



THE STORY OF THE WORLD



Garden of Delight

Genesis 2:4-25

Main Idea

God's design for us was to place us in an environment of complete pleasure...and He hasn't given up on that mission. (Heaven was and will be a place on earth)

Overview

I. Covenant God is the one who created, breathes, plants, and places man in a garden for a mission

- The language of LORD God (Vss. 4, 5, 7-9, 15-16, 18-19, 21-22) is the author giving both the personal name and the title of the God of creation
 - The intention is to show that it isn't just any God, but it is the "I AM" the one who would go on to make a covenant with Abraham, and give the Law...HE is the one who has done all these things
- The Geographic scope of the story is narrowing in on one location inside the world, namely the Garden IN Eden (vs. 8)
 - This passage provides more detail to the creation of man
- The Lord God formed man from the dust (and to the dust he shall return 3.19) by breathing life
 - The Lord God is the author of life and He is the one that breathes it into the man
 - This is an indication of the Image of God being "breathed" into the man
 - Just like we see Christ do with His disciples: John 20.21-22
 - Scriptures do the same for us today by the power of the Spirit: 2 Tim. 3.16-17
- God breathes life in & immediately "puts" Adam in the Garden He planted (2.8)
 - Giving of life is always connected to the Mission of God to fill the world with worshipers of Himself
- God makes every provision and more for the man in the Garden of Delight (Paradise) (3.9)
 - Notice that the Lord even makes provision for their pleasure in sights & tastes (3.9)
 - This is the kind of God we serve
- He is beautiful
- He must love us
 - The Rivers and precious stones also serve to illustrate Gods abundance (Vss. 10-14)
- God providing restrictions for His people is evidence of His love
 - The Tree of Life shows up again in 3.22 and Revelation 22
 - The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil enacts moral autonomy upon being eaten
 - Gods telling them not to eat it is evidence of His care and His continuing to tell them what is good

II. The Mission is seen in the "To work it and keep it" in vs. 15

- The Garden serves as Home, work, and "church"
 - Adam is to serve God in all of these spheres...there is no distinction
- Work means "serve" and Keep means to "guard"

- We see these same two words used in the establishment of the Priesthood in Numbers 3.7-8
 - There they are to “minister” and to “guard”
 - That is, they are to “minister” to the people of God in facilitating worship
 - They are to “guard” in that they are to protect the Laws of God
 - A faithful interpretation would be “Worship & Obey”
 - Adam and Eve were placed in the Garden to “Worship & Obey” as Priests
- They also served a Kingly function
 - We see that in Adam naming the animals (3.19-20)
 - We see that in both man and women “subduing” and “having dominion” (1.28)
 - Mankind was put in Eden to Worship & Obey as “Priest/Kings”
- This too is our Mission...to worship and obey God in all the world

III. God saw that it was not good that man was alone (not lonely)

- God continues to be the one that defines the good (not man)
- He provides a “helper” (vs 18) for the male in order to have her help him in the mission of God
- 2.24 is illustrative of Covenant language (Hold Fast & Oneness)
 - Marriage was designed to illustrate or display or image God into the world
 - Though you don’t need marriage to illustrate God to the world, yet that is its design for those who do enter into that covenant

Questions

Discussion Starter: *What comes to mind when you think of Paradise? Do you see any of those elements in Genesis 2? How would your friends describe Paradise?*

1. How is it you see the author introducing the particular God into the story? (“LORD God”: Exodus 3) Why is this important to properly understanding the story?
2. Where does life come from and why is it given?
3. How could Genesis 1:1 and 2:7 be said to be the “most offensive verses in all the Bible”?
4. What does it mean to “work and keep” the Garden In Eden? How does this connect with the mission of God to His people in Genesis 1:28?
5. In what ways do you see the Lord’s love, care, and beauty for His people in this passage?
6. Is this something that is common for you to notice in the world today? Why or why not?
7. In what ways is mankind’s role “priestly” and in what ways are they “kingly”? How does Christ answer and complete these?
8. Why was woman given to man? What does this mean? What does it NOT mean?
9. What might be the purpose of marriage in the world?
10. Has God given up on His mission to have us enjoy Paradise while communing with Him? (Rev. 21-22) Discuss how this can bring encouragement in the day to day.

Accountability Question: *In what “sphere” (home, work, “church”) do you find yourself failing in worshiping and obeying?*