

## Where in the World is the Garden of Eden?

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Until quite recently geography was the cause of serious problems and inconveniences. In the past century, an ocean crossing outside of wartime has gone from a big deal to happening quite frequently—yet no one thinks too hard about it when they are counting the flights to Sydney on the departure board at LAX. This also speaks a few words for Human Geography and Economics—things have changed a lot. So if that much of a difference could take place over one century it is evident that the differences between now and at least two millenniums ago would be significant.

In the beginning, the very beginning, there was the Garden of Eden. This garden is regarded as a place of plenty—so long as you abide by God's laws. It came as quite a shock to find out that it was actually located around, what we know as, Basra. When the Old Testament was written Basra must have been a much more fruitful place than it is now.

The choice of the location of the Garden of Eden has more science than religion involved in it. Eden is where the Euphrates River takes on three branches: the Tigris River, the Pison River, and the Gihon River. As a result, this land is extremely rich for plant growth, which would attract animals of all sorts and provide an ideal location to begin a civilization.

From a historical standpoint this is one part of the bible that does employ some amount of human geography and evolution. Though the Bible was written long before fossils were discovered in the vicinity of the Garden of Eden, there was still a long-time civilization living at the site and as long as stories had been passed down there had been people living at this site. No one could remember pioneering or settling the place.

When evolutionary theory was first considered perhaps they should have looked toward the Bible for hints. The book is composed of smaller books of fables but if someone is on top of their geography, and understands the changes throughout the past several thousand years—both physical and etymological—a very interesting picture of the world they lived in is painted. Meaning can be found in location and science—even in biblical terms.