

creation. There can, of course, be no question that it must be placed before Eve's creation, since God placed Adam in the garden (2:15) and put him to sleep there (2:2 1) in order to create Eve.

Since both male and female are spoken of in the general creation account of Genesis 1:27, it would appear to make very little difference whether one places the creation of the garden before Adam's creation or after it. However, I prefer to view the creation of the garden as coming before Adam's creation, so that the newly-created man would be located in the Garden of Eden from the very beginning of his existence. Thus I prefer the pluperfect translation of Genesis 2:8 -- "And the Lord had planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed."

Where was this beautiful paradise located? Well, beyond the fact that it was somewhere in the Middle East, we know next to nothing about its precise location. Perhaps like the mythical lost continent of Atlantis, that beautiful garden was destroyed, wiped out, and completely obliterated from the face of the earth. Perhaps when we are in glory we shall learn of its location and its end. In the meanwhile, we are urged, not to fix mournful and longing eyes upon paradise lost, but rather to look forward to a better Paradise, one regained for us by Christ and prepared for those who love Him.

Event #12 (recorded in Genesis 1:26-31 and 2:7) -- God's Ex Nihilo Creation of man's soul, and His Immediate Creation of man's body.

The Scriptures tell us that God created man in His own image and likeness. This likeness is stamped upon man's soul. As God is a Spirit (i.e., Person), so man is a spirit (a person). As God's nature has the attributes of wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth, so man's nature, as created in God's image, had the attributes of wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth. However, whereas God possesses these attributes in an infinite, eternal, and unchangeable way, unfallen man possessed in a finite, temporal, and changeable way. Thus there is both likeness and unlikeness in God's creation of man in His own image: likeness, because God created man in His *image*; unlikeness, because God *created* man in His image.

The creation of man's body, as recorded in Genesis 2:7, is an *immediate* creation by God, using pre-existing substance (in this instance, "dust from