Living in Paradise

**Read:** Genesis 2:10-15

**Introduction:** Dr. Kent Hovind believes that when God created the earth He placed it inside a huge water bubble creating a huge green-house for His creation. This bubble of water protected man from the harmful rays of the sun and produced much larger plants. Man could live much longer and plants could grow much larger. Dinosaurs thrived in such an environment. I believe that this hypothesis is probably true. This would explain what is meant in chapter 1:7 when it says: “And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which *were* under the firmament from the waters which *were* above the firmament…” It would also explain where the water came from that caused the 40 days and 40 nights of rain. It would also explain the drop in longevity immediately following the flood.

**I. Eden:** Means a place of pleasure or delicate delight. This is the place that God placed His creation. He created the entire universe just to keep things in balance for the man and woman that He created. He provided a perfect environment so that this couple could thrive in a place of pure joy. There was no lust, no greed, no dishonesty, and no sadness of any sort. It was a place where one could actually speak to God on a regular basis. He designed it so that there were no storms of any kind. The garden that He created was watered daily with a mist system He installed in the ground. For the things that needed more water God created rivers, most likely, fed from underground springs. Four of these rivers originated in the Garden of Eden. I want to talk about them.

**II. Pison:** An actual definition of the name Pison is dispersive. We are told that it disperses to a place that has lots of gold, good gold. Can I say this morning that when we find our pleasure and our delight in the place where we also find the presence of God; it will lead us to real wealth. I am not talking about a dollars and cents bank account but real wealth that goes far beyond a bank balance. (Poor Rich Man)

**III. Gihon** actually means: “to gush forth” & “a river of paradise.” Has it occurred to you that just perhaps the saint who is living in this place with the continual presence of God will be a little excited about God and what He is doing? Perhaps they will be unable to keep quiet about what God is doing in and around them. Do you remember the miracle in Matthew 9 where Jesus healed two blind men and told them not to say anything about it? What did they do? How does one experience such things and it not gush forth from your mouth?

**IV. Hiddekel** is tigris or like a tiger, fierce. This river is named for the ripping and tearing strength of its fierce water. It ripped through rocks and pulled soil and rocks downstream. It provided sustenance and soil for the land of the many people who would someday inhabit these places. When one is filled with the goodness and delight that comes from a personal relationship with God Himself then they will be a force for good in the world in which they live.

**V. Euphrates** refers to breaking forth or rushing water. The idea of breaking forth refers to spontaneous action. As the presence of God acts on our life we instinctively live a life of praise and worship for Him. He is exalted and we aren’t even trying. We should be lifting Him up by instinct with spontaneity and not because we have trained ourselves to do so. We live in a church world with too many classes on how to worship. Perhaps we should experience His presence in such a way that the worship just breaks forth; that His joy rushes out without thinking.

**Conclude:** All four of these rivers started in the Garden of Eden. All come from a place of the presence of God. They all four were respon-sible for commerce, transportation, and providing nourishment to all persons who resided along their banks. They didn’t just bless the worthy ones but rather blessed all who would come to their banks. I submit to you this morning that God desires that we are a blessing to all those that we touch in our day to day living.