

**The Story–Week #9:
The Eden Narrative
Genesis 2:4-3:24 (ESV)**

From God's **Ideal** to Humanity's **Ordeal** to what is now **Real**

Have you ever asked, “**How did I (we) get here?**”

Our Rules for the Road

1. The Bible was written for me but not to me.
2. The Bible is a library with different literary genres (**Narrative**, Poetry & Discourse)
3. The Bible must be read in Context (Ancient, Situational & Biblical)
4. The Bible must be read with an understanding of language and words (Repeated words drive dominant themes)
5. The Bible is a unified story that leads to Jesus

The Transition and Introduction into the Eden Narrative vs. 4-6

Genesis 2:4a (ESV) “*These are the **generations (Account)** of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the **earth** and the heavens.*”

- **Transitional Marker #1**: Hebrew word “**Toladote**” is translated as generations, account, descendants, proceeding, or results. Its root word, “*yalad*” = to give birth.

The word “*toladote*” is like saying “**Here’s the sequel to the story you just heard.**” So, if the last story was the “Story of Blessing,” this story is “**How the Blessing was Lost.**”

- **Transitional Marker #2**: Earth and the Heavens - The 1st narrative was about the Heavens and the earth—the story of the Cosmos. Now, the 2nd narrative zooms in on a place (Setting) on earth and the creation of *adam*/mankind.
- **Introduction**: No bush, no plant, no rain, no man.

Genesis 2:5 (ESV) “*When **no bush** of the field was yet in the **land** and **no plant** of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had **not caused it to rain** on the **land**, and there was **no man** to work the **ground....**”*

- **Like the 1st Narrative, this Narrative will also move from:**

Chaos to Order

No Life to Life

No Purpose to Purpose

I. **Who** gets in on God's Provision & Blessing?

Genesis 2:7 (ESV) "[T]hen the **LORD 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."

- In Hebrew, "LORD God" is YHWH Elohim as opposed to just Elohim
- In Hebrew "**Ground**" is "*adamah*." What do you see in that word?

Adamah. This is the dirt man.

- The **People** (Adam-Humanity) who are connected to God.

Adam, from *adamah*, is mortal, fragile, dependent on God for breath/life.

- What's the point? **We are made for spiritual connection.**

II. **Where** do God's Provision & Blessings **Flourish**?

Genesis 2:8-9 (ESV) "And the **LORD God** planted a **garden** in **Eden**, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground the **LORD 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."

- Eden, the **Place** where man (Adam) and God are connected and God's blessings flourish, is filled with symbols (Icons) that will run all the way through the rest of the Bible: **Trees**, Water, Fruit, Mountains, & **Gardens**.
- The Hebrew word for "Tree" is "ets" and can refer to wood, a tree, a bush, a **vine** or even a carpenter.

John 15:1&5 "I am the true vine, and my **Father is the gardener**.... I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

- The Mt of the LORD, Mt Sinai, The Temple Mt, & with Jesus the Mount of Olives (just to name a few).

Genesis 2:10 (ESV) "A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers."

- What's the point? **Stay connected to God's Life/Presence** (The Tree in the Middle of the Garden & the water that flowed out of the garden/Eden)
- The Place of God's Provision & Blessing is His Presence.

III. **How** is God's Provision & Blessing **Maintained**?

Genesis 2:15-16 (ESV) “The LORD God took the man and **put him** in the garden of Eden to **work it and keep it**. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, ‘You may surely eat of every tree of the garden...’”

- The **Purpose** of *working & keeping*, enjoying & resting. What we have been referring to as **Partnering with God**.
- The Hebrew word used for “put him” is “*Nuach*” Is Noah’s name.
- The Hebrew words for **“Work it & Keep it.”** (*Abad & Shamar*) when used together are ONLY used of the priest’s job in the temple (see Numbers 3:5-7 & 8:26 & 18:7).
- **What’s the point? Living into your Purpose is only found in Partnership with God (His Royal Representatives).**

1 Peter 2:9 “But you are a chosen people, a **royal priesthood**, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”

IV. **Why** is God’s Provision & Blessing **Lost**?

Genesis 2:17 (ESV) “[B]ut of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for **in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.**”

- The **Problem** of disconnection (The Tree of Death)
- Here’s the point:

How did we get here?

1. God made us to live in dependence on Him, but we choose independence from Him.
2. God put us in a place where we could thrive, but now we have to struggle to just survive.
3. God gives us the opportunity to turn toward Him in trust (through obedience), but we choose to turn from Him (through disobedience).