

## School of the Bible, Genesis Program #15

### I. Studies in Genesis 2- The Garden of Eden is a Real Place

A) The Garden of Eden is a Real Place. These early verses of Genesis give us important insights about our future. The location given in Genesis 2 is somewhat unclear in these early verses. However, it is clear that real places and locations are being mentioned that are with us today such as the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers and the Land of Cush. We see this in Genesis 2:10-13:

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 {[12] Or good; pearls} 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.

B) The Garden of Eden is already filled with gold in verse 11, a wonderful picture of Eden restored by the Lord in the Book of Revelation 21.

### II. The Garden of Eden is the Location Where God's Story Begins .....AND Ends

A) The location of the Garden is in the Middle East, based on the early geographical information that is given in Genesis 2

B) The Garden of Eden is located in an area that seems somewhat mysterious in these early chapters of Genesis. As the book of Genesis will unfold we see that the Garden of Eden is none other than the Land of Israel. Mankind will leave the Garden of Eden in Genesis 3 and spend the rest of the Bible seeking to return there. However, as the Lord's revelation unfolds, the Garden is named by the Lord and given to Abraham and his descendants. The Garden of Eden is renamed the Promised Land and becomes the focus of the Lord's redemptive workings in Scripture and history.

C) Current world focus and conflict in the Middle East and with Israel is the same ancient struggle that took place in Genesis 2-3. The Garden of Eden is a place that is contested by God and Satan. The conflict has continued to this modern age. Modern Mankind does not see the ancient connection of current issues in the world to the Garden of Eden and the book of Genesis.

### III. The Garden of Eden Was Created with a Challenge by God to the Creation

A) The Lord values freedom and love, so He empowered the Garden with choice. This choice took the form of two famous trees in the Garden, the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil as found in Genesis 2:15-17:

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."

B) The Tree of Life is ultimately the tree connecting Mankind to the Lord and His life and sustaining wisdom. The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil is a tree connecting Mankind to himself and his limited understanding. Mankind must make a choice of what will be his source, the Lord or himself. It was and is the choice we still face today.

C) The Lord's choice between the trees, and the penalty for the wrong choice is the foundation of His love. The Lord introduces His law here as a way to protect His Creation and express His love. The Law is good...both then and now. When a parent says "No" to a child it expresses a wisdom about knowledge a child cannot know. A child can see a big dog...that is knowledge, but a child cannot understand that the dog could bite the child....that is parental understanding and wisdom. So it is with the Lord!!!

#### IV. The Modern Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil is Still with Us Today

A) Since Mankind's condition is the same today, we need to see that the choice the Lord places before us is STILL here. We must choose between the Lord's life and sufficiency or our own. The Devil is trying very hard to get us to choose self and follow him and his pride to destruction.

B) The simple choice of the Garden of Eden is placed before modern Mankind in many ways.....one of these modern ways is seen in the Internet. The Internet is an electronic version of this ancient conflict and choice. People must choose between unlimited knowledge of good and evil or the Lord. Ultimately Mankind cannot be satisfied with knowledge alone, since it leads to pride and emptiness. Mankind's only real choice is to choose the Lord. The real knowledge we seek is found in the Lord Jesus Christ and not a wire or technology. Choose life....choose the Lord.....choose Jesus....and live!!!!