

The Garden of Eden

Genesis 2:8-15

Context: After his re-focus on man in Genesis 2:1-7, Moses now focuses on the place God created for man to live - the Garden of Eden.

As you observe the beautiful garden of Eden...

A. _____ the Goodness of God towards man (vs. 8-14)

1. God made the garden beautiful, good, and useful for man. (Vs. 9-14).
2. "...His providence is no less in evidence today than it was then—he provides us with water, food and life, and he does so in great measure. But, truly, God provides his people with more than mere physical, earthly existence. He also lavishes on them life eternal in Jesus Christ." (John Currid)

B. _____ the Work of Adam (vs. 15)

1. Henri Blocher writes: "When God ... bestows gifts on those he wishes to love as his sons, he takes good care not to turn them into spoilt children.... So paradise is 'no fairyland, no Utopia'; the man receives a charge to fulfill in that place."
2. There is a masculine mandate implied here - that men are designed to "work and keep."

C. _____ the parallels between Eden and Israel's Temples (vs. 8-15)

1. Five Links between Eden and Israel's future sanctuaries:
 - a) Both Eden and the temple had gates that faced to the east and cherubim guarding their inner sanctums. (Gen. 3:24; Ex.25:18).
 - b) Eden's tree of life (Gen. 2:9) was represented by the seven-stemmed lampstand within the temple (Ex. 25:31-35).
 - c) The call "to work ... and keep" (Genesis 2:15) was given both to Adam and the priests who served (Num. 3:7-8; 8:26; 18:5-6).
 - d) Gold and onyx were abundant in both Eden and the Temple.
 - e) A river flowed out of Eden to give life to the world. Ezekiel's temple vision prophesied Jesus with a river flowing out from the temple to cleanse and give life to the world (Ezekiel 40-48)