

FOUNDATIONS

*for*

HUMAN

*Flourishing*

*Human flourishing* refers to “living ‘within an optimal range of human functioning.’”

— Frederickson and Losada, *American Psychologist* 60

*Scripture Reading*

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GENESIS 2:4–17

## THE MAIN POINT OF GENESIS 2:4–17

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Humanity's original home, Eden, wasn't just a garden; it was a *temple*, revealing that God designed human life to be lived with him—in his presence.

# EDEN IS A TEMPLE

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1. Eden was at the center of “the heavens and the earth”—it’s where they came together (2:4).
2. Eden was a mountain—and, after Eden, temples were built on “high places” (2:10-14).
3. Eden is where God placed Adam, God’s likeness and image (2:8, 15).
4. Eden is where God walked with Adam and Eve, continually present with them (3:8).

# EDEN IS A TEMPLE

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5. Eventually, Israel's temporary tabernacle and permanent temple had multiple echoes of Eden. Both Israel's tabernacle and temple...
  - a. were decorated with trees and vegetation, resembling a garden—the Garden of Eden.
  - b. were filled with Eden's gemstones.
  - c. were entered from the east—just like Eden.
  - d. were “guarded” by the angelic cherubim—just like Eden.
  - e. were managed by those who “work and keep”—just like Adam in Eden (2:15; see, for example, Numbers 3:7-8).

## THE MAIN POINT OF GENESIS 2:4–17

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Humanity's original home, Eden, wasn't just a garden; it was a *temple*, revealing that God designed human life to be lived with him—in his presence.

“All the planets of your life [such as your convictions, attitudes, feelings, habits, relationships, sexuality, work, and relaxation] are held in orbit by the greatness and gravity and blazing brightness of the supremacy of Jesus Christ at the center of your life. If he ceases to be the bright, blazing, satisfying beauty at the center of your life, the planets will fly into confusion, a hundred things will be out of control, and sooner or later they will crash into destruction.”

— John Piper, *Sex and the Supremacy of Christ*, pages 37–38



Jesus himself is the once-for-all mediator and sacrifice who became *the way* for rebels who trust him to be reconciled to God now and forever. Jesus, by his crucifixion and resurrection, replaced the temple—just as he told the Pharisees (in John 2) and the woman at the well (in John 4).