

## Perspective – Garden Reality

### The Foundation of Reality

“What in the world is ‘Garden Reality’?” Well, we know what the Garden represents. The Garden of Eden where God placed Adam and Eve. So, we’re talking about the reality God established through His creative Word within the Garden of Eden. But, what do we mean when we talk about reality?

A starting place might be, “real things, facts, or events taken as a whole; state of affairs”. Yet we should add the following, “something that exists independently of ideas concerning it.” Before we get lost in the intricacies of logic and philosophy lets pull those two definitions into one idea.

That last bit about existing “independently of ideas concerning it” really feels like it messes everything up. After all, if we don’t have ideas concerning something how do we interpret what it is that we don’t have any ideas about?

Let’s assume that “ideas” refers to thoughts about something outside of the obvious that is well established concerning something that exists in the physical domain. So, we may all look at a rock and agree that it's a rock.

As we discuss things further we may discover that we differ about the type of rock it is, and what it’s source may have been. The suggestion that we run scientific test on it might pop up quickly, but some of us may only trust science to provide very basic information beyond what’s been accepted already.

Then someone pipes up and says, “Only the rocks live forever”, and suddenly we’ve shifted to an entirely different dimension of what we all consider reality. Other streams of thought may concern why the rock was where we found it? Why is it separate from the larger rock that was its source? What do we know about the time periods possibly involved?

While discussing these things someone says, “Did you know a rock is really mostly air existing between the molecules and their parts all tightly bound together?” Why even take the time to mention all of this?

Because people tend to differ in their opinions about what reality is, often by setting boundaries, or not, concerning what is included within the concept of reality. That’s what that last bit mentioned above does. It sets some strong boundaries that directly affect what can be included. Still, we are left with the question about what the word “ideas” is meant to include, or exclude?

Ultimately, it seems we must rely upon what we believe is true, but who gets to define what truth is, or is not? We can work our way through layers of different levels of thought, but ultimately we must agree on what is true.

The absolute Truth must be the basis of correctly understanding anything and any set of circumstances. To do that we must be willing to accept that absolute Truth does exist, and can be experienced and understood.

Further, that absolute Truth cannot be altered by the meaning we individually, or corporately attach to the circumstances, or by what actions we take as a result. In other words, our perceptions, feelings, and ideas concerning a set of circumstances cannot be the basis of the absolute Truth concerning those circumstances.

If that's not clear, stick with us as we apply these thoughts to the creation record we've been considering so far in Genesis 1-2. We're not forgetting about the subject of Truth, we'll dig into that in a later chapter.

For now, we need to be willing to accept, or use as a temporary basis of our thinking, the assumption that Genesis chapters one and two are, in fact, an accurate record of God creating the world. Let's walk together down this trail a ways.

Please don't get lost in the plethora of ideas and theories that exist about creation. My goal is not to defend the creation story in comparison to other ideas. The following simply comes from my current perspective. So, if your perspective is different that's fine. These are just my thoughts at this time.

For me the first two chapters are the absolute Truth about God creating the world. While that may not be the case for all of us, please set our differences aside, and allow us to operate on that assumption for now in order to explore the Garden Reality.

Without Genesis providing a truthful written record then the only reality any of us can understand about the Garden of Eden, is what we perceive about Genesis 1 and 2. While some may like to say our individual perception is our individual reality, more is required than our perceptions to establish reality.

The absolute Truth established by an authority greater than our own is required. Only God, guiding the collection of our perceptions, defines accurately what reality exists at any given time, or over any period of time.

So, as God spoke the different elements of all creation into existence, He was also establishing a new reality. Since that creation process culminates with all things and forms of life being created, and the central focus of that creation is the state of affairs in the Garden of Eden, we're calling that reality the Garden Reality. If some prefer, the reality within the Garden of Eden, or something else is fine so long as the intended meaning is not changed.

"What established this new reality?" It's more accurate to ask, "Who established this new reality?" Of course, it was God. Critical to our understanding of this is how God created Reality. When God was speaking His creation into existence, He was creating new Truth, and a new Reality.

Why? Because the world and all it consisted of had never existed before in all of eternity. God's Word expanded Truth and Reality by creating a new world and all other related elements and forms of life. That's one of the reasons why God's Word is the Truth. A part of that Truth is that God was the beginning of this world, and He knows it has an end. Remember, He has full authority over both.

Since God's Word created Adam and Eve perfectly, He also established a physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual Reality. These were not separated parts of a person, they constituted the whole person with God being their Life. All things existed the way they did because that's the way God spoke them into existence.

Because of this creation there was now more than God, the heavenly beings, angels, and whatever else God created within eternity prior to this time. That Reality was changed into a new Reality by God's new creation.

We need to let this soak in a bit, because for some of us it represents a monumental change in our perception. That's because this perception focuses on the fact that God is the only source for us to fully understand the Truth and Reality. We can hold onto our ideas, or we can trust God and learn from Him.

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Created How?

So how does eternal Truth get created? God speaks it into existence. His Word is the Truth.

What is our reality and how do we understand it? It is God's perception of all that exists, including our individual circumstances. He alone can provide an accurate understanding of the past, current, or future reality we experience.

Any understanding of our circumstances not based upon what God has established, and His perspective of the circumstances is based upon a lie. If we trust other sources, not based upon God's perspective for our understanding of our circumstances, then we are choosing to think and act in a manner that is against God's will. This is not a correct statement just some of the time. It is true all the time.

All of this has very direct implications for how we approach everything we do each day. It challenges our self-endowed right to run our own life. The foundation of our understanding of Death, Life, ourselves, and the world around us may be challenged. So, this can hit us in the core of our being. That makes it pretty important.

There's much more ahead to consider, much more to understand. Later we'll learn how to apply this knowledge in our individual daily living as we move forward. Right now, let's add more to our foundational understanding of the essence of God's creative intentions.