

**TUTORIAL**  
**1.12**

# God placed Adam in Eden

See Tutorial 1.6 notes for overall instructions.

The portions of Scripture referred to in this tutorial are: **Genesis 2:1-17**.

## Last time

We were following God's Story of His Creation, how He, the Three-In-One God, decided to make a race of beings in His, "*their*", image. With intelligence, creativity, aesthetic appreciation, emotions, will, the capacity to know God, to communicate with Him, to love and obey Him. God planned to give human beings a responsibility of managing the earth and overseeing the lesser beings. And so He formed Adam and breathed life into him.

## Unlike us, God doesn't leave stuff half done

So in His Narrative, God makes the point in Gen 2:1 that Creation got done. He completed everything He had planned to do. This is no insignificant point. For one thing, it is very different to most humans.

We tend to start lots of different things in our lives, and leave quite a number of them half done. We make resolutions and commitments that we don't follow through on. In our society that is almost expected. And we don't necessarily hold ourselves accountable... perhaps a mild pang of guilt, but hey, that's "just what we're like". Not trying to exhort us to follow through on things, just drawing a contrast with God. He doesn't get discouraged, lose heart or interest, get into something else, and walk away... He always completes things He starts. And He does them right. They take as long as He intends and get finished exactly when He intends them to be done.

It seems a strange thing – the idea of the all-powerful God resting as described in Chapter 2. Of course we know it wasn't weariness. He hadn't run out of steam. The point here is that Creation, the entire universe and its inhabitants, were made, complete. He'd set in place the physical laws, the in-built balances, the systems, the capacity for ongoing propagation...with all its breathtaking beauty - the evidence of His power, His life, the things He wanted to say about himself, and the people to appreciate it and Him. And so, because it was finished, He stopped. The way that He describes it in His Narrative to us

is that He *rested*. This idea of rest from work, to stop from effort when it's the right time...will come up again in the Story. It's an important concept and He highlights it for us here at the beginning.

## The Creator who seeks relationship

An important thing to note here... The things God calls Himself as He's telling His Story are always worth considering. Up to this point the Genesis narrative, throughout the Creation events, has referred to Him as God. Now – in the 2nd chapter of the Story, He calls himself *the Lord*. This is a much more personal term that is all about relating to His Creation, and particularly to the humans created in His image. Because that's also who He is. He always seeks relationship with man. Having created someone to know, love and follow Him, He reaches out “in person” to man...as we'll see, He doesn't wait on man to initiate this. And there's an echo of that in Him now calling Himself by this more personal name, Lord. Still in charge, still holy and righteous, still the Creator God, but also wanting to know and be known by human beings.

## In the garden

God now tells us about how he placed the first man in a special garden He'd prepared (Genesis 2:7-8). You suspect that the word “garden” doesn't communicate very well to us, but then we've nothing better. We can only imagine that it was an incredible place, full of all the amazing growing things...there for their beauty and to be eaten.

Having prepared it as the best possible place it could be, He puts him there. No record of consultations and committee decisions. He knows what's best for him and He puts him there. He's God, “the Lord”, and Adam belongs to Him, at least rightfully, belongs to Him. He puts him there as His caretaker manager of this place. Everything is as it should be.

## The two trees

As we know, among the thousands of different amazing trees, plants, shrubs, grasses, flowers etc. were two trees that were hugely significant and which would play pivotal roles in the ongoing Story of God's interaction with humans.

The first - what the Narrative (Genesis 2:9) refers to as *The Tree Of Life* - he was given free access to along with all the other fruit in the garden. The second, with the portentous name, *The Tree Of The Knowledge Of Good And Evil*, he was expressly forbidden to eat from (Genesis 2:17). In fact, God stated clearly and unequivocally, if he did eat the fruit from *The Tree Of The Knowledge Of Good And Evil* he would die. As simple as that! Well, not quite so simple. The full, terrible, horrendous meaning of what would be involved in this “dying”, this “death”, would not play out fully until later. In fact, it's still being played out today, as we know and see every day and feel in our own lives. But that's in the Story to come.

For now, Adam has a choice. A real choice. God, again, giving freedom to the personal beings He creates to choose whether they'll listen and follow Him or not. Adam's choice is between Life – remember there's no death yet in this world - or, He can choose this thing called 'knowing good and evil', but that – so God has stated – will result in death. That tree and its fruit were not inherently evil or bad because God doesn't make anything bad.

There's also nothing inherently wrong in knowing good from evil – God does. But that's the point. God wanted this man - who He'd made in His image, who He'd placed in the best possible situation and to whom He'd given an incredible responsibility - to come to Him with his questions. God knew that would be best for Adam. He didn't make him to work out his own Story. No one can do that. There's only One Story Writer and Teller. This was the relationship God, the Lord, wanted with this man and with all humans who would come after. It's what he was, and we are, made for. For man to write his own narrative of how things are, or how he might think they should be would no longer be life. God wouldn't be able to relate to someone who'd gone his own way like that. And with God being who He is, there'd be no coming back. No whining second chances. The result might still look something like life, but once cut off from God, the Source of life, it would actually be a kind of living death. Eventually, when physical death would take him out of time and the physical world, it would mean eternal separation from God.

But for the time being, Adam is in the garden with all the wonderful potential still before him if he chooses life and the relationship with God that he was created for.



## DISCUSSION POINTS

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1. Comment on the picture that emerges from the Creation account of God finishing, down to the last detail, everything He sets out to do.
2. What is your reaction to the thought that God has the absolute right to determine what is best for us and to put us into circumstances of His choosing? How does that relate to the concept of personal freedom that is so strongly held in our western societies?

3. What are some of the common assumptions that you hear people make about where their dead loved ones have gone? Think about how those assumptions have developed, where they come from etc.