

## **Genesis 2 and 3**

### **Eden to Exile**

Last week we discussed Day 7 of Creation and that God established the Sabbath at that time (**Genesis 2:1-4**). From our studies we know it is not something that was designed or set aside for the Jews as it was over two thousand years before a Jew existed. It is vital we continue to break down God's Word and understand each and every word we are to live by. We will equip our hearts and minds with His Words to have that ready answer for those He sends our way. It will increase our faith and draw us closer in our personal relationship with our Creator.

### **Genesis 2**

**Genesis 2:1-** "Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.

2. And by *the beginning of* the seventh day God finished His work which He had made. And He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had made.

3. And God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it because on it He rested ( ★ Heb. shabbat meaning to cease; God ceased or sabbathized from His work.) God's spiritual work, however, continues even on the Sabbath day. from all His work which God had created and made.

4. This is the account of the heavens and of the earth when they *were* created; in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens,

*\*Genesis 2:5 takes a step back in time just **before** the creation of man*

5. The shrub of the field was **not yet growing** upon the earth, and the herb of the field had not yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and *there was no man to till the ground,*

6. But there went up from the earth a *mist* and *watered* all the face of the ground. (Merriam-Webster defines mist as- water in the *form* of particles floating or falling in the atmosphere at or near the surface of the earth and approaching the *form of rain.*)

7. Then the LORD God formed man *of the* dust of the ground and **breathed into his nostrils the breath of life**; and man became a living being.

8. And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there He put the man whom He had formed.

9. And out of the ground the LORD God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life also was in the *middle* of the garden, and the tree of *the* knowledge of good and evil.

10. And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from there it was divided and became four heads.

11. The name of the first *is* Pishon, which surrounds all the land of Havilah, where *there is* gold.

12. And the gold of that land *is* good. There *is also* bdellium and the onyx stone.

13. And the name of the second river *is* Gihon; it *is* the one that surrounds the whole land of Cush.

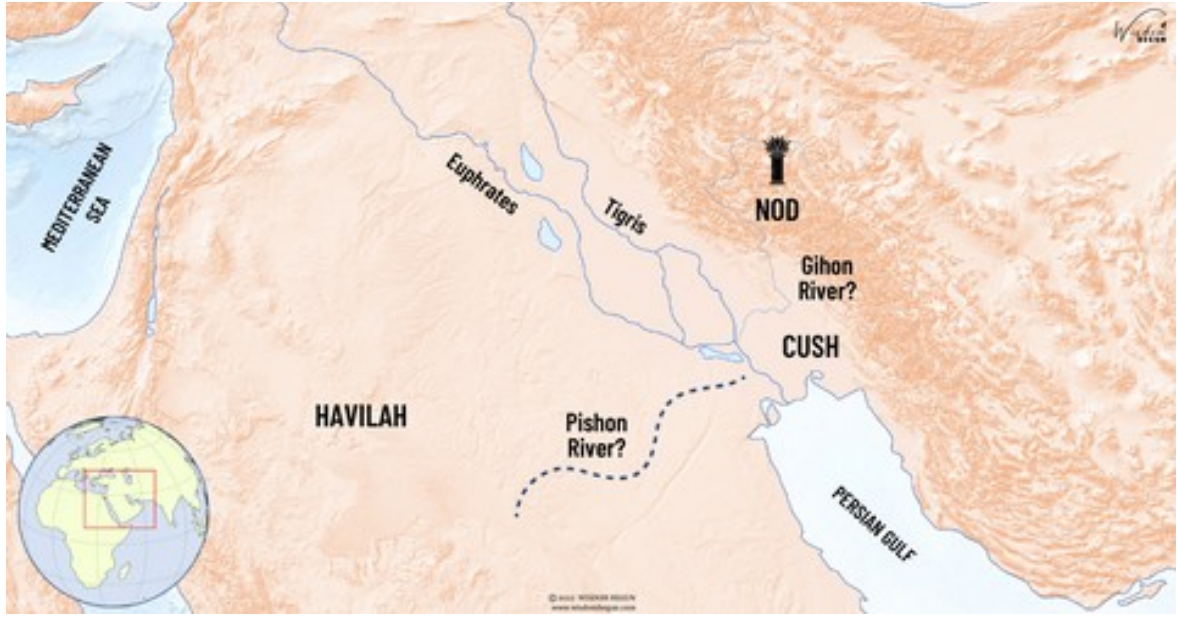
14. And the name of the third river *is* Tigris, which goes toward the east of Assyria. And the fourth river *is* the Euphrates.

\*As a matter of reference, the area where the Garden of Eden was supposedly located is in the Middle East between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers.

The Pishon River, as stated in verse 11, “surrounds all the land of Havilah.” This area is probably modern-day north-central Arabia, east of Israel.

The Gihon River was in Cush, perhaps the Cassite (Kassite) area in the mountains of Mesopotamia, and *not* Ethiopia. The Pishon and Gihon Rivers are not definitively located as much of the Earth’s topography was change by the Great Flood (Genesis 6-7). I’ve attached two maps of the area for a reference in case you slept through 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Geography.

This area is also known as the Fertile Crescent, Mesopotamia, and the Cradle of Life (\*which is actually *in* Ethiopia-Olduvai Gorge, another lesson from High School Anthropology class). Life began here.



God is a God of order and does nothing by accident (**1 Corinthians 14:33**).

Digging deeper into scripture and locations mentioned we can see similarities in meanings. God placed Adam within a place, the Garden of Eden and the scripture says rivers *flow from* the Garden.

In looking at the rivers surrounding the location in verses 11-14, “Pishon” has several interpretations of its meaning as being “to gush, spring forth, or overflowing.” One single river becomes four, flowing out to other regions. This area represents God’s command to Adam and Eve to be “fruitful and multiply” (**Genesis 1:28**). The rivers flowing out from Eden indicates His blessing to mankind to bring life to the Earth (**Psalm 46:1-4**).

Many “theologians” speculate several meaning for the four rivers, i.e.-“godly life, flowing to the four corners of the earth (no its not flat), some speculate a tie to the four Gospels, and some even suggest it represents the Great Commission of Jesus sending out His Disciples to spread God’s Word to every nation.

We should mention **Revelation 22:1-2**- “Then he showed me a pure river of *the* water of life, clear as crystal, flowing out from the throne of God and of the Lamb.

*And in the middle of the street, and on this side and that side of the river, was the tree of life, producing twelve manner of fruits, each month yielding its fruit; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.”*

Similarities are present in Revelation 22, but God creates a new Heaven and a new Earth, something better, a world without sin and death.

Not to turn this into a geography lesson, we can speculate all day and end up being a checkout tabloid. But as we mentioned earlier, the exact location of the Pishon and Gihon are unknown as things were altered after the Great Flood. If they were of salvational importance, I am confident God would have said so in His Word.

Sorry for the detour, now back to Genesis 2:15.

15. And the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and keep it.(★to guard it)

16. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may freely eat of every tree in the garden,

17. But you shall not eat of the tree of *the* knowledge of good and evil, for in the day that you eat of it in dying you shall surely die.”

18. And the LORD God said, “*It is* not good that the man should be alone. I will make a helper compatible for him.” (★a counterpart, a sustainer beside him)

19. And out of the ground the LORD God **had formed** every animal of the field and every fowl of the air (**Genesis 1:5-6**)—and brought *them* to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called *each* living creature, that *became* its name. (Numerous reference to the “breath of life” throughout scripture. **Genesis 6:17, 7:15, \*Ecclesiastes 3:19-20, \*12:7- establishes that ALL living things return to dust and the Breath of Life returns to God**).

20. And Adam gave names to all the livestock, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field, but there was not found a helper compatible for Adam.

21. And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall over Adam, and he slept. And He took one of his ribs and *afterward* closed up the flesh underneath.

22. Then the LORD God made the rib (which He had taken out of the man) into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

23. And Adam said, “This *is* now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh. *She* shall be called Woman because *she* was taken out of Man.”

24. For this reason, shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife—and they shall become one flesh. (**Matthew 19:4-7, Mark 10:6-9, Ephesians 5:31**)

25. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and they were not ashamed.

### **Genesis 3**

**Genesis 3:1-** “Now the serpent was more cunning than any creature of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “*Is it true* that God has said, ‘You shall not eat of any tree of the garden?’ ” (Satan plants the seed of

doubt; **James 1:14-15**. Satan did not deny God *had* given them instructions but made her think she possibly heard wrong.)

2. And the woman said to the serpent, “We may freely eat the fruit of the trees of the garden,

3. But of the fruit of the tree, which *is* in the middle of the garden, God has *indeed* said, ‘You shall not eat of it, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’ ”

4. And the serpent said to the woman, “In dying, you shall not surely die!

5. For God knows that in the day you eat of it, then your eyes shall be opened, and you shall be like God, deciding ★to know— to ascertain by observing and experimenting good and evil.”

6. And when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, and that it was pleasing to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. (*Sin and death have now entered the world-* **Romans 5:12**).

7. And the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

8. And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day. Then Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

9. And the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, “Where *are* you?”

10. And he said, “I heard You *walking* in the garden, and I was afraid because I *am* naked, and *so* I hid myself.” (*They now felt shame and fear*).

11. And He said, “Who told you that you *were* naked? Have you eaten of the tree which I commanded you that you should not eat?”

12. And the man said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.” (The blame game, “she made me do it).

13. And the LORD God said to the woman, “What *is* this you have done?” And the woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” (Eve too blamed the serpent).

14. And the LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this you *are* cursed above all livestock, and above every animal of the field. You shall go upon your belly, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life.

15. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He will bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.” (Romans 16:20)

16. To the woman He said, “I will greatly increase your sorrow and your conception—in *sorrow* shall you bring forth children (**Genesis 35:17, Psalm 48:4, 6, Isaiah 42:14, 66:7, Jeremiah 6:24, Micah 4:10, Matthew 24:8, John 16:2, Romans 8:22, Revelation 12:1-3**). Your desire shall be toward your husband, and he shall rule over you.”

17. And to Adam He said, “Because you have hearkened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree—of which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat *of it!*’—the ground is cursed for your sake. In sorrow shall you eat of it all the days of your life.

18. It shall also bring forth thorns and thistles to you, and *thus* you shall eat the herbs of the field;

19. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread **until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you *are*, and to dust you shall return.**”

(We do not go to Heaven when we die: Job 14:12-14, 34:14-16, Ecclesiastes 9:4-6, 12;7, Daniel 12:1-3, John 5:28-29, Acts 2:34-35, Hebrews 11:13).

20. And Adam called his wife’s name Eve because she was the mother of all *the* living.

21. And for Adam and his wife the LORD God made coats of skins and clothed them.

22. And the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become **like one of Us (if God would have permitted this we would no longer have total dependence upon Him)**, to decide ★to know— to ascertain by observing and experimenting good and evil; and now, lest he put forth his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever—”

23. Therefore, the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he had been taken. (Exiled!)

24. And He drove out the man, and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

Simply by reading the Bible line by line and understanding what we are reading, we have already eliminated two of “Christianity’s” lies in that the Sabbath was established at Creation, it is NOT just for the Jews, it is NOT on a Sunday. From God’s Word we can also prove that we do not go to Heaven when we die but return to the dust from which we were created. May we continue to grow in wisdom and knowledge in preparation for what lies ahead. Amen.

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