

# Significant Places In The Bible

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## Garden Of Eden

(Gn 2:8-9)

### INTRODUCTION

1. Good Afternoon,
  - a. Greetings...
2. New 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday series of lessons on “Significant Places In The Bible.”
  - a. Today we are going to be examining the “Garden Of Eden.”
    - i. **Gn 2:8-9**
3. The focus of this series of lessons.
  - a. To determine the basic geographical information about the place.
  - b. To determine the importance of the place in biblical history.
  - c. To determine and correct any error on the place.
4. With that in mind let us examine our lesson for today.

### I. Garden Of Eden: Geography

#### A. What the Bible tells us...

1. The LORD planted the garden in the east of Eden (**2:8**)
  - i. The Hebrew word “nata” is the word for planted and means to “plant, fasten, fix, establish.”<sup>1</sup>
2. The LORD made this garden beautiful & valuable to man. (**2:9a**)
  - i. It was beautiful because of all the vegetation that was pretty to look at.
    - a. I can only imagine seeing all the beautiful flowers and blooms...
  - ii. It was valuable because of all the vegetation that was good to eat.
    - a. Imagine at your fingertips all the good food the ground makes there for your choosing.
      1. We know fig trees were there **Gn 3:7**.
3. The LORD created two trees of significance in the garden. (**2:9b**)
  - i. The tree of life.
    - a. This is the tree that made it necessary for Adam & Eve to leave the garden.
  - ii. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
    - a. This is the tree that was forbidden to eat from.
4. The garden had four rivers that ran through it that were split from a single river that came from Eden. (**2:10-14**)
  - i. First we have Pishon.
    - a. This flowed around the whole land of Havilah.
  - ii. Second we have Gihon.
    - a. This flowed around the whole land of Cush.

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<sup>1</sup> Wilson, M. R. (1999). 1354 נָטָה. R. L. Harris, G. L. Archer Jr., & B. K. Waltke (Eds.), *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (electronic ed.). Chicago: Moody Press.

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- iii. Third we have Tigris.
    - a. Some translations have Hiddekel.
    - b. The over whelming consensus is that this is the Tigris.
      - 1. This is because it is mentioned again in **Da 10:4** and because it is said to flow east of Assyria.
        - i. Nineveh the capital of Assyria was west of the Tigris until 1300 B.C. when it was moved east of the river.
        - ii. Thus we know Genesis was written before 1300 B.C.
  - iv. Fourth we have the Euphrates.
    - a. It is interesting that there are no other details about this river.
      - 1. Could it be because in God's infinite wisdom, He knew this river would still be called the Euphrates River?
- B. The location of the garden of Eden
- 1. The location of the garden is unknown.
    - i. This is clearly seen when one studies and finds so many differing opinions concerning the location.
  - 2. Today we will look at two of the most probable.
    - i. First there is the thought that it was located just north of the Persian Gulf.
      - a. This is based mostly on the idea that we know where the current Tigris and Euphrates are located.
        - 1. This suggests Eden is the "Middle East" region and the garden is a small area at the tip of the Persian Gulf.
    - ii. Second there is the thought that it is located in either eastern Africa into the Middle East or the Middle East into Asia.
      - a. This is the idea that the ocean is the main river and the divided or branched rivers are four large rivers that lead back to the ocean.
        - 1. Josephus suggested it was the Nile, Euphrates, Tigris, and Ganges Rivers.
  - 3. The truth is we will never know for certain the location because of several reasons.

## II. Garden Of Eden: Biblical History

- A. It is used as the home of Adam & Eve
  - 1. This makes since considering that was the purpose of God creating it.
    - i. **Gn 2:8, 15**
- B. It is used to symbolize the beauty of other nations before they turn from God and were destroyed
  - 1. Tyre is symbolized as having beauty like the Garden of Eden.
    - i. **Ek 28:13**
  - 2. Assyria is symbolized as having beauty like the Garden of Eden.
    - i. **Ek 31:8-9**

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- C. It is used to contrast the before and after effect of a locus plague
  - 1. God uses the symbolic beauty of the garden to point out that the locus plague that Judah would face, if they didn't repent, would turn their beautiful place to a place of desolation.
    - i. **Jl 2:3**

### CONCLUSION

- 1. Brethren, I pray today you have gain a bit of a better grasp biblically and geographically of the Garden of Eden.
  - a. I look forward to looking at more "Significant Places In The Bible" with you.
- 2. Question: Are you seeking the "Paradise" Jesus made ready for all of His faithful disciples?
  - a. If so continue therein and grow thereby.
  - b. If not why not?
- 3. Invitation
  - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent and confess your transgression before God so He can forgive you and bear fruit of repentance by dedicating the rest of your life for Him.
    - 1. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin."
  - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required for you to become a child of God.
    - 1. Hear/Study God's Word **Rom 10:17**
    - 2. Have Faith In Jesus **Heb 11:6; Jn 3:16; Jn 14:15**
    - 3. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:3**
    - 4. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32**
    - 5. Obey The Gospel **I Cor 15:1-4; Rom 6:3-5**