

THE GARDEN OF EDEN



A place of delight

INTRODUCTION

Where was the Biblical Garden of Eden? It was a real place. We believe India was Eden!

We will trace the Biblical account and demonstrate how closely the location of India fits. We will show from the Bible that not only did Adam & Eve originate there, but a branch of the descendants of Eber, Hebrews, returned after the Flood and re-settled it.

India has been an intensely spiritual place through all the millennia. Many of the customs and beliefs of India today are rooted in events that played out in the Biblical Garden. You will be amazed.

THE BIASES

Western scholars have long popularized the view India is a backward nation that has made no contribution to science or the arts. Myths have been propagated on slim evidence that late in history a migration of 'Aryans' from the Caucasus brought civilization to India.

The truth is quite the opposite. Ancient India was highly advanced in astronomy and mathematics. Some of the Greek scholars visited India and brought mathematical insights back which they introduced to us. Since Alexander the Great burned down the Library of Alexandria the West has been suppressing the achievements of Indian scholarship to gloss their own image.

THE TRUTH

If India is Eden then her place in world history is central. It is time for Christian believers to understand the chain of events and how they impacted our faith. The LORD walked in the Garden. India would be the first place on earth He set foot. We will present evidence Sarai was a Hebrew from Eden. If so, Abram, her brother, was at least part Eden Hebrew (more on that later). If Adam and Eve lived in India, as we propose, then the LORD's love for all people in the world is on display. Compared to them, Jacob, the Tribes of Israel, and even Christians are latecomers to the banquet of fellowship with Christ.

BE PREPARED

We are taking a deep dive into the Bible. This will be a long read. It will take a while for us to outline all the evidence supporting India as Eden.

Before all that, we will give you a teaser:

WORDS MATTER

The Hebrew word for 'Eden' is **אֵדֶן**. Spelled, from right to left:

AYIN	א	"The Eyes of the LORD"	70
DALET	ד	"Door" or "Picture"	4
NUN	נ	"Unspiritual Man"	700 (Sofit value [NB non-Sofit value is 50])

We provide the meanings and values of Hebrew letters on biblenumbersforlife.com: click this [link](#).

The meaning of Eden: 'The Eyes of the LORD' 'Picture' (behold) 'Unspiritual Man'. Adam never ate from the Tree of Life. Although God spoke to him, Adam lived in his carnal nature, an unspiritual man.

In Hebrew Eden means 'delight' or 'luxury'. The root word means a 'free exchange' of information, goods and services. The condition at the beginning of man was similar to the end, our present time. There was liberty and abundance, but in all the distraction the fear of God was forgotten.

The Sofit gematria of 'Eden' is **774** 'False Prophet is Hunted Down' and maps to Jeremiah 29, 774th Bible Chapter: "**Build houses and dwell; plant gardens and eat their fruit**" (v.5)

The non-Sofit gematria of 'Eden' is **124** 'Deadly Trap Escaped' and maps to Numbers 7, 124th Bible Chapter, the dedication of the Sacrificial Altar: "**Moses went into the Tabernacle... he heard the voice of One speaking to him above the mercy seat on the Ark... between the two cherubim...**" (v.89)

The lavish décor of the inner sanctum of the Tabernacle of Moses was in fact a miniature Eden. The mercy seat was a miniature Garden of Eden where God spoke directly to his representative on Earth. The Ark included two dedicated cherubim; just like the Garden (Genesis 3 v 24).

INDIA = EDEN

The letters that spell 'INDIA' are the same letters as Eden, only written backwards. Eden is spelled: 'EY-D-N' and INDIA, without vowels, is spelled 'N-D-EY'. It is spelled backwards because Hebrew is written right to left. Indo-European languages are written left to right. If you read the letters in INDIA backwards you get the same letters in the same order as EDEN in Hebrew.

POPULOUS PRE-FALL WORLD

We propose that while Adam and Eve were in the Garden of Eden there were humans living in Eden outside the Garden. We call them the 'Eden People'. We also propose there were humans living outside Eden. We will call them the 'Dust People'.

All the people living in the world today are descended from Adam and Eve. The Eden People and the Dust People were destroyed in the Flood. Nevertheless, they lived on the earth and were participants in the drama of pre-Fall and pre-Flood history. Although they are no longer with us, their lives impacted the unfolding of events that affect us down to the present day.

GENERAL AND SPECIAL CREATION

Genesis 1 presents the order of General Creation. Genesis 2 presents the order of Special Creation. Dust People were formed according to the order presented in General Creation. Adam and Eve were formed according to the order in Special Creation. We propose Eden People were a Special Creation.

God formed Adam from the dust of the ground. We propose God also formed Dust People from the dust of the ground. Nothing is impossible for God. We propose God formed the Eden People from the same rib God took from Adam's side to create Eve. The Eden People were therefore close relatives of Eve. They had contact with her. They lived in Eden, a place of privilege with access to the Garden. Dust People lived in the Rest of the World and had no access or knowledge of the Garden. We propose they had knowledge of Eden and contact with Eden People. *[More on that later]*

We realise our depiction of a populous pre-Fall world is not a widely held view. However, we did not pull this out of our imagination. We will present our arguments. Let the reader decide.

ORDER OF GENERAL CREATION

- Day 1 Earth was without form. Darkness was over the surface of the Deep. Let there be light!
- Day 2 Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters. God divided the waters above from the waters below. God called the firmament 'Heaven'. *[Pre-Fall 'Heaven' was on earth]*
- Day 3 Let waters be gathered in one place. Let dry land appear. Let the earth bring forth grass; the herb that has seed in it; the tree that yields fruit whose seed is in it.
- Day 4 Let there be lights in the Heavens... for signs and season... days and years. Great light to rule the day... Lessor light to rule the night.
- Day 5 Let the waters teem with fish... birds fly above the earth... fill the waters and multiply.
- Day 6 Let there be cattle, creeping things, beasts of the earth. Man in His own image.

ORDER OF SPECIAL CREATION

Adam was not created on Day 6. Adam was created early on Day 3. The Bible is clear on this.

Gen. 2 v 5 “before any plant of the field was in the earth [*dry land created early on Day 3*] and before any herb of the field had grown [*herbs were created later in Day 3*]. For the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the earth, and there was no man [i.e. *Dust Man*] to till the ground [*he came on Day 6*] but a mist went up from the earth [*dry land*] and watered the ground.

Gen. 2 v 6 “And the LORD God formed man [*Adam*] from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became a living being.

The Garden was also created on the third day. This is a special creation in a fixed location on earth.

Gen. 2 v 8 “And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden”

Important clue to the location of Eden!

Eden is ‘eastward’: east of all landmarks and locales described in the Old Testament. East of Jerusalem. East of Babylon. East of Ur. East of the lands of Shem, who inherited the Eastern plains and hills and deserts in the division of the earth between Ham [Africa], Shem [Middle East], and Japheth [Europe]. Eden is in the general vicinity of Asia. Further clues will refine its exact location.

The first man ever created lived in Eden: Adam was an Asian.

“And there He put the man he had formed”

Adam then became an eye-witness of the omnipotent power of God. He saw miracles first hand.

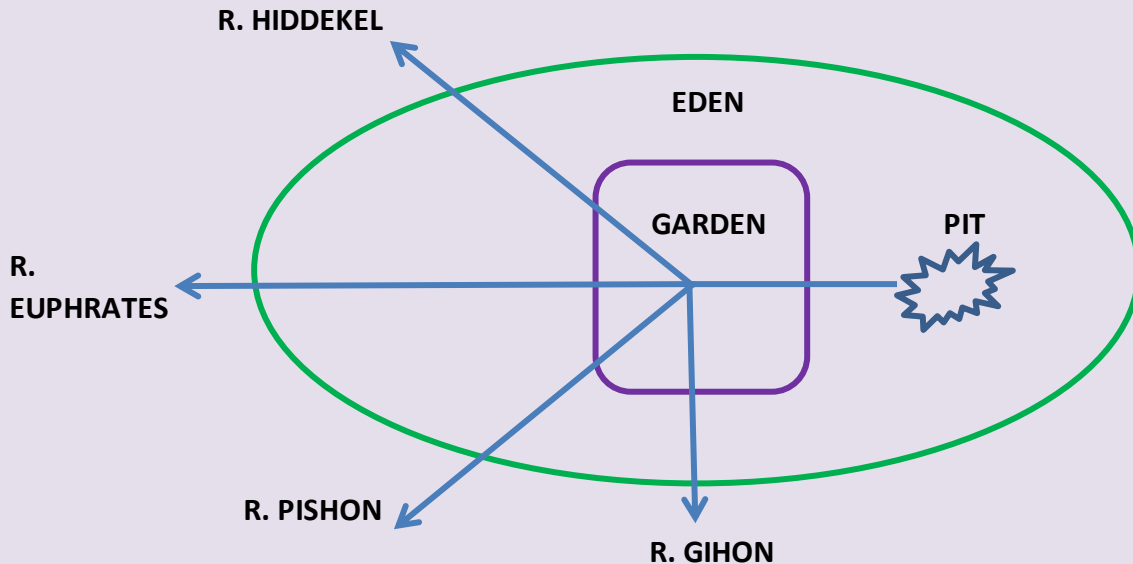
Gen. 2 v 9 “And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food.” [*Adam was awake when the Trees were created on Day 3*]

“The Tree of Life was also in midst of the Garden. And the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.”

Why did the LORD God create Adam and put him in a Garden ahead of schedule compared to the rest of General Creation? (i.e. beasts of field, cattle, creeping things came Day 6) The answer lies in the mists that rose up from the ground. If Heaven was in the space immediately above the surface of the Earth [see Day 2] the waters beneath the firmament were the anti-Heaven. Evil forces were present and active under the surface of the earth resisting God’s will. Adam and the Garden were Special Creations with a purpose: to restrain the forces of evil that threatened to spill out of their earthly chambers and spoil the wonderful world God had made.

RIVERS OF EDEN

Gen. 2 v 10 “Now a river went out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it parted and became four riverheads.”



Gen. 2 v 11 “The name of the first is Pishon. It is the one that skirts the whole land of Havilah...”

Gen. 2 v 13 “The name of the second river is Gihon... it goes around the whole land of Cush.”

Gen. 2 v 14 “The name of the third river is Hiddekel. It goes towards the east of Assyria. The name of the fourth river is Euphrates.”

Let the reader understand. These can't be rivers of water above ground because on Day 3 the only water above ground was a mist out of the ground. There was no rain. So there was no above ground source of water to supply great rivers. Ezekiel clears up this matter for us:

Eze. 31 “Indeed Assyria was a cedar in Lebanon... of high stature... The waters made it grow; underground waters gave it height, with their rivers running around the place it was planted. And sent rivulets to all the trees of the field.” (v. 3,4)

Eze. 31 “I made it beautiful... all the trees of Eden envied it that were in the Garden of God.” (v 9)

God put His Garden in a place where it staunched the flow of underground rivers of water flowing out from the Pit into the four corners of the world. This forced Satan to devise a plan to break the power of the Garden by tempting Eve to eat the forbidden fruit. Adam and Eve were of little interest to the Evil One. The world was soon full of Dust People who had no knowledge of the Garden and therefore no knowledge of God. Satan could easily deceive them and draw them into his sphere of influence.

EVE

Evidence points to Eve being formed on Day 6. (We assume Gen. 2 events are in chronological order.)

Gen. 2 v 18 “And the LORD God said ‘It is not good that man should be alone; I will make a helper comparable to him.’”

Gen. 2 v 19 “Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field (Day 6) and every bird of the air (Day 5) and brought them to Adam to see what he would name them. And whatever Adam called each living creature that was its name.”

God brought them to Adam because all these animals lived in diverse parts of the world. So these animals were not created on the spot in Eden on Day 3 like the trees in the Garden. Thus the naming of the animals could not be earlier than Day 6 of General Creation.

Gen. 2 v 20 “So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.”

God looked for a helper but none suitable was found. This implies the Pre-Fall world was populous.

The Dust People by this point were numerous and widely dispersed. This is possible for the same reason that all the animals and birds were numerous and widely dispersed. In the Biblical time frame “with the LORD a Day is as a thousand years” (2 Peter 3 v 8). Each of the Days of General Creation were a 1,000 years: ample time for animals, birds, and Dust People to multiply and disperse.

The Dust People had reached the environs of Assyria, the Euphrates River, Havilah, and Cush. By the time Adam was finished naming all the animals, a prodigious task, those foreign lands had all already been populated and come under the influence of the four rivers that reached those parts, and the fields around them. Thus the Dust People’s mind, emotions, and will were already bent against the knowledge of God. None of the female Dust People would make a suitable helper. So God made Eve:

Gen. 2 v 21 “And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh in its place.”

Gen. 2 v 22 “Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from the man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.”

Important Clue to the location of Eden:

The Garden became the first center of scholarship in the world. God brought the animals to Adam to see what he would name them. This required Adam to study each one intently. Adam became the world expert in Fauna. If India is the location of the Garden it should have been a center of science since time immemorial. Which it was: producing first class mathematicians, astronomers, engineers.

AGE OF ADAM

If the Days of Creation were a thousand years and Adam was created on Day 3, wouldn't he be thousands of years old? Prior to creating Eve, Day 6, God put Adam in a deep sleep. So, he may have slept through part of it. We suppose pre-Fall, God enabled Adam to live without aging. Eating from the Tree of Life did not give non-aging. The Tree of Life made it permanent. After Adam fell, he aged.

EDEN PEOPLE

Nature abhors a vacuum. The Dust People were widely dispersed abroad. Adam and Eve were in the Garden. Who lived in Eden outside the Garden?

There is reason to believe Pre-Fall Eden was a wilderness: in stark contrast to the Garden, which was filled with pleasant trees, and the rest of the world, which contained abundant plants and animals.

Eden was a wilderness because it had within its boundary the location of the Pit. God made Eden a wilderness to dissuade Dust People from migrating there lest they be thoroughly steeped in its evil influence. In addition, God intended to seed Eden with ministers who would assist the Garden in restraining evil.

Where would God find ministers to populate Eden if the Dust People were already found to be unworthy to be Adam's helper? For this reason we propose the Eden People were created from the same rib of Adam taken to make Eve. This would also ensure a bond between Eve and Eden People.

One thing is certain. There were holy ones living lives of constant devotion in Pre-Fall Eden. After the Fall they lost their faith, dispersed into the world, pursued fleshly desires, and were judged for it.

Gen. 6 **"Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, that the Sons of God [Eden People] saw the daughters of Men [Dust People] were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all they chose."** (v 1-2)

"And the LORD said, 'My Spirit will not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.' (v. 3)

If the holy men of Eden were made by God directly from Adam's rib, then they had no father and no mother. They had every right to be known as the 'Sons of God'.

The proximity of the verses suggests when the holy men of Eden were devoted to the service of the Garden they were endowed with Adam-like qualities of never aging. When they departed Eden and sought more luxuriant places to live, God shortened their years to a mere hundred and twenty.

Adam would discover that outside the Garden, Eden was a wilderness: **"cursed is the ground... in toil you shall eat of it... both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you"** (Gen. 3 v 18-19)

Important Clues to the location of Eden:

For a very long time Eden was occupied by **holy men** who lived lives of constant devotion, practiced abstinence, eschewed worldly attractions, and contented themselves with no luxuries and harsh living conditions. If India is the location of Eden we should find not one or two but many such holy men. And we do to this very day. The persistence of this phenomenon over millennia is proof its origin is just as ancient: entrenched in the spiritual events that took place there. This is in stark contrast with Europe, Middle-East, and Africa where 'holy men' are fully garbed, frequently in finery.



Still naked and unashamed.

If India is the location of Eden we should also find **cursed ground**. It should be a place where generations of rural people extract a bare subsistence from the land. Modern India possesses advanced technology including nuclear weapons and a space program. Yet hundreds of millions of people are dirt farmers relying on human toil and hand tools.



MINISTRY OF ADAM

Gen. 2 v 15 “And the LORD God took the Man [Adam] and put him in the Garden to tend and keep it.”

Adam’s occupation was to tend and keep the Garden of Eden. We know mists were rising out of an earth full of evil influence. We know that the Trees in Eden all drank from the underground waters supplied by the River of Eden whose source was the Pit. We know that the purpose of the Garden was to restrain evil influence in the world. By following direct instruction from the LORD and tending the Trees, Adam somehow kept the Garden in a condition to succeed in its God ordained task.

As we read in Ezekiel the Trees in the Garden of Eden were capable of jealousy of Trees outside the Garden, specifically of the Assyrian cedar, whose top was thick and whose branches were long. Therefore the Trees in the Garden might have been the common variety, but a powerful territorial spirit being was present in each Tree, championed it and was jealous for it to thrive abundantly.

Satan is portrayed as talking to Eve in the Garden (Gen. 3 v 1). The subject of the conversation was eating from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. We infer that Satan was the powerful spirit present in that Tree. Satan championed the value of its fruit to his prospective devotee: “opening the eyes” and “being like God” (Gen. 3 v 5). [Corollary: Trees spoke to both Adam and Eve.]

So then, what was the ministry of Adam? We propose he was a witness of the LORD. He walked in the midst of powerful spirit beings and was a living example before their eyes of the grace and truth of his Maker. Adam was ‘in the Garden but not of it’. He walked among the trees and talked to the Trees and ate their pleasant fruit. But he was to make no allegiance with them. He belonged to the LORD. Adam proved his loyalty by not eating from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

If Adam sinned he would fall out of God’s favor. The LORD God would no longer have a Man to stand before Him to be His spokesman to the powerful spirit beings. Without any restraint the powerful spirit beings would intensify their rivalry. Naked ambition would lead to hate and world-wide wars.

Adam’s job description was: Peace Maker. His duty was to promote brotherly love and fear of God.

Important Clue to the Location of Eden:

Eden should be a place whose revered authority figures **champion peaceful co-existence, selfless living, and submission to authority**. This describes India to the core. Mahatma Ghandi was the modern exemplar of these beliefs so central to Indian identity. Although an educated lawyer Ghandi set aside his own ambition to lead non-violent protests against the oppression of commoners by the British Empire. Ghandi spoke truth to power in a respectful but firm way and the people followed him, some even to the death. India attained self-government by permission not by violent overthrow.

ADORATION OF EVE

Eve was in a pivotal position between the Garden and the outside world.

Geography and relationships dictated the knowledge of God diminished from Adam to the world:

	<u>HEARD OF:</u>	<u>KNEW:</u>	<u>SPOKE TO:</u>	<u>NO CONTACT:</u>
ADAM	THE FATHER	LORD	TREES, EVE	EDEN PEOPLE
EVE	LORD	ADAM	TREES, EDEN PEOPLE	DUST PEOPLE
EDEN PEOPLE	ADAM	EVE	DUST PEOPLE	TREES, LORD
DUST PEOPLE	<u>EVE</u>	<u>EDEN PEOPLE</u>	<>	<u>ADAM, EVE</u>

In a Garden where Adam could reach out for fresh fruit to eat, Eve had no homemaker role. Since Eve did not walk with the LORD and since Adam tended the Trees, we assume it fell to Eve to listen to Adam and pass his knowledge on to outsiders. The Eden People had a big role in the grand scheme of suppressing evil. Eve was spokesperson to them.

Jesus [type Adam] had a circle of Apostles [type Trees] he cultivated. The Holy Spirit [type Eve] refreshed the Words of Jesus [type Adam] in the minds and hearts of lowly Disciples [Eden People].

If Eve had not fallen into temptation and if Adam had not sinned, it is possible the Eden People would have mingled among the Dust People and been noble persons to emulate. But the Eden People lost faith. When they left Eden their heart’s desire was to gratify lusts and fulfill ambition: bad examples.

The remnant of Eden retained a collective memory of Eve. Over time she attained a mythical ‘Mother Goddess’ status. Figurines in her likeness were later carved and displayed in places of honor.

Honor of Eve was hollow unless her virtue could be seen in the wider context of her relatives. Stories of Adam’s family circulated. Figurines were carved of them too. They all became ‘gods’ in a pantheon. In a twisted way, the promise of Satan “**you shall be like God**” was fulfilled.

Jesus said to his Apostles: “**whatsoever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven**” (Matt. 16 v 19). The Eden People left their holy estate and Hell was loosed on Earth. The Earth became filled with violence. Only a Flood could stop the madness.

Important Clue of Eden’s Location:

Without the presence of a Garden of Eden to restrain evil, the Pit of Evil was released and the remnant of Eden became the world’s foremost idolaters. Go to any Hindu temple today and you will see many idols and offerings to them. A cycle of festivals and holy days perpetuate their honor.

CURSE OF THE SNAKE

Gen. 3 v 14 “So the LORD God said to the serpent: ‘Because you have done this You are cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life.’”

Behold! In India, and only in India, cows are esteemed to be more worthy than human life. Before the 1800’s cow slaughter was punishable by death in parts of India. Right up to the present time mobs of vigilantes will harass trucks that transport cows. Slaughter of all cattle is banned in many Indian provinces today, mostly in the Western half of the country.



Behold! In India the Sadhu holy men cover their entire bodies including their faces with dust.



According to some estimates there are 4 to 5 million Sadhus in India. Some practice asceticism and solitary meditation. Some engage in group praying, chanting, or meditating. They beg for food: ‘live on their belly’. They won’t ask the same person twice for alms or visit the same temple twice looking for handouts, so they wander the dirt roads: ‘eating dust’; continuously: ‘all the days of their life’.

REINCARNATION

Gen. 3 “And the woman said to the serpent... ‘but of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the Garden God has said ‘You shall not eat it.. lest you die’. Then the serpent said to the woman ‘You will surely not die’.”

A billion people in India believe when a human life is over the spirit of the person reappears in another newborn. In addition, Karma teaches both good and bad deeds in one life produce consequences in following lives. Even thoughts create karmic ‘seeds’ that pass on to following lives.

East Indians, being peace lovers and non-violent, recoil at the prospect one’s own action might cause suffering and pain to another living person. Therefore, Indian religion focuses on suppressing desires and pursuing selfless life through asceticism, meditation, good works, and religious activities.

SACRED TREES

India is the birthplace of Buddhism. The founder, Gautama Buddha, grew up in a village near the border with Nepal. He set out on a quest to escape the suffering of the endless cycle of rebirth and death. He studied meditation. He observed strict fasting. Then he sat under a sacred tree in the town of Bodh and attained ‘awakening’. He attracted devotees and founded a monastic order where he taught his precepts for reaching ‘nirvana’.



Sacred trees were present in the Garden of Eden and Adam tended them. But after Adam sinned there was no Garden in Eden. Similarly, Buddhism was born in India but did not persist there. Buddhism migrated to the Far East. Buddhism by percent of population: India only 0.8% versus Cambodia 97% Thailand 93% Burma 80% Sri Lanka 70% Laos 66% Mongolia 55% Japan 36% China 18%.

Buddhism falls under the category of Satan’s ‘You shall be like God’ lie. Buddhist temples are filled with statues of Buddha. Devotees pray to his image and chant his words endlessly. Buddhist devotion is fixed upon sacred objects. They chant and prostrate themselves before statues of Buddha, Bodhi trees, paintings of their saints, etc. Like the Sadhus, Buddhist monks beg for food.

Dear reader: doesn’t the link between East Indian culture and Bible events persuade you India might be Eden? We will show you more evidence that practices in India are rooted in events in the Garden.

VEGETARIANISM

Gen. 3 v 18 “And you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you will eat bread.”

Gen. 3 v 23 “therefore the LORD God sent him out of the Garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken.”

This edict was given to Adam. After being cast out of the Garden, Adam did not migrate. He immediately began to work the soil in his native land: ‘the ground from which he was taken’. The Eden People, who were lusty for fleshly delights, emigrated away. Thus, the culture of Eden was greatly influenced by the practices and mores of Adam. This explains why so many of the events in the Garden directly translate into Indian culture. By culture is meant the way of life of everyday people.

It was only when God made a new covenant with Noah after the Flood that eating meat was permitted. This new dispensation was given on Mount Ararat: far away from India.

Buddha taught his followers to avoid meat. Some branches, Tibet and Japan, do eat meat. Chinese Buddhists do not. If Buddhist monks ‘see, hear, or know’ a living animal was killed specifically for them to eat they must refuse or incur an offense. They may eat meat given as alms or commercially purchased (as a concession so they do not starve).

Hindus have no strict rule but due to the principle of non-violence many avoid it. Some Hindus will eat meat if the animal was slaughtered by instant beheading. Hindus believe the cow is a holy animal and processing a holy animal for meat is strictly forbidden.

The vast majority of practicing vegetarians in the world live in India (or follow Indian faiths). There are 272 million vegetarians in India. Other countries: China 50 million; Brazil 29 million; Mexico 23 million.

FAMILY OF ADAM

If the conclusions of this paper are correct then the direct descendants of Adam also lived their life in India until the Ark. The exception is Cain who was “driven out from the face of the ground” (Gen. 4 v 14) and migrated away from India. Cain lived in the land of Nod, meaning literally ‘wandering’, east of Eden. What is east of India? The Far East. We have a paper which outlines the numerous connections between the descendants of the Biblical Cain and China. Click here: [China In Prophecy](#).

HARD GROUND

Abel was a keeper of sheep. This does not mean Abel ate meat. Sheep are useful for wool and for milk. But Cain was a tiller of the ground. He ate vegetables only. Abel sacrificed a sheep, not to eat, but to offer to the LORD. Cain was ready to kill Abel for harming an animal. Blinded by the serpent’s deception, India’s intolerance for the servants of the LORD is visceral. It has remained so to this day.

SACRED RIVERS



Ritual bathing in Ganga

Gen. 2 v 10 “**Now a river went out of Eden to water the Garden...**”

According to Hindu tradition the Ganga (River Ganges) is imbued with sacred powers. Hindus cup its water in their hands, lifting it, and letting it fall back. Hindus bathe in it. Hindus cast flowers and petals upon it. Hindus extract small amounts of water to take home for use in rituals. These practices are not merely symbolic. They are believed to have magical power to cleanse sins.

Late in Spring every year on an auspicious day in the religious calendar Hindus throng to the Ganges to bathe. It is believed baptism on this day rids the bather of ten lifetimes of sins. Every Hindu has the ambition to bathe in the Ganges at least once in their lifetime.

Eze. 31 v 4 “**The waters made it grow; underground waters... therefore its height was exalted.**”

Amazingly, Hindu tradition states the Ganges flows not only on earth but in heaven above and in the earth below. Hindus believe the Ganges is a ‘tirtha’ or crossing point between the realms of the living, the dead, and the immortal. Its waters are deemed potent in matters of life, death, and eternity.

Hindus have a fervent desire to be immersed in Ganges water at their death. In Hindu Vedic rituals Ganges water is doused on deceased persons and their ashes. At one place on the banks of the Ganges, at Varanasi, it is believed those who die and are cremated there attain instant salvation.

Gen. 2 v 22 “**Then with the rib he had taken from the man He made a woman...**”

Hindus believe the goddess Ganga [Eve] was taken out of the god Vishnu [Adam] to be his consort. Her power derives from her vice-regent status in their pantheon: ‘is she not the supreme Shakti of the Eternal Shiva, taken in the form of water?’ Hindus refer to Ganga as ‘Mata’ (mother): accepting all, forgiving all. A familiar mother goddess motif derived from EVE according to the serpent’s lie.

The adoration of Eve in Hinduism derives not from appreciation of maternal instincts of mothers, per se, but of the special relationship and bond between Eve and Eden People back in the beginning. Mother Goddess’ place in the cosmos is a belief of many world sects (each has its own name for her).

HEBREW MIGRATION BACK TO THE GARDEN

Gen. 7 v 23 “So He destroyed all living things which were on the face of the ground: men and cattle, creeping things, and birds of the air. They were destroyed from the earth. Only Noah and those that were with him in the Ark remained.”

The descendants of Noah’s three sons: Ham, Shem, and Japheth repopulated the earth. The sons of Shem repopulated lands in Lydia (son Lud), Syria (son Aram), Assyria (son Asshur), Babylonia (son Arphaxad), and Persia (son Elam).

Arphaxad begot Salah and Salah begot Eber, from whom all the Hebrews descend. Eber had two sons: Peleg and Joctan. In the days of Peleg the Bible says “the earth was divided”. We interpret this to mean there was strife between Eber’s sons. Aggressive Peleg drove meek Joctan away.

How do we know Peleg wronged Joctan? God did not bless Peleg’s inheritance within the bounds of Arphaxad’s lands (region of Babylon). These were invaded by Nimrod, a son of Kush, who established cities there: specifically Babel, Erech, Akkad, and Calneh (Gen. 10 v 10).

Peleg became a restless wanderer like Cain¹. These events (and other evidence we will supply) imply he bore guilt in relation to his brother Joctan. We can look at the meanings of the names of the sons of Joctan and describe a people in duress who suffer persecution: (see Hebrews 11 v 36-38)

JOCTAN	“He shall be small”	[the noun form of the word means ‘little finger’]
ALMONDAD	“God: What Comfort?”	[‘God’ [El] ‘What’ [Mo] ‘nipple’ [DaD]]
SHELEPH	“Drawn Out”	[loathed, shunned, barefoot] (as a foot out of a shoe)]
HAZARMAVEH	“Village of Death”	[place of intense persecution]
JERAH	“In the Wilderness”	[a ‘Yer’ is a forest or thicket: home of wild animals]
HADORAM	“Respected People”	[verb ‘Hadar’: show respect]
UZAL	“Vanish”	[verb ‘Azal’ means to go away]
DIKLAH	“Wave (in air like tree)”	[root ‘DKL’ means ‘rock to and fro, to wave’]
OBAL	“Bulky” or “Stout”	[Arabic word; Hebrew is unclear]
ABIMAEL	“God is My Father”	[‘Father’ [Ab] ‘Our’ [IM] ‘God’ [El]]

¹ Ultimately, the descendants of Peleg inherited Canaan. Ham’s grandson Nimrod took land from Shem’s son Arphaxad. As recompense, the LORD took lands from Canaan, son of Ham, and granted them to Peleg, son of Eber, son of Arphaxad.

From the names we see a transition in the exodus of the Joctanites from close to death to a new life:

- Belittled by Elder Brother “He shall be small”
- Suffering Persecution “What comfort is my faith in God?”
- Estranged, Despised “Drawn out (from Community): expelled”
- Physically attacked “Village of Death”
- Escaped by fleeing “In Wilderness”
- Finding some dignity again “Respected People”
- Keeping a safe distance “Vanish”
- New identity is planted “Waving (like a tree)” Tree = Identity (language, beliefs, customs)
- Regaining strength “Bulky, Stout”
- Faith Renewed “God is My Father”

After these many sons we see names in the list of Joctan’s descendants we recognize as territories:

SHEBA	“Seven”	Region along the east coast of Red Sea: a.k.a. SABA Sheba is spelled with a Shin, Saba with a Samekh. Nevertheless we believe Sheba was settled by Joctanites. The reason is the affinity of descendants of Sheba, i.e. famous Queen of Sheba, with Israel and the affinity of the descendants of Israel with Sheba, i.e. David’s thrall over Bathsheba [‘Daughter’ of ‘Sheba’]
OPHAR	“Rich Coast”	Evidence and tradition place Ophar on the coast of India. From very old times a source of gold, spices, precious stones, and algum wood. Imported by sea directly to the port of Ezion-Geber.
HAVILAH	“Sand Storm”	Gen. 25 v 18 describes Havilah as the furthest point away from the border of Egypt, ‘in the direction of Assyria’. It could mean the north-east desert region of Saudi Arabia or the vicinity of Bahrain, which goes by the name ‘Aval’ today.
JOBAB	“Cry Out Shrilly”	No place is identified for this name. It is used by a King of Edom and a King of Canaan. It suggests a military man who commands troops. It could also imply one who hawks goods in a market.

The picture is clear that Joctanites, of direct Hebrew descent, were driven out from the territory of Arphaxad and migrated to places on the coasts of the Arabian Peninsula and across the Arabian Gulf (a.k.a. the Persian Gulf) to the western coast of India. Joctan means “He will be small”, indicating a short stature, like many Indians today. But God blessed him. Who can count his descendants? The population of Indians descended from Hebrews may be innumerable.

INSIGHT INTO EASTERN HEBREWS

The Bible explains itself. Even unfolding deep mysteries lost in the mists of time.

There are five verses in Genesis that mention Joctan and name his descendants:

Gen. 10 v 25 260th Bible Verse <maps to> 260th Bible Chapter 1 Sam 24

Gen. 10 v 26 261st Bible Verse <maps to> 261st Bible Chapter 1 Sam 25

Gen. 10 v 27 262nd Bible Verse <maps to> 262nd Bible Chapter 1 Sam 26

Gen. 10 v 28 263rd Bible Verse <maps to> 263rd Bible Chapter 1 Sam 27

Gen. 10 v 29 264th Bible Verse <maps to> 264th Bible Chapter 1 Sam 28

In 1 Sam 24 King Saul has pursued David and his men who are hiding in the wilderness. This lines up with Gen. 10 v 25 which says **“To Eber were born two sons... one was Peleg... his brother’s name was Joctan”**. King Saul was famously tall. He stood head and shoulders above the rest. So David must be Joctan: **“He will be small”** (relative to Peleg). This fits, because King Saul aims to kill David, who has fled. We infer that Peleg was one who hated his brother, bullied him, and chased him out of the historic tribal land. In 1 Sam 24 David tries to make peace with King Saul **“Why do you believe men who say ‘David seeks your harm?’”** (v 9). The Joctanites were peace-loving and loyal to authority. They would find a native land in India, where this was a way of life stretching as far back as the Garden.

In 1 Sam 25 David is still living a nomadic life, surviving in the wilderness. He meets a lout in the person of Nabal who insults David’s integrity **“many servants are breaking away from their master”** and refuses David’s servants who humbly ask for a bit of food **“whatever comes to your hand”** on the day of a feast. David is furious and takes armed men with him to harm Nabal. Abigail intervenes. She loads up donkeys with food and pleads with David, for the sake of his kingdom, not to harm Nabal.

Nabal dies of natural causes and David marries Abigail. If David is the Bible type of Joctan, then Abigail is the Bible type of the lands Joctan settled in: Sheba, Havilah, Ophar. Therefore we can look at Abigail and gain insight into Hebrews descended from Joctan. What admirable character they have!

- Humility **“she fell on her face before David and bowed down to the ground”** (v 23)
- Faith in Jehovah **“as the LORD lives...”** (v 26)
- Concern for others **“that this be no grief for you... that you shed blood without cause”** (v 31)
- Wise counsel **“blessed be your advice”** (v 33)
- Servant heart **“Here is your maid... a servant to wash the feet of the... servants”** (v 41)

1 Sam 27: Saul succeeds in driving David away. David relocates to a foreign land. Just like Joctan.

ABRAM

We now turn to the most famous Hebrew of them all: Abram!

We will provide evidence that Abram's native land was Ophar. Let the reader decide.

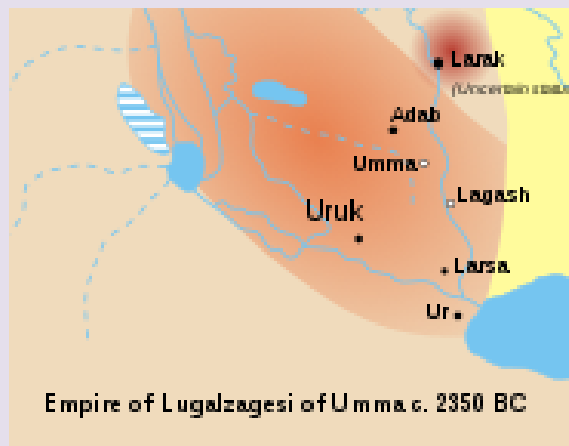
First and foremost we have the testimony of Joshua who in his farewell address to Israel said this:

Josh. 23 v 2 **“Your fathers, [including] Terah the father of Abraham and the father of Nahor, dwelt on the other side of the River in old times, and they served other gods.”**

Notice that Joshua does not mention Haran, the other son of Terah. The Bible says:

Gen. 11 v 28 **“Haran died before his father Terah in his native land, Ur of the Chaldeans.”**

Was Ur the 'native land' of Terah? Before Terah took his clan on his journey to Syria, his last known location was Ur of the Chaldeans. But the Bible doesn't say Ur was the 'native land' of Terah. He may have been passing through there on his latest journey. Peleg Hebrews were a people who wandered.



Ur has been occupied since earliest times. It was the capital of Sumer. The Ur in Genesis must be the same city. From the map above it is clear Ur was located on the near side of the Euphrates River.

But Joshua informed his audience that Terah and Abram and Nahor came from the other side of the River in old times. This ought not to surprise us. After the descendants of Peleg were dispossessed by the invasion of Nimrod they were landless persons. Some of them migrated east.

What was on the 'other side of the River'? Historically those hills were occupied by vulgar tribesmen that swept down on civilized Sumer and raided their herds. This doesn't fit the description of Terah's clan, who were rich, sophisticated, and fastidious about respecting other people's property.

What place was rich, sophisticated and east of the River in 2300 BC? The Indus Valley Civilisation (IVC) was at its peak from 2600 BC to 1900 BC. It encompassed the Indus Valley watershed.

INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION (Mature Phase: 2600 – 1900 BC)



Notice how close IVC is to the coasts of the Arabian Peninsula. We have already posited that Joctan Hebrews settled along the Indian coast, known in ancient times as Ophar.

If the clan of Terah was in Ophar as we believe Joshua tells us, they would have found Hebrew communities already there. Ophar was a rich trading center. This may explain Abram's riches.

During the Mature Phase of IVC archeologists note that no monumental structures were built. There is no evidence of palaces or temples. Only one enormous public bath has been found. The many cities have walls but it is unclear if they were defensive or merely kept wildlife out. Most city dwellers were traders or artisans. The writing symbols have never been deciphered. Society was egalitarian. All houses had access to wells and sewage drains. No evidence of large villas for elites has been found.

Ophar mined and smelted gold. A touchstone bearing gold streaks was found in Banawali (just east of Harappa in map above). Gold jewelry has been found at many sites.

Trade with Mesopotamia was conducted by sea through the Arabian Gulf. Indus-type artifacts, e.g. beads, terracotta figurines, etc. have been found in Oman, Bahrain, and in Southern Mesopotamia. The IVC had an accurate set of weights and measures: essential for a bustling foreign trade.

A trading society who spoke the tongue of Shem would have been a desirable place for Terah's clan to dwell for a while. It became a home base from which Terah continued on his journeys.

VEDIC INDIAN RELIGION

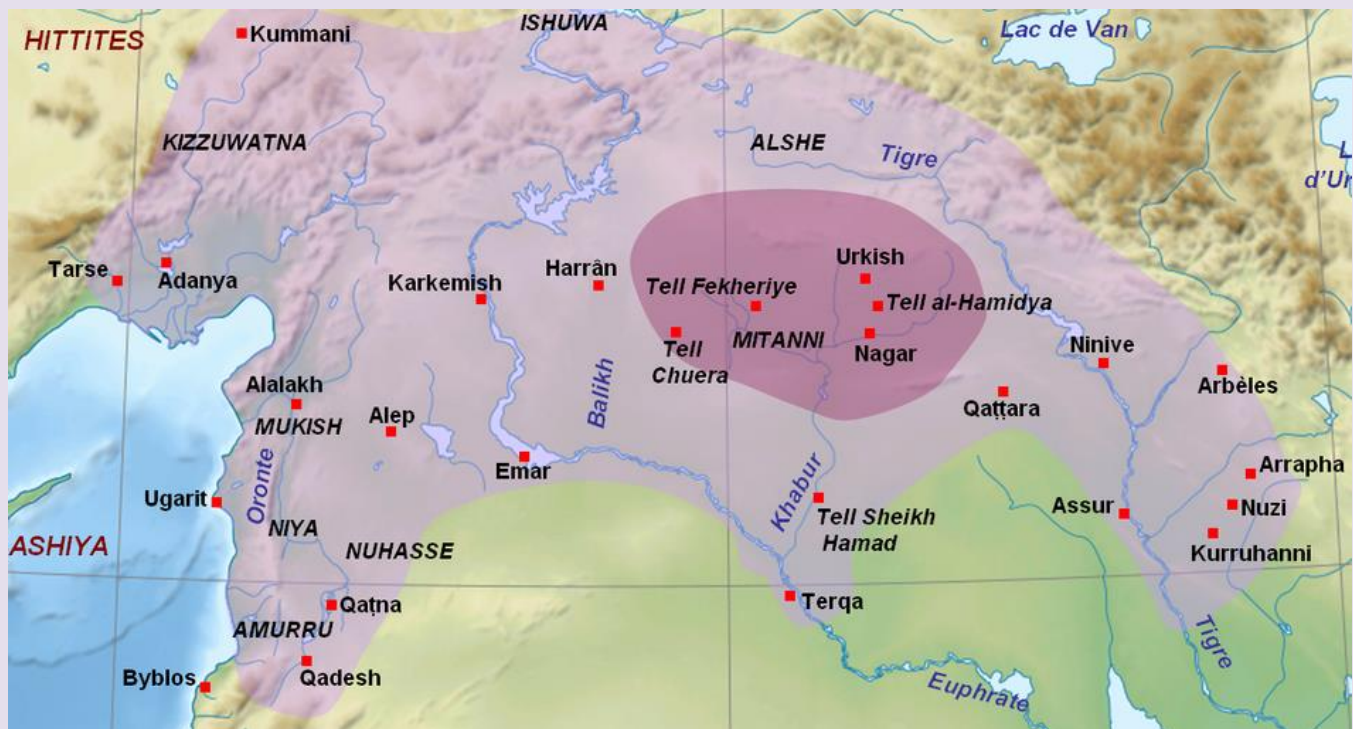
The egalitarian culture of IVC, full of hardworking farmers, artisans, and traders, is 100% opposite to the Hindu religion and way of life. Ophar's founders were Hebrews. Not so in Greater Eden.

The Hindu religion has a rigid caste system. Society is divided into classes based on roles: Brahmins (Priests), Kshatriyas (Warriors), Vaishayas (Traders, Merchants, Farmers), and Shudras (Laborers). Higher classes enjoy privileges. Lower classes work with few tangible rewards. In their cosmos Karma justifies this. The Hindu religion has a pantheon of gods which reside in temples. The Hindu religion has as its holy river the Ganga which is located outside the boundary of IVC further to the east.

Hinduism has four core religious texts, called 'Vedas'. The oldest Veda, Rigveda, was popularized in Punjab, the area of the former city of Harrapa. Vedas were orally transmitted and came into vogue in the second millennium BC, *after* the peak of IVC. However, Hinduism itself is much older.

INDIAN GODS IN MESOPOTAMIA

Mitanni was a powerful kingdom from 1500 to 1300 BC. The royalty of Mitani bore names of Indian origin, and invoked deities attested in the Rigveda. Look at where Haran is on this map.



Haran was Terah's dwelling after leaving Ur. Could it be the "other gods" from the "other side of the River" were Hindu deities? Did Terah introduce Hindu gods to local royals? Ophar was not the home of Hindu gods. To learn of them Terah must have met Hindu sages elsewhere in his travels.

LOT

Lot was the son of Haran. The 'native land' of Haran was Ur of the Chaldeans. Lot was descended from the Peleg line of Hebrews through his father. However, the character of Lot was not typical of Peleg Hebrews. His character was reflective of Joctan Hebrews. Lot may have been born in Ur but after his father's death we suppose he lived with Terah's clan in Ophar and was influenced by Joctan Hebrews.

When Lot beheld the plains of the Jordan, did they remind him of the fertile plains along the Euphrates River near Ur? No. They reminded him of Ophar:

Gen. 13 v 10 **“Lot saw the plain of the Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere... like the Garden of the LORD”** (*Garden of Eden and Garden of the LORD are synonymous*)

Lot displayed all the admirable qualities of Joctan Hebrews:

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Non-violent | Lot was not a warrior [Peleg Hebrew type] like his uncle Abram. He was captured as spoil when the four kings made war with Sodom and Gomorrah |
| Humble | When the two angels arrived Lot “bowed himself with his face to the ground” (Gen. 19 v 1). There were always two angels that “guarded the way to the Tree of Life” in the Garden of Eden. Lot recognized them. Lot was familiar with this particular pair of holy men who served Jehovah. |
| Intercessor | Like Abigail, Lot was concerned for the welfare of others ahead of himself: “Lot went out to them through the doorway, shut the door behind him, and said ‘Please, my brethren, do not do so wickedly!’” (Gen. 19 v 6-7) |
| Faith in Jehovah | The LORD was gracious to Lot and took pains to rescue him from the imminent judgment of Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 19 v 16). The New Testament calls Lot a “righteous man... oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked” (2 Pet. 2 v 7) |

Terah, Abram and Nahor followed **“other gods”** from the **“other side of the River”**. Joshua says so. Therefore, for a time, none of those men knew Jehovah. Somehow Abram and Lot were converted to faith in Jehovah: probably during their stay among the Joctan Hebrews in Ophar. The two angels that accompanied the LORD may have been holy men who had tutored Abram and Lot in Ophar. Perhaps they had even converted them to the faith. Both Abraham and Lot immediately recognized them and showed them every respect and hospitality.

The LORD served multiple purposes by bringing the two messengers to Canaan. First, he intended to share his plans for Sarah to have a son and for Sodom and Gomorrah to be destroyed (Gen. 18 v 17). Second, he intended to rescue Lot from the destruction. Third, by bringing his trusted ministers to Canaan the LORD was signalling the holy work would henceforth be centered there, not in Ophar.

SARAH

Where was Sarah's original home? Her genealogy is not written anywhere. Galatians simply describes her as "**the free woman**" (Gal. 4 v 22).

We have clues in Scripture. She has all the marks of the Joctan line of Hebrews.

Beautiful	Joctan Hebrew women possess unusual beauty: e.g. Bathsheba (1 Sam. 11 v 2)
Obedient	Sarah obeyed her husband and called Abraham 'lord' (1 Peter 3 v 6)
Faith in Jehovah	Sarah judged Him faithful who had promised (Heb. 11 v 11)
Servant Heart	She was a matron with her own maids but she kneaded bread (Gen. 18 v 6)
Humble	"Where is Sarah your wife?" "Here in the tent" (Gen. 18 v 9)
Suffering Servant	Sarah was barren all her life until the miraculous birth of Isaac. Unlike other barren women, e.g. Rachel - who was loudly vocal and accusing about her lack of a child, Sarah kept her peace.

Why does the Bible call Sarah the 'free woman'? Her spirituality was rooted in a personal relationship with God. She did not require a temple, or priests, or sacraments, or holy rivers, or idols, or candles to sustain her faith. Sarah was completely free from religion. This is in contrast to Hagar, whose religion was Egyptian idolatry (See Galatians 4).

The IVC in its Mature Phase provided no space in its cities for pagan temples because pagan practices weren't followed there. The behavior of Sarah aligns perfectly with the Joctan Hebrew way of life.

Certainly Sarah's comportment and faith was foreign to Ur of the Chaldeans. No taint of the Babylonian pantheon or religious practices is found in Sarah.

We conclude Sarah was a Joctan Hebrew from Ophar.

ABRAHAM

Abraham affirmed publically twice in his life that Sarah was his sister. We know Abraham was the son of Terah and therefore his lineage was Peleg Hebrew. We are fairly certain Sarah was Joctan Hebrew. One explanation is the term 'sister' refers to spiritual kinship only. The other explanation is Abraham's mother was a Joctan Hebrew. It would not be out of the question for Terah to have a Joctan Hebrew wife, especially if he lived a long time in Ophar as we have proposed. Abraham displayed both Peleg ways, being a heroic warrior, and Joctan ways, walking humbly with his God. Abraham could have been part Joctan Hebrew by blood. Father of nations!

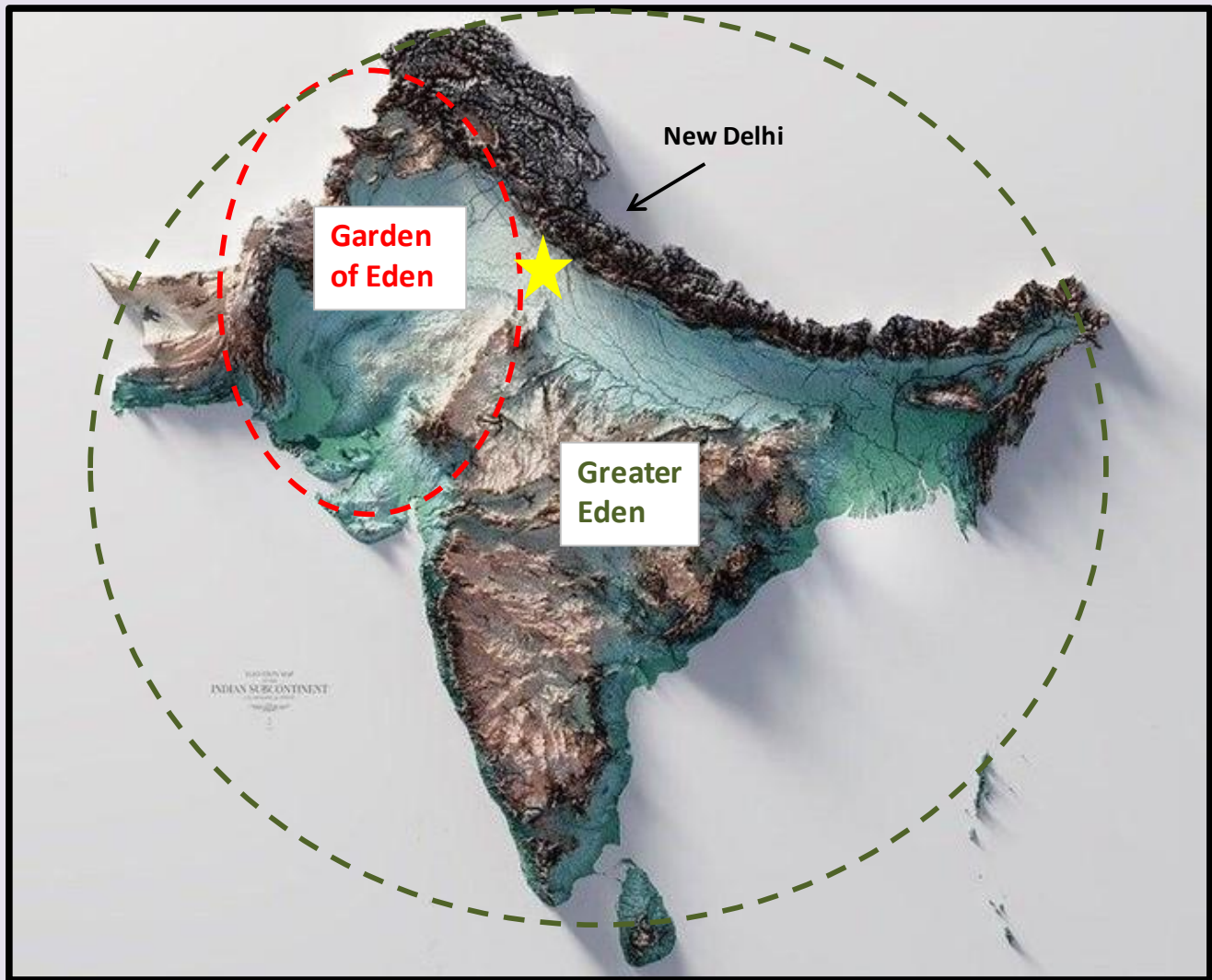
HINDU RELIGION

Archeology and the Bible point to the community of Ophar being without a trace of the Hindu religion. If so, when did the Hindu religion start? Where was its place of birth?

Even though the Eden People all perished in the flood, their years of ascetic devotion created a spiritual atmosphere over Eden that hangs over the place. (Some would call it a 'Territorial Spirit'.)

Given the Joctan Hebrews were able to so completely assert their culture and spirituality over the IVC Territory, we conclude the Eden People were never there.

In other words, we believe the entire original Indus watershed was the Garden of Eden, and the Greater Eden, land outside the Garden of Eden, was the rest of the subcontinent. Our map would be:



The circles are exaggerated. Areas not on the topographic map aren't in Eden or in the Garden.

ORIGIN OF HINDUISM

Post-Fall, Adam and Eve departed the Garden of Eden. They exited at the east edge:

Gen. 3 v 23 "... therefore God sent him out of the Garden of Eden to till the ground ..."

Gen. 3 v 24 "So He drove out the man and He placed cherubim at the East of the Garden of Eden, and a flaming sword to guard the way to the Tree of Life"

Adam and Eve made their fresh start somewhere near New Delhi (see map previous page).

The LORD then focussed his attention on Cain and Abel. We have records of the LORD communicating with each of them. In the matter of a sacrifice the LORD respected Abel's offering.

In a rage, Cain slew Abel. As a result, Cain received a mark on his forehead and was banished:

Gen. 4 v 14 [Cain:] "Surely you have driven me out this day from the face of the ground; I shall be hidden from your face; I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond on the earth, and it will happen if anyone finds me he will kill me."

Gen. 4 v 15 "And the LORD said to him 'Therefore whoever kills Cain, vengeance will be taken on him sevenfold.' And the LORD set a mark on Cain, lest anyone finding him should kill him"

(A couple of side-bars follow then we will pick up the topic of the origin of Hinduism...)

THE MARK OF CAIN?



It is the Hindu custom to mark the forehead with a 'tika' or a 'tilak'. The official color is red, which is the color of blood. In the West we speak of 'blood on the hands' as a mark of guilt for murder. But blood on the forehead would be seen by all, and immediately recognized for what it is. In time residents of Eden, proto-Hindus, would adopt the tika as tribal marker: to set themselves apart from all others. Over millennia it would be forgotten that the mark ever meant shame. Today some Hindus add stripes and other marks to denote particular sects. But the red dot is always present.

THE CURTAIN BETWEEN THE CLANS

For good reason Cain's clan and Adam's clan stayed far apart.

First, Cain was fearful someone from Adam's clan would take vengeance on him.

Second, the LORD said '**Whoever kills Cain, vengeance will be taken on him sevenfold**'.

Adam respected God's words. He kept his family away from Cain's clan. If Cain or someone in his clan was harmed by Adam or someone in his clan, the LORD would exact vengeance sevenfold.

This division became a 'curtain between the clans'. The remnant of faith was in Adam's line and it flourished without contamination from Cain's unbelief. The downside was Cain's clan was cut off from hearing the words of the LORD. Henceforth, there was no way for any of them to become believers.

As the clans grew they expanded their horizons. Adam's clan expanded West along the Indus watershed, and Cain's clan expanded East along the Ganges watershed. The impenetrable wall of the Himalaya mountains to the North and the curtain between the clans ensured it must be so.

We wrote a paper in which we offer evidence that Cain continued his trek all the way to China: [click here](#). The curious may wish to follow up on Cain. Suffice it to say although his journey was arduous Cain didn't tarry in Eden for long. Fear of death will do that.

THE EDEN PEOPLE RETHINK

Eden People lived outside the Garden but inside Eden for a long time. The Ganga river valley was already populated with them. In contrast, the Garden where Adam lived had no Eden People.

As Cain passed down the Ganga heading east he must have made quite an impression on the Eden People he met along the way. The Eden People had only ever had contact with Eve. They were naturally curious to meet Cain and ask him his opinions on the meaning of life and the cosmos.

What we know of Hinduism today has had dozens of centuries to be formulated and reformulated by sages. Although its roots are ancient, it rose to prominence only around 1500 BC. So it is difficult to know what parts of Hinduism were in the original kernel and which parts were later embellishments.

However, we propose the kernel of Hinduism, whatever it may have been, was a rough transcript of what Cain told the Eden People in their encounters as he trekked down the Ganga.

We can only speculate how the Eden People put the fragments of Cain's stories together and knitted together a doctrine of how the universe unfolds. They arrived at the conclusion there were many gods (Adam's extended family), that the gods had conflict among themselves (Cain and Abel), that karma ruled in the affairs of men (Cain's exile), etc.

THE FLOOD

Pre-Flood, some Eden People stayed in the Ganga watershed, and sponsored proto-Hinduism.

Most Eden People migrated west. They cast off spiritual pursuits and were determined to satisfy their desires by going wherever and doing whatever they pleased.

As these carnal Eden People migrated west they passed through the area that was formerly the Garden of Eden. After Adam ate the forbidden fruit the land was no garden anymore. It was a miserable wilderness in which Adam survived by the sweat of his brow. They didn't tarry there.

A rare opportunity was presented to the Eden People as they passed through the former Garden. They could have learned the correct history of Adam and Eve. However, at this time the Eden People were not interested in spiritual topics. They heard of Adam but never knew him. The memory of Eve, like Eden itself, was in the past. They were on their way to start a new life.

We expect none of Adam's clan joined with the Eden People. The Eden People were a different social circle. Adam's clan stayed together in the area of the former Garden. Because of Adam's enduring presence there would be a lasting impression of Garden events imprinted in the Indian conscience.

When the Eden People arrived in the domain of the Dust People [Africa and the Middle East] each of the "sons of god" [Eden People] took whomsoever of the "daughters of men" that pleased their eye and "married them". Their offspring became "mighty men", i.e. warrior rulers. (Gen. 6 v 1-4)

We know the rest of the story. The LORD was sorry he had made "man on the earth" [Dust People]. So he determined to destroy all life with a flood. But Noah found favor in his eyes. And a remnant was saved by boarding an Ark and waiting out the storm.

LAST JUDGEMENT

1 Pet. 2 v 4 "God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them to chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment".

The Eden People were angels, 'messengers', each a unique direct creation of God: without father or mother. They were created to staunch evil influence by living holy lives in Eden. Eve was the weak link. She was tempted and fell away. Without a spiritual leader of their faith the Eden People left their estate [Eden], migrated west, and gave themselves to desires. Without a functioning Garden of Eden and without anyone living holy lives evil influence grew unchecked. Mankind spiralled out of control. Violence grew worse and worse. God brought a flood. But a flood was not going to kill an angel. He nabbed each of the offending Eden People, threw them directly into a dungeon in Hell, to be reserved for the Last Judgment.

TERAH'S INDIAN GODS

Post-Flood, Ophar was an egalitarian society made up of the descendants of Hebrews. They worshipped privately. They lived and worked side-by-side in relative harmony and peace. The rest of India was stratified by a rigid caste system and steeped in the Hindu religion. This involved worship in temples, pilgrimages to holy waters, a priesthood, and itinerant devotees who took an oath of poverty.

Terah was the patriarch of a clan. To honor the family name he knew his mission in life was greatness. All the rest of the children of Shem had allotted lands which they occupied. He had no land. He must achieve greatness some other way.

Terah's business was trading. He travelled among diverse cultures. In Ur, he behaved like a Sumerian. In Ophar, he behaved like Joctan's clan. In Eastern India, former Eden, he behaved like... a Hindustani.

Not a few famous Hebrews could easily switch identities. Saul of Tarsus was a fanatic Pharisee but he could change and almost instantly behave like an apostle of Christ. Joseph was a son of sheep herders but he could change and behave like an Egyptian courtier. Aaron was the chief minister of Jehovah alongside Moses, but overnight he could consent to the people's desire to worship a golden calf and lead the congregation in carousing. At a moment's notice Jacob could switch identity, put on his brother's garments, and tell his blind father "I am Esau".

These same individuals possessed the knack of snapping back into the former identity. One minute Paul he is preaching Jesus is the Messiah. Next minute he reverts: on the steps of the Temple he is proclaiming "I am a Jew". One minute Joseph is threatening his brothers with imprisonment. Next minute Joseph reverts: persuading them to move to Egypt so he can better take care of them.

We suspect on one of his trading trips Terah found himself among the proto-Hindus of Eastern India and was able to absorb their customs and beliefs as easily as you or I would drink a glass of water.

What he didn't count on is the spiritual darkness of India is potent. The LORD arranged it so Adam and his clan would never venture there. It seems when Terah visited the Ganga valley the Hindu fever gripped him and never let him go. According to Joshua, not only Terah but Abram and Nahor also worshipped 'other gods' from the 'other side of the River' (the Euphrates and the Indus).

If all this is true, Abram was saved out of proto-Hinduism. We suppose by the influence of Sarah. But after Sarah died Abraham suffered a reversion. He began to do unsaintly things. He shackled up with unbelieving Keturah and fathered children. He sent his chief steward to Syria to find a suitable wife for Isaac from among the descendants of Nahor, his 'family', who served idols as much as any Canaanite.

No wonder the Israelites struggled with faithfulness to Jehovah. The origin of this bent can be traced back to Terah. This is why Joshua mentioned him in his warning to the people not to lose faith.

MIGRATION OF THE DUST PEOPLE

Pre-Flood, the purpose of the Garden of Eden was to suppress evil influence on the world. While Adam was faithful all the players kept to their allotted domain: Adam, Eve, and the Spirit Trees in the Garden; Eden People in Eden outside the Garden; Dust people in the Rest of the World outside Eden.

After Adam sinned all the constraints were lifted. Eden People migrated west. Cain migrated east. Adam did not migrate but his family expanded to fill the large area of the former Garden.

Dust People migrated from the Rest of the World into the Garden and into Eden. When the Dust People arrived in the Garden they settled and gradually learned the lore and customs of Adam's clan.

When Dust People arrived in Eden outside the Garden, the Ganga watershed, they settled and gradually learned the lore and customs of the remnant of the Eden People.

The Dust People even migrated as far away as China, where they learned the lore and customs of Cain.

Perhaps Eden People and Dust People migrated farther afield and populated distant coasts. Even there, they would have all died in the Flood. But like a seal in wax, they would have transformed the spiritual atmosphere of the places they lived. Later migrants would gravitate back to old ways.

RE-EMERGENCE OF PROTO-HINDUISM AFTER THE FLOOD

The Flood destroyed all life on the earth. Why wasn't Hinduism erased and forgotten forever?

There were eight adults on the Ark. The age of Noah was six hundred years when he entered the Ark. The other passengers were also old by today's standards. They had gained a lot of worldly knowledge.

Noah and his sons were descendants of Adam who lived in the area of the former Garden. As the wind blew the Dust People back and forth between the Garden and Eden it was inevitable that Noah, his sons, and their wives would all become familiar with the strange customs of proto-Hindus in Eden.

Noah's clan were living in troubled times. Violence was rising everywhere. Under stress, where did people turn in those days? They turned to God. Or to gods as the case may be. Given the proximity of the Garden to Eden it was likely some of the Ark's passengers were enamoured with proto-Hindu gods.

When they left the Ark the secrets of their hearts were laid bare. Noah sought the LORD and was comforted. Ham publically disrespected his father (Gen. 9 v 22). Noah was the religious leader of the family, so Ham also disrespected the LORD. Ham's adopted polytheism found a firm foothold in his lands. Even the sons of Japheth were polytheists (e.g. Greeks).

Post Tower of Babel, the purist worshippers of the old proto-Hindu gods sojourned back to the lands of the former proto-Hindus. Out of contact with others their culture and beliefs would entrench.

WORLD ORDER

When the LORD God created Adam and the Garden he established a template for spiritual government for all time. Every dispensation since has the same roles and relationships, just the occupants change. Consider what happened pre-Fall and post-Fall. Blue wave is the high tide mark of evil influence:

	Pre-Fall Garden	Post-Fall, Pre-Flood	Notes
KING OF UNIVERSE	LORD (JESUS)	LORD (JESUS)	1
PROPHET OF GOD	LORD (JESUS)	NOAH	2
KING OF ALL EARTH	ADAM	SATAN	3
KINGS	None	EDEN PEOPLE	4
PRINCES (NATIONS)	TREES	TREES	5
NOBLES	EDEN PEOPLE	MIGHTY MEN	6
FREE CITIZENS	DUST PEOPLE	ADAM	7
SLAVES, SERFS	None	DUST PEOPLE	8

- Note 1: The King of the Universe sits on the Throne in Heaven (only vacant in the Incarnation).
- Note 2: Prior to Noah, Enoch walked with God for 300 years (Gen. 5 v 22). There may be others.
- Note 3: Man was given dominion of every living creature on earth (Gen. 1 v 28). When Adam ate the Forbidden Fruit he forfeited his position as King of All Earth to his new sponsor: Satan.
- Note 4: While in the Garden, Principalities and Powers set aside their authority over lands. They dwelt side-by-side and kept their peace. Post-Fall the Eden People ‘married’ real women. But the marriage transaction included lands and authority over all the people in them.
- Note 5: Unconstrained Principalities take jurisdiction over territories.
- Note 6: Pre-Fall the ‘noble’ thing to do was to live in the wilderness of Eden, eschew all comforts and privileges, in a continuing state of self-denial, and serve the LORD in gladness.
- Note 7: Pre-Fall Dust People lived as free citizens in their communities much like Post-Fall Ophar. Until Adam fell the concept of a local King ruling over a geographic people was unheard of. Pre-Fall, the Princes (who establish the authority of states) were kept in the Garden.
- Note 7: Post-Fall, Adam’s clan lived in a free enclave. Elsewhere Kings ruled the people.

POST SCRIPT

The topic is vital to our faith. It is also shrouded in the mists of time. We have set forth a theory of how things might have been using the clues we found in Scripture.

We have tried to follow Biblical truth to logical conclusions. In the end, we can't be dogmatic on these questions or the points we have made. There is too much grey area in this topic.

In the matter of the basic question of the location of Eden was we stick to our conclusion it was India. (It might have been even larger area, ie extending further East than the modern state of India, but the key point is it included the Ganga river valley.)

In the matter of the Hebrew migration to Ophar we think the evidence is very strong.

In the matter of the origin of Sarai, we think the evidence is strong.

In the matter of Terah, Abram, and Nahor's 'other gods' being proto-Hindu, we think the evidence is good but not conclusive.

In the matter of the identity, activity, and movement of the Eden People and the Dust People, our conclusions are reasonable but the evidence is modest. Further scholarship and inspiration is needed. These conclusions could easily see refinements.

There is never final proof. We walk by faith.

Blessings to you in Jesus.

servant mark