

PROBATION IN THE GARDEN, PART 1
(Genesis 2:5-15)

- I. The Garden and the Pre-Flood WATER CYCLE (Gen. 2:5-6, 10-14)
 - A. Earth watered by MIST that came up from the GROUND
 - 1. No RAIN to water the SOIL (cf. 7:4)
 - 2. No ground left UNWATERED
 - B. Earth watered by SPRING-FED RIVERS
 - 1. A single PRESURIZED source for the RIVER of EDEN
 - 2. Four “DISTRIBUTARIES”: Pishon, Gihon, Hiddekel, Euphrates
- II. The “CANOPY THEORY” of the Pre-Flood System
 - A. The “FIRMAMENT” established to divide the waters ABOVE from those BENEATH (Gen. 1:6-8)
 - 1. God called it HEAVEN, the abode of the BIRDS (1:20)
 - 2. Clouds exist IN the atmosphere, not ABOVE it
 - B. Earth was apparently surrounded by a “canopy” of WATER VAPOR
 - 1. It did not RAIN on the earth (2:5; cf. 7:4)
 - 2. There was no RAINBOW to be seen in the sky (9:13)
 - 3. It had to be TRANSPARENT to identify the SUN, MOON, and STARS
 - C. Such a CANOPY would serve SEVERAL purposes
 - 1. Might provide a mechanism for MAINTAINING earth’s MAGNETIC FIELD

2. Would create a global GREENHOUSE
3. Nearly uniform TEMPERATURES would INHIBIT movement of great air masses so WINDSTORMS would be UNKOWN
4. Any RAINFALL would occur DIRECTLY OVER the body of water from which it EVAPORATED
5. No TURBULENCE or temperature CONTRASTS or DUST particle to destabilize the canopy and cause it to PRECIPITATE
6. Comfortable, uniform HUMIDITY would cause local EVAPORATION during the day and CONDENSATION at night
7. Environment would produce LUSH VEGETATION worldwide, with no DESERTS or ICE CAPS
8. Would contribute to HEALTH and LONGEVITY
9. Would provide necessary RESERVOIR for the FLOOD (cf. 7:11)

III. The Creation of MAN (Gen. 2:7-9, 15; cf. 1:24-31)

- A. FORMED from the DUST of the GROUND
- B. ANIMATED by the POWER of GOD
- C. Given a HOME in the GARDEN
 1. PLANTED by GOD
 2. PROVIDED for ADAM
 - a. Vegetation for PHYSICAL life
 - b. Tree of LIFE for SPIRITUAL life
 - c. Tree of KNOWLEDGE of Good and Evil for MORAL LIFE