

## The Education of Adam

Genesis 2:5-17

### (1) "This will be your home." (Genesis 2:5-14)

- The garden of Eden – like Longwood Gardens, but much bigger and better.
- Location? In the east (2:8), where four rivers meet.
- Gold! And more! A place of discovery and resources... (2:11-12)

### (2) "This will be your job." (2:15)

- "The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it." (2:15)
  - Stewardship! Adam is like an estate manager.
- Dominion + Stewardship. Both are important:
  - Without dominion (1:26), we humans might wonder if we can build houses, roads– and take authority over animals.
  - Without stewardship (2:15), we humans might justify exploitation of God's world.

### (3) "This will be your test." (2:16-17)

- "And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but 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." (2:16-17)
- Whether Adam obeyed or not, he would gain knowledge about good and evil.
- Wait, isn't this tree and command *arbitrary*?

- Yes, in a sense– but this design forced Adam to make a decision based solely on his trust in and devotion to God, rather than on his own instincts or reasoning.

Wait... is life but a *test*? Is that the meaning of life, that this world is but a test?

- It's true. Life is one big test, just like Adam had.
- But **Christ took the test, and you and I can receive his passing (perfect!) grade.**
  - Jesus was tested painfully in the wilderness (Matt 4:1-11)... and passed without sinning. Same for his whole life, including persecution and death. Because of this, we are saved! (Rom 5:12-21)

### Questions for Further Reflection and Application

1. Read Genesis 2:1-17. Eden, Adam's home, is wonderful. What aspects of Adam's home matter to you and why? Is there anything to apply here for your own home?
2. Adam was tested by God through the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
  - a. What do we learn here about the essential difference between good and evil? Can we understand these without knowing God?
  - b. Deep thought from the sermon: why was it necessary for the command about the tree to appear "arbitrary"? What did this test?
  - c. Yes, life is one big Test. But Jesus, the second Adam, passed it! Read Rom 5:12-21 and reflect on this, as you embrace Christ and his work.
  - d. Now, safe and secure in Christ, we recognize that life is still full of many *tests* (lowercase 't'!, see James 1:3). What did you learn from Adam's test that inspires you to trust and obey?