

## “AT THE BEGINNING” IN EDEN

### Introduction

- 1) **Genesis 2:8** – what a wonderful, beautiful place the Garden of Eden must have been!
- 2) Not a mythical place, but was a very real, historical, and physical garden on earth
- 3) What would it be like to go back to Eden “at the beginning” (Matt. 19:4)?

### I) **Personal Access to God**

- A) A personal and close relationship with God (Gen. 2:8; 3:8-10)
  - 1) Provided happiness, contentment, satisfaction, fulfillment – all that man desires
- B) Nothing to separate man from God (no sin – Isa. 59:1-2)
  - 1) Complete security and well-being of created man found in the fellowship of the Creator

### II) **Never-Ending Life**

- A) Unhindered and unlimited access to the Tree of Life (Gen. 2:9, 16)
  - 1) God granted never-ending physical existence as they ate of its fruit
- B) Life with no physical corruption or end – sickness and death entirely unknown
  - 1) Services of physicians and morticians would never be needed

### III) **Service of Labor**

- A) Man given the responsibility of labor in the garden (Gen. 2:15)
  - 1) Work principle established in paradise; *not* a place of laziness, wasting time, endless leisure
- B) Work was designed by God for man’s good (Eccl. 3:12-13; Eph. 4:28; 2 Thess. 3:10)
  - 1) Honest labor is *not* a punishment, or a curse as a result of sin; it is a blessing of God

### IV) **Obedience to Law**

- A) Both positive and negative commands given to man (Gen. 2:15-17)
  - 1) Man given freedom, but freedom always comes with the responsibility of obeying what is lawful and good
  - 2) Liberty is unfettered freedom to do what is lawful – standard of law is God’s will
  - 3) Garden of Eden was *not* a place of lawlessness where man could “do his own thing”
  - 4) Learn to trust God always to guide us the right way (Deut. 10:12-13; 1 Tim. 1:8)
- B) Severe penalty for disobedience (Gen. 2:17)
  - 1) Any just law must include a penalty as a consequence for lawless action [transgression]
  - 2) Why was the “forbidden fruit” in the garden? Man must exercise free will to obey God

### V) **Pattern of Marriage**

- A) God recognized man’s need for a companion – a helper comparable to him (Gen. 2:18)
- B) Formed a woman with which he could become one flesh (vv. 21-23)
- C) Pattern of marriage union = one man, one woman, for life (v. 24; Matt. 19:6; 1 Cor. 7:2)
  - 1) Basis of family structure – husband/father, wife/mother (Gen. 1:28; 9:7)

### VI) **Eden’s Paradise Lost Due to Sin**

- A) Eve and Adam ate of the fruit of the forbidden tree and were punished (Gen. 3:1-6, 16-19)
  - 1) Not sin because forbidden tree there, but giving in to temptation (Jas. 1:14-15; 2 Cor. 11:3)
  - 2) Lost their personal access to God, eternal life, and ease of labor
  - 3) Now endure shame, pain, toil/sweat, and death – cast out of paradise (Gen. 3:22-24)
  - 4) Soon came violations of worship, sanctity of human life, pattern of marriage (Gen. 4:1-10,19)

### Conclusion

Oh, that we could go back to Eden! The good news is that God will bring His faithful back to the tree of Life in His paradise of heaven (Rom. 2:7; Titus 1:2; Rev. 22:1-5). Do not continue in sin and be *forever* cut off from the source of life (2 Thess. 1:9). Learn from Adam and Eve and make the right choice now for eternal life (Rom. 5:17)!