Main Thought This retelling of creation (2:4-25) details Adam’s SETTING (4-6), CREATION (7), GARDEN (8-14), PROBATION (15-17), and BRIDE (18-25).

ADAM’S GARDEN (8-14).

- God planted a GARDEN (Heb=gan – enclosed, fenced off, protected) – sacred space where God invites human beings to enjoy bliss and harmony between themselves and God, one another, animals, and land (paradise – Rev. 2:7).
- It was a TEMPLE-GARDEN (Tabernacle; Temple; New Heaven and New Earth).
- It was in the EAST (the tabernacle and temple faced east) representing life and light with the rising sun (in Egypt all temples on east bank; pyramids on the west bank).
- Man was placed in the garden to have fellowship with God (3:8-9; Rev. 21:3). Their future expulsion will make them feel like castaways (Isa. 59:2).
- With so many wonderful trees, there is no need to eat forbidden fruit.
- The TREE OF LIFE gives humans all that enhances life: wisdom (Prov. 3:18), righteousness (Prov. 11:30), longing fulfilled (Prov. 13:12), a tongue bringing healing (Prov. 15:4).
- Adam had no interest in this tree for he had eternal life. After the Fall, he would be banished from the tree of life (3:22-23). It would take the GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE through Christ to gain eternal life (Rom. 6:23; Rev. 2:7; 22:14).
- The TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL (merism for all moral knowledge) would be forbidden. God alone, who knows all, is able to make moral judgments (Prov. 30:1-6). This would test man’s trust in God alone and protect his innocence (Deut. 1:39).
- The heavenly RIVER, flowing from the mountain (Ezek. 28:13-14), branches out to the four corners of the earth bringing life (Ezek. 47:1; Rev. 22:2).

ADAM’S PROBATION (15-17).

- Adam was to WORK (used only of priests) as God’s priest in Eden (Rev. 1:6). He was God’s ROYAL TENANT to care for the earth but God was in charge.
- God’s first command assumes man’s freedom to choose (Josh. 24:15).
- The prohibition confronts human’s with the creator’s rule. The TREE OF LIFE belongs exclusively to God. Sin is unbelief – an assertion of human autonomy apart from God (Deut. 8:3; Ezek. 28:6, 15).
- The verdict for disobedience is the death penalty (20:7; Rom. 5:12; 6:23).
- But the primary view is not physical, but spiritual death – separation from God (Isa. 59:2) and one another (3:7).
- Physical death is actually a blessing ending life’s pain and opening the door to eternal life without pain (1 Cor. 15:36; 45-49; Rev. 21:4).