

The Book of Genesis

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The Garden of Eden

- I. The Earth before the Flood (Genesis 2:4-6, 10)
 - A. Rock Formation
 1. “Basement” rocks formed during Creation – “foundations of the earth” (Job 38:4; Psa. 104:5; Prov. 8:27-29; Zech. 12:1; Heb. 1:10).
 2. Molded and formed by the Spirit and the activities of Day Three (Gen. 1:2, 9-10) – orogeny, mountain building.
 3. Layers above (containing fossils) would have been deposited during the Flood.
 - B. Plant Life
 1. Evidence (scientific and Biblical) points to a tropical climate over the planet before modern eras (that is, before the Flood) – uniform temperature and abundant plant life.
 2. When Adam and Eve sinned, God cursed the ground to bring forth thorns and weeds (Gen. 3:17-19).
 - C. Vapor Canopy (Theory)
 1. Uniform, warm climate around the globe
 2. No rain, strong winds, or storms (cf. Gen. 2:5-6, 10)
 3. Lush vegetation around the globe
 4. Protection from ultraviolet radiation
 5. Increased atmospheric pressure
- II. The Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:8-15, 19-20)
 - A. Eden is the name of a place that once existed on the earth.
 - B. In the eastern section of Eden, God planted a garden as a home for man.
 - C. There, God caused trees to grow to please and support man.
 - D. These included the Tree of Life in the middle of the garden and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.
 - E. It was watered by a river that seems to have come from an underground source and then parted into four different rivers.
 6. The Hiddekel is another name for the Tigris River.
 7. However, the naming of the Tigris and the Euphrates does not prove that the Garden of Eden was in modern-day Iraq or the Middle East.
 8. The Flood destroyed and changed the world.
 9. It is likely that Noah’s family named those rivers after one’s they had known in the world before the Flood.
 - F. The description of the land and its minerals demonstrates that this was a real place.
 - G. Though Eden was beautiful and good, it was incomplete; for, God designed it with a goal in mind.
 1. Man was to work it and tend (guard, preserve) it.
 2. Man was to subdue the earth and fill it with offspring, implying that the Garden was to grow and expand with them (1:28).
 3. Revelation 2:7

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- III. The Creation of Man and Woman (Genesis 2:7, 16-25)
- A. Man's body was formed from the dust of the ground.
 - B. God breathed into him the "breath of life."
 - C. Man was created mature.
 - D. Woman was created from a rib of man.
 - E. Man was created in the image of God.
 - 1. Spirit (John 4:24)
 - 2. Free will
 - 3. Morality (including worship)
 - 4. Dignity
 - 5. Eternality
 - F. Man was the pinnacle of God's creation – a "little lower than the angels," not a little higher than the apes (cf. Psalm 8:5; Heb. 2:7, 9).
- IV. The First Home
- A. One Man and One Woman (Genesis 2:20-22)
 - 1. No other arrangement will work.
 - 2. The homosexual movement undermines the very foundation of society – the family.
 - B. One Family (Genesis 2:23-25)
 - 1. There is a leaving – of father and mother.
 - 2. There is a cleaving – of one to the other.
 - 3. There is unity (5:1-2; 3:20).
 - C. One Lifetime (Matthew 19:3-9)
 - 1. Jesus' teaching on marriage goes all the way back to the creation.
 - 2. Divorce is a plague upon society that God does not desire.
 - D. One Authority (Genesis 3:6-13)
 - 1. The one authority in marriage must be God.
 - 2. His authorized plan is revealed in His Word.
 - a. The husband is in subjection to God (1 Cor. 11:3).
 - b. The wife is in subjection to the husband (Eph. 5:22-25).
 - c. Children are in subjection to their parents (Eph. 6:1-3).
 - 3. The family is God's authorized institution for rearing children (Deut. 11:18-21; Eph. 6:4).
 - E. One Hope (1 Peter 3:7)
 - 1. The hope of every family should be Heaven.
 - 2. Marriage is related to spirituality (1 Cor. 7:3-5).
 - 3. Husbands and wives should be heirs together (1 Pet. 3:5-7).