" and even our word, *garden*, goes back to "gar," a cultivated yard, and "den," from Eden.

Where was Eden located? Two of the rivers mentioned are still known—the Tigris [Hiddekel] and the Euphrates. The other two were subject of speculation until recently, when satellite photos revealed two great rivers near these other two that long ago dried up. From all known about the subject, the garden of Eden was located on the northern tip of the Persian Gulf.

In the *Smithsonian Magazine*, Dora Hamblin explains, "The Pison can be identified from the biblical reference to the land of Havilah, which is

easily located in the biblical Table of Nations (Genesis 10:7, 25:18) as relating to localities and people within a Mesopotamian-Arabian framework. Supporting the biblical evidence of Havilah are geological evidence on the ground and LANDSAT images from space. These images clearly show a 'fossil river,' that once flowed through northern Arabia and through the now dry beds, which modern Saudis and Kuwaitis know as the Wadi Riniah and the Wadi Batin. Furthermore, as the Bible says, this region was rich in bdellium, an aromatic gum resin that can still be found in north Arabia, and gold, which was still mined in the general area in the 1950s.

"It is the Gihon, which 'compasseth the whole land of Ethiopia,' that has been the problem. In Hebrew the geographical reference was to "Gush" or "Kush." The translators of the King James Bible in the 17th century rendered Gush or Kush as "Ethiopia"---which is further to the south and in Africa--thus upsetting the geographical appellation and flummoxing researchers for centuries. Dr. Zarins now believes the Gihon is the Karun River, which rises in Iran and flows southwesterly toward the present Gulf [there are two Cushes in the Bible, Western Cush, in Africa, and Eastern Cush, on Western India]. The Karun also shows in LANDSAT images and was a perennial river which, until it was dammed, contributed most of the sediment forming the delta at the head of the Persian Gulf. The Garden of Eden, on the geographical evidence, must have been somewhere at the head of the Gulf at a time when all four rivers joined and flowed through an area that was then above the level of the Gulf" ("Has the Garden of Eden been located at last?" Vol. 18, May 1987).

### **Adam & Eve**

It was in this region of the upper Persian Gulf where the Sumerians, the first writers of history, mentioned their origins came from the land of Dilmun, a paradise where all the animals were tame and neither sickness nor death existed. They wrote, "It is a pure, clean and bright place...where the lion does not kill, nor does the wolf devour the sheep." (Kramer, *History Begins in Sumer*). The Babylonians called this paradise Eridu, where "Adapa" or the Babylonian Adam, lived. "He was

the seed of mankind, but later offended the gods by acquiring [forbidden] knowledge. He was made mortal and brought sickness upon the people.” They wrote that near Eridu there was a mysterious sacred tree that was protected by spirit guardians that did not allow anybody to go in.

Archaeological evidence shows this area to be heavily populated from the beginning of civilization, and it is the region where the most ancient form of writing, cuneiform, has been found. Ur, the home of Abraham, was only 20 miles from Eridu, and Farah, the traditional home of Noah, was 100 miles away. Ethnologists, who study the races, consider this zone as the original place for the different human races. It is also the region where the following animals, grains, vegetables and fruits originated: the ox, goat, sheep, pig, dog and the majority of other domesticated animals; wheat, barley, oats; beans, peas, spinach, radish, onion; apple, pear, peach, cherries, figs, dates, and almonds (Halley’s Bible Manual).

Why are the Sumerian and Babylonian accounts so similar to the biblical narrative? These accounts show there was a common source of certain biblical truths found in Genesis that were known to the first inhabitants of the earth. But as people became corrupted and left God’s way of life, they fell into idolatry. With the confusion of the languages, soon those original truths were tainted by superstition and mythology. Only the Bible retained the true and pure account of those initial historical events, devoid of myth and superstition common to the other accounts.

The Bible reveals that the human race originally began believing in one God but then left the truth and corrupted themselves. Instead of worshipping the true God, they followed Satan’s way and began adoring Satan and his numerous demons. They gave them names and they became the origin of many of the false gods. Heroic men were also worshipped and added to the pantheon of false gods. This is the true origin of idolatry and polytheism. Many famous historians and archaeologists have found that the different cultures originally believed in one God. Sir Flinders Petrie, the father of Egyptian archaeology, affirmed the primitive religion of the Egypt was originally monotheistic. Dr. Stephen Langdon of Oxford University discovered the same thing about the early Babylonian religion, and this pattern is repeated throughout the world’s religions.

## God instructs man

God did four things when he placed man in the Garden of Eden. First, He gave man and woman a job, so they would not be idle. “Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden ***to tend and keep it***” (Genesis 2:15). Man was taught to be orderly and to maintain in good shape his surroundings. Secondly, God then instructed man about His way of life. He symbolized two opposite ways of life by two special trees, the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil—one representing goodness and giving and the other of egoism and of getting. Man was to resist temptation and not take of the tree of good and evil, but he could eventually take of the tree of life, which symbolized voluntarily submitting to God’s way of life through His laws. Thirdly, God brought all the animals to Adam so he could name them according to their attributes. They would beautify the environment and many would accompany and help him to do all the chores needed and supply him with food. Lastly, God created Eve, which means “the mother of all living” (Gen. 3:20) to be Adam’s companion and partner. God then married them so they could be “one” flesh.

It is not known how long Adam and Eve lived out their honeymoon, but eventually, Satan, the fallen archangel, spoke to Eve through a serpent-like creature. This identity of Satan and a serpent is repeated several times in the Bible. Paul says, “But I fear, lest somehow, as ***the serpent*** deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ” (2 Cor. 11:3). John writes, “So the great dragon was cast out, ***that serpent of old***, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world” (Rev. 12:9).

In archaeology, the serpent is identified as a creature that imparts knowledge to man. In Egypt, the fiery serpent symbolized majesty and power and was worn on the crown of the Pharaoh. It later became identified with Moloch, the god of the fiery child sacrifices in the Bible. The Greeks worshipped the serpent god Asklepios Soter, the man-instructing god of healing. In ancient Rome, almost all the homes had serpents dedicated to this god that also symbolized the sun. China is famous for its worship of the giant fiery serpents, called dragons, or “Lungs.” The ancient Mexicans worshipped Quetzalcoatl, the feathered serpent.

Satan deceived Eve into tasting the forbidden fruit, that is not identified in the Bible. Then Adam, when he saw what Eve had done, instead of a reprimanding her, went ahead and ate of it too. This symbolized becoming independent from God's influence and choosing to "experiment" or to implement the "trial and error" approach to morality and spirituality. Satan now had them following his extremely competitive and carnal way of life. He first focused on their nakedness and told them they should feel ashamed, although they were married and no other human beings existed. He was the one that tied guilt with sexuality, a complex that has led many to celibacy or to misogamy, a hatred towards marriage.

When God appeared, Adam and Eve felt ashamed and hid among the trees. No longer did God sense man in harmony with Him. Typically, man blamed the woman, and the woman blamed the serpent. Sin is the transgression of the law, and each would have to carry their guilt and punishment.

Eve would suffer two consequences: (1) "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; in pain you shall bring forth children" (Gen. 3:16). From now on, childbirth would be with pain. This is due to the narrowness of her pelvic cavity, where the baby's head has to pass through and places a lot of pressure. Fortunately, the baby's head is soft and can yield without any damage. Of all the living creatures on earth, only the woman suffers these strong pains while giving birth. The rest of the female species have a larger pelvic cavity that generally allows them to give birth without a problem. Thankfully, today, with adequate breathing exercises and medical aid, the woman's pain is greatly reduced.

(2) "Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you" (Gen. 3:16). Originally, God made man and woman in His image and the woman would be a "helper" for the man. In other words, there was to be a team that cooperated through love and not through force.

Unfortunately, once they abandoned God's way of life, and by not having God's spirit, the law of the jungle would take over—the strongest rules. The two would greatly suffer by following the venomous knowledge of good and evil, but women in particular would receive the brunt of the curse. For 6,000 years, women have generally been treated worse than men, and physical and psychological

abuse against the woman is still one of the curses of modern society.

In contrast, in a marriage of converted people, where God's spirit guides the couple, problems should be resolved with due respect and the woman does not feel exploited or dominated. Instead, the man's strength is put at the service of the woman to protect and provide for her.

### **The negative effects for the man**

There would also be two negative effects against the man. (1) "Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field" (Gen. 3:17).

From the beauty and harmony of the garden of Eden, now man's surroundings would mirror Adam and Eve's new carnal and Satan-led nature. All kinds of thorny and venomous plants appear and many of the animals become hostile and violent.

(2) "In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground" (Gen. 3:19). Not only will there be poisonous plants and dangerous animals, but also man would suffer from hostile climates and plagues. After 6,000 years, most people still live in abject poverty and for so many, this life is a litany of pain and suffering. Only in the Millennium will these curses be finally removed and the Edenic conditions will return as before (Isaiah 11:6-9; 55:13).

For choosing to follow the wrong way of life, Adam and Eve are expelled from the garden of Eden and the tree of life, that would have given them access to the Holy Spirit and eventually, eternal life. Now God's calling would be individually, and most of mankind would be ignorant of the truth. They would go on to set up their worldly system of governments and religions, a deadly mixture of good and evil.