

## The Great Secret of Eden

The Garden of Eden is the greatest mystery of the Old Testament. For two thousand years, many people have been dreaming of finding the place where the first people appeared, as well as the place of their first sin.

Some researchers of sacred texts believe that Eden is located at the bottom of the Persian Gulf. Four biblical rivers, two of which have survived to the present day, allegedly flowed into it and in ancient times were identified with a large river dividing into four.

Other researchers believe that Eden is located at the source of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, somewhere in the Armenian Highlands in Turkey. Some place the Garden of Eden in a valley north of the Sekhend volcano, near Tabriz in Iran.

I propose to approach the search for Eden from the point of view of geography without reference to the names in the Old Testament.

And the LORD God planted paradise in Eden in the east, and placed there the man whom he had created.

And the LORD God brought forth out of the earth every tree pleasant to look at and good for food, and the tree of life in the midst of paradise, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

:: A river came out of Eden to irrigate paradise; and then it was divided into four rivers.

:: The name of one Fison: it flows around the whole land of Havilah, the one where the gold is;

:: and the gold of that land is good; there is a bholah and an onyx stone.

:: The name of the second river is Gihon [Geon]: it flows around the whole land of Kush.

:: The name of the third river Hiddekel [Tiger]: it flows before Assyria. The fourth river is the Euphrates.

First, Eden was in the east, obviously from the place where the Old Testament was written. We look at the map and dismiss the options with Turkey. The Armenian Highlands are located to the north, not to the east.

The Persian Gulf is also not suitable. The fact is that, according to geological studies, the bottom of the bay does not sink, but rises. This means that trees pleasant to look at and good for food could not grow on the bottom of the Persian Gulf for the next six thousand years. No trees could grow at all.

Iran is also falling away. It is difficult to find a couple of large rivers there, especially four at once. Do not forget that the climate of Eden allowed people to walk naked, which is hardly possible in Iran, in a valley among mountains covered with glaciers.

And so, what do we have for research? We need to find a territory with a hot climate, an abundance of forests and fruit trees, four large rivers, with rich deposits of gold and precious stones in the surrounding lands. At the same time, a large number of snakes live in this territory, which means that there was a snake cult in this area in ancient times. And yet, this territory is located somewhere in the east of Israel.

Of course, India comes to mind first. Did the ancient Jews know about this part of the world at the other end of the Persian Gulf and the Arabian Sea? Do not doubt, even the ancient Sumerians actively traded by sea with Indian merchants. Ships loaded with cattle, grain, wine, oil, spices, fabrics, building materials and jewelry regularly sailed along the coast between the Arabian Peninsula and Hindustan.

The problem is that in India there is only one major river known to the whole world – the Ganges. After studying the map, I thought for a long time that Eden could be even further east from India in the Bangladesh region. In fact, the ideal place for a garden of eden is a hot climate, dense forests, fertile land rich in gold and minerals, as well as a developed network of large rivers flowing from the Tibetan Mountains into the Bay of Bengal. And Bangladesh has the most snakes on the continent. In general, this place fits the description of the Garden of Eden perfectly.

There is no point in considering territories even further to the east. Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia and China are located there. They are too far away for that time, but it was there that the descendants of Adam and Eve could have wandered.

For several years I assumed that Bangladesh might be the birthplace of Eden, until one day I came up with the idea to just Google it. After all, what is the description of the Garden of Eden? This is the valley of four rivers. I wanted to know if there was any mention of such a valley in history. And Google gave the answer, it turns out that in world history there is a famous valley with several large rivers. However, there are not four, but five! This place is called Pyatirechye. The Valley of the Five Rivers is located in Punjab (Punjab) on the territory of Pakistan and India, much closer to Israel than I thought, although near India.

So Punjab has a rich history. But most importantly, there was an Indian civilization 3000 years before our era, and five rivers are considered sacred in Hinduism. The Indian civilization declined relatively quickly due to drought. And since then, irrigation has been required for agriculture in this area.

; And the LORD God took the man [whom he had created] and put him in the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.  
; And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree in the garden you shall eat,  
; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, do not eat from it, for on the day you eat from it, you will die by death.

; And the Lord God said, It is not good for a man to be alone; let us create for him a helper corresponding to him.  
; The Lord God formed out of the earth all the animals of the field and all the birds of the sky, and brought [them] to man to see what he would call them, and that, as man would call every living soul, that was her name.  
; And man called the names of all the cattle and birds of the sky and all the beasts of the field; but for man there was no helper like him.

The pre-Aryan tribes inhabiting Punjab were forced to migrate east to India. The peculiarity of these tribes was that they created figurines of men and women next to trees, apparently sacred. This is very similar to the description of Adam and Eve in the myth of Eden. Even the ancient inhabitants of Punjab created plaques depicting men and women surrounded by various animals, ordinary and mythical. Which also echoes the text in which the Lord brought all the animals to Adam as helpers.

Could Jews have known the history, religion and myths of the Indian civilization? Undoubtedly. The inhabitants of the Indus River Valley in Punjab allegedly traded with Babylon, Sumerians and Mesopotamia.

Perhaps the books of the Old Testament from the Bible were written before the Indian civilization? Definitely not! The earliest texts of the Old Testament are no older than 1300 BC. By this time, the Indian civilization was in deep decline and almost disappeared.

As you can see, the great biblical mystery is easy to uncover. All you need is the Internet and a map.