



Understanding the Parsha Genesis 2:4-3:15

Learn how to 1) interpret the main theme (*subject*) of a Parsha, (*weekly reading from the Torah*)
 2) make thematic (*studying Scriptures related by a common theme (subject), line upon line and precept upon precept*) connections to that Parsha and
 3) learn how to gain greater understanding of the Parsha we are looking at through its thematic connections to other portions of Scripture.

I. Read the Parsha Stumah, Genesis 2:4-3:15. Each Parsha contains its own unique theme. Our goal is to uncover the theme of this Parsha.

What seems to be the main topic(s) in Genesis 2:4-7? Circle the correct themes:

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|-----------------|---------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Trees and Herbs | The Sabbath | Man | The moon and the sun |
| The Serpent | Rain and mist | Israel as a nation | All kinds of animals |

Vegetation (trees and herbs), water (rain and mist), and man.

Does the Torah show us their relationship to one another? Circle YES or NO

Write the relationships in the correct order.

1. _____ depends on 2. _____ and 3. _____ for growth.

Yes: Vegetation depends on water and man for growth.

B. Can you find the major topic(s) of Genesis 2:8-14?

- 1. Garden of _____ (Herbs)
- 2. The Tree of _____ and the Tree of the _____
- 3. The four _____ (water) 4. _____

Herbs (Gan/Garden Eden), trees (the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil), water (the four rivers) and man

As you study the answer, can you see how the theme of Genesis 2:4-7 is also the important subject of Genesis 2:8-14?

Circle YES or NO

Good if you circled yes!. The Torah seems to be trying to get us to focus on the relationship between *man and the garden*.

C. How is Genesis 2:15-17 thematically related? Circle the correct themes that are related

- | | | | |
|------|--------|--------|---|
| Man | Garden | Eating | <small>Once again we see the Torah is showing us the relationship between man and vegetation of the garden.</small> |
| Work | Trees | Dying | |

What particular feature of Gan Eden does the Torah seem to be showing us? Write in the words

The Tree of _____
The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

Repeating words, and stories is one of the main ways the Torah teaches us its lessons. It is important that the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil has been mentioned again. Until this point, the Torah has pointed to the relationship between man and Gan Eden, with a focus on the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.

D. What is the main point the Torah telling us in Genesis 2:18-25?

- Man needs a counterpart - a woman/wife He has to name all the animals He needed a nap
The need for man to have another more fulfilling relationship -- a woman.

The Torah has also shown us that even Adam’s relationship with the animals is not enough for him. So far the Torah has taught us about the relationship between man and Gan Eden (he must work it), and between man and woman (they are to become one flesh, man and wife).

E. How are these verses thematically related to what we just learned?

The Tree of the _____
The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

There it is again! Thematically, the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil has becomes the main theme. It has taken center stage.

F. We have talked about many different relationships so far. Which relationship does it seem we have forgotten? Circle the the answer:

- How to work the Garden? Man and the Holy One? How be become married?
The relationship between man and the Holy One.

What does the fact that Adam and Chava (Eve) hide from the Holy One teach us about the relationship between man and Adonai? Circle the answer:

Man likes to play hide and seek with YHVH

The relationship is broken, now they are afraid of their Creator.

It has been broken.

That's right. By eating of the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, Adam and Chava have allowed sin to separate them from their relationship with the Holy One.

What does Genesis 3:23-24 teach us about having a broken relationship with the Holy One? Circle the answer

They had to leave the Garden, the place where the Holy Dwelt The could stay in the Garden forever

Adam and Chava were removed from the garden, the place where the Holy One appears to have also dwelt.

Adonai told Adam and Chava that they would die on the day they ate of the fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

Based on Genesis chapter three, how does the Holy One describe death? Circle Yes or No

They physically died when they ate the fruit? YES or NO

They were exiled (forced to leave) Gan Eden? YES or NO

Death is separation from the Holy One and Life (the Tree of Life)? YES or NO

They did not physically die on the day they ate of the fruit. They were exiled from Gan Eden. Since Gan Eden contained the Tree of Life and since Adonai dwelled in Gan Eden, the Torah shows us that death is separation from the Holy One and Life!

Now we can see why the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil were such powerful themes throughout this Parsha. **They show the possibility for a relationship between man and the Holy One.** As long as man kept from eating from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, **he could stay in Adonai's presence and eat from the Tree of Life.**

The Torah is teaching us about man's relationship with his Creator through the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. It is a relationship based on commandments (mitzvot) from the Holy One and obedience by man! Therefore, the main message of this portion of Scripture is this: **Disobedience to the commandments (mitzvot) of YHVH severs the relationship between God and man.**

What's your thought? _____

