

September 12, 2010



## **The First Church**

Text: Genesis 2:4-17

*2:4-6 These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that YHWH God made the earth and the heavens.*

*<sup>5</sup>When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for YHWH God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to serve the ground, <sup>6</sup>and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground—*

v. 4- “these are the generations”- first of the twelve occurrences in Genesis!

v. 5- before man is even created, what is his task? To serve

*2:7-9- <sup>7</sup>then YHWH God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. <sup>8</sup>And YHWH God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. <sup>9</sup>And out of the ground YHWH God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*

- v. 7
- formed = a potter shaping clay (Is 45:9; Jer 18:6; Job 33:6)
  - from the dust of the ground (3:19,23; 4:2; 18:27; Job 4:19; 10:9; 17:16; 34:15; Ps 90:3; 103:14; Eccl 3:20; 12:7; Jer 18:6; 1 Cor 15:47 )
  - breath of life = God’s inspiring (Job 27:3; Is 2:22; 42:5; Acts 17:25)
  - the man became a living being = soul in him (Job 12:10; 32:8; 33:4; 34:14; Ps 104:29; Is 57:16; Ezek 37:5; 1 Cor 15:45)

What is different about this man than how he is described in modern terms?

(More on the Tree of Life during Genesis 3!)

*2:10-14- <sup>10</sup>A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers. <sup>11</sup>The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. <sup>12</sup>And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. <sup>13</sup>The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush. <sup>14</sup>And the name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.*

+ Due to the Flood it is impossible to pinpoint the exact location of the Garden of Eden.

+ Language here indicates other theological importance- Gihon is ALSO the name of a spring in Jerusalem (the Promised Land for Israel!), just south of the Temple!

- God’s presence was with man in Eden
- God’s presence was with Israel in the Holy of Holies!
- God’s presence is NOW with us in His Word and Sacraments!!
- When Christ returns, we will be in God’s presence eternally → Rev. 21:1-4

In Genesis 2 the river breaks off into four parts with the tree of life in the center of the garden-  
read Revelation 22:1-5

How are the Garden of Eden and the New Heaven & New Earth similar?

How is the New Heaven & New Earth greater?

How do all seven days of creation find redemption and fulfillment in Christ in Rev. 22:1-5?

2:15-17- <sup>15</sup>And YHWH God took the man and made him dwell in the Garden of Eden to serve it and to keep it. <sup>16</sup>And YHWH God commanded the man saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup>but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die. (VMT)

v. 15- the man’s job is to serve and keep the garden – the man is the priest of the garden

v. 16-17 – The Church before the Fall

Before The Fall into sin, the Law did not show us our sin, condemn us, or kill us. It was a gift!

How is it a gift and ...

### **???Why did God put the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the garden???**

The answer is CHURCH! The Lord preaches to the man (they have communion through the WORD!)

*Luther: “This brief sermon would have brought to its conclusion the whole study of wisdom.”*

The man as priest of the garden will be responsible for preaching this Word to his wife and all generations

### **There would be WORSHIP in the Garden!!**

*Luther: “So, then, this tree of the knowledge of good and evil, or the place where trees of this kind were planted in large number, would have been the church at which Adam, together with his descendants, would have gathered on the Sabbath day. And after refreshing themselves from the tree of life he would have praised God and lauded Him for the dominion over all the creatures on the earth which had been given to mankind... Adam would have extolled the greatest gift, namely, that he, together with his descendants, was created according to the likeness of God. He would have admonished his descendants to live a holy and sinless life, to work faithfully in the garden, to watch it carefully, and to **beware with the greatest care of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil** (LW 1:105).”*

The Command is an outward act of worship and obedience toward God!

v. 17- “in the day ... you shall surely die”- but they didn’t die that very day! Why not?

1. God’s mercy

2. The Hebrew idiom “in the day” does not mean a specific day, rather more like “when.”

3. The death is BOTH physical and spiritual- the division often made between our body and soul is a result of much later Greek philosophy. Biblically a person is a whole being- physical and spiritual together

### **Preview: The Man Goes to Sleep and Wakes up with a Wife: Gender Roles, Marriage, and the Gospel of Christ and the Church!**

Psalms 103

**All <sup>1</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and all that is within me,  
bless his holy name!**

M: <sup>2</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul,

W: and forget not all his benefits,

M: <sup>3</sup>who forgives all your iniquity,

W: who heals all your diseases,

M: <sup>4</sup>who redeems your life from the pit,

W: who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

M: <sup>5</sup>who satisfies you with good

W: so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.

M: <sup>6</sup>The LORD works righteousness

W: and justice for all who are oppressed.

M: <sup>7</sup>He made known his ways to Moses,

W: his acts to the people of Israel.

M: <sup>8</sup>The LORD is merciful and gracious,

W: slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

M: <sup>9</sup>He will not always chide,

W: nor will he keep his anger forever.

**All: <sup>10</sup>He does not deal with us according to our sins,**

**nor repay us according to our iniquities.**

M: <sup>11</sup>For as high as the heavens are above the earth,

W: so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

M: <sup>12</sup>as far as the east is from the west,

W: so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

M: <sup>13</sup>As a father shows compassion to his

children,

W: so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.

**All: <sup>14</sup>For he knows our frame;  
he remembers that we are dust.**

M: <sup>20</sup>Bless the LORD, O you his angels,

W: you mighty ones who do his word,

M: obeying the voice of his word!

W: <sup>21</sup>Bless the LORD, all his hosts,

M: his ministers, who do his will!

**All: <sup>22</sup> Bless the LORD, all his works,  
in all places of his dominion.**

**Bless the LORD, O my soul!**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
And to the Holy Spirit**

**As it was in the Beginning**

**Is now, and will be forever Amen**