

Made to serve God (Gen. 2:4-17)

“In the beginning the idea was very simple. Let’s take a place of utter dereliction and create life in it. Let’s demonstrate how clever homo sapiens are, and that wherever we might be, life can be created.”

- Tim Smit, founder of *The Eden Project*

Almost perfectly describes what’s going on in today’s passage!

Setting up the passage (v.4-5)

Episode 1 & Episode 2

- How do they relate to one another?

The potential problem: No _____, and no _____!

The basic structure:

v.6 Water

v.7-9 Man & trees (especially 2 trees)

v10-14 Water (Rivers)

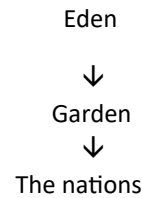
v.15-17 Man & trees (especially 2 trees)

Helps us understand the key points this passage wants to make

1. God designed a place full of life for us

God is bringing life!

Doesn’t stop with his garden



What God really wants is for the whole E_____ to eventually become E____!

Not a purely functional creation

2. God designed us to be people who bring life, wherever we are

✓ Water ? Man

An important implication: work is a good thing

So, problem solved, right?!?

Danger: Social Gospel

What about the (two) trees?!!

What the first readers of Genesis would have definitely noticed:

Eden is a _____!

So Adam is a _____! (2:15 work and take care = “serve and guard”)

➤ The significance of all this

The tragedy

3. God rescued us to be God’s people in God’s place under God’s rule and blessing, through the tree of life

God's Good Design: Lessons from Genesis

Isaiah 11:1-3, 8-9 → Gal. 3:13-14 → Rev. 2:7 → John 20:21-22

How can we make the world a place of life?

Further reading: *God dwells among us* (Greg Beale & Mitch Kim)
'The Story of the Tree' in *Even Better Than Eden* (Nancy Guthrie)