

## ☞ Genesis 2:16-25 ☜

And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; {17} but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." {18} And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." {19} Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name.



## ☞ Genesis 2:16-25 ☜

{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. {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. {22} Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.



- ❖ God gave the man both a provision and a prohibition.

### ✧ Genesis 2:16--17 ✧

And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden **you may freely eat**; {17} but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil **you shall not eat**, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

- ❖ While there is a prohibition to eat of the tree of knowledge, there is no obligation to eat of any of the other trees.
- ❖ Eating of the tree of knowledge was a sufficient condition for death, but eating of any of the other trees did not seem to be a necessary condition for life.

- ❖ Next, God brought all the animals before Adam for Adam to name. (v. 19)

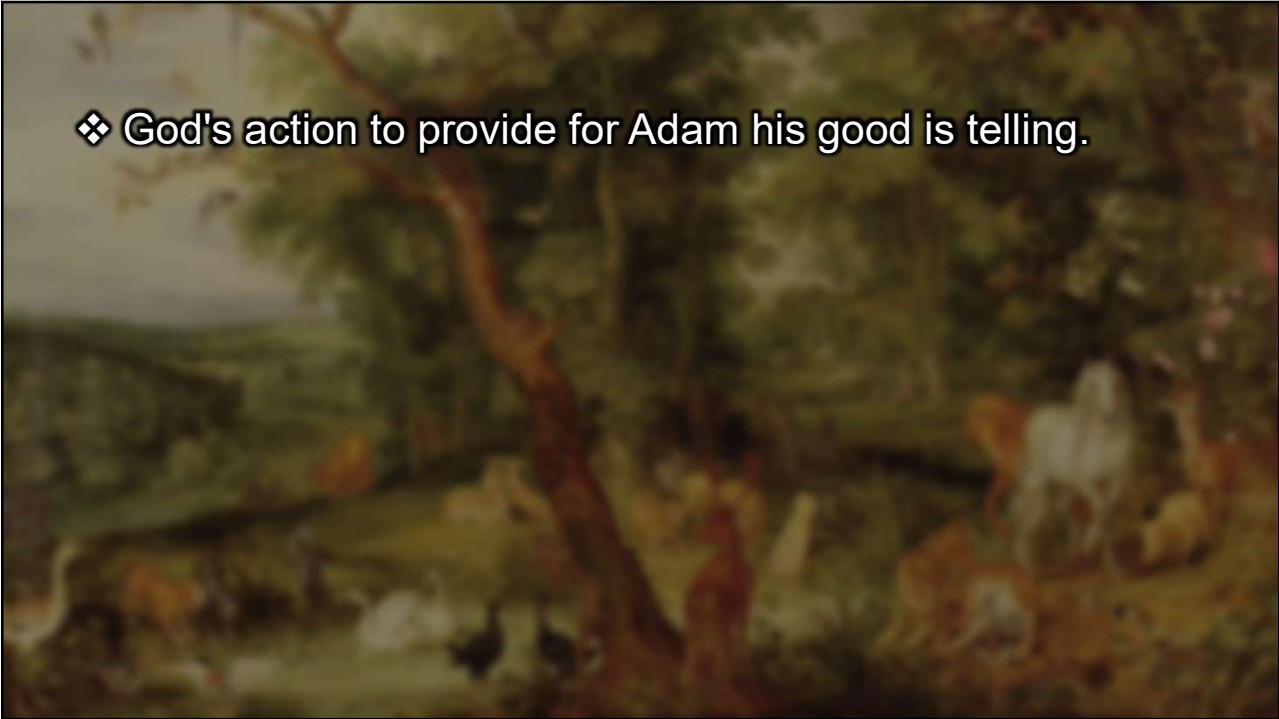
### ☞ Genesis 2:19 ☞

Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name.

- ❖ Adam was not able to find a "helper comparable to him," which is to say, that Adam was not able to find his own good. (v. 20)

### ☞ Genesis 2:20 ☞

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.



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∞ Genesis 2:21-22 ∞

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### ✧ Genesis 2:21-22 ✧

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. {22} Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

- ❖ God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam.

- This indicates that Adam took no part in supplying his own good. (v. 21)
- The next occurrence of a "deep sleep" is Gen. 15:12 when God institutes His unilateral covenant with Abram, again pointing to the fact that Abram took no part in establishing the covenant.



## ☞ Genesis 15:12 ☞

Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, horror and great darkness fell upon him."

- ❖ These scenarios are a picture of the Gospel in which we cannot supply for ourselves our own good.
  - That which is our good is not supplied by our own works or efforts.
  - Rather, God supplies the good for us.
- ❖ Note that this picture of the Gospel is pre-fall.
  - Our good is totally by the grace and provision of God.
  - The fact that only God can provide our good is not a "plan B" made necessary by our sin.

❖ This is why the promised land is described twenty times as a land flowing "with milk and honey."

❖ Milk and honey are things for which you do no work.

- Exo. 3:8
- Exo. 3:17
- Exo. 13:5
- Exo. 33:3
- Lev. 20:24
- Num. 13:27
- Num. 14:8
- Num. 16:13
- Num. 16: 14
- Deut. 6:3
- Deut. 11:9
- Deut. 26:9
- Deut. 26:15
- Deut. 27:3
- Deut. 31:20
- Josh. 5:6
- Jer. 11:5
- Jer. 32:22
- Ezek. 20:6
- Ezek. 20:15

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- ❖ Our "good," i.e., our eternal life with God, is something for which we do no work.

### ☞ Romans 4:4-5 ☞

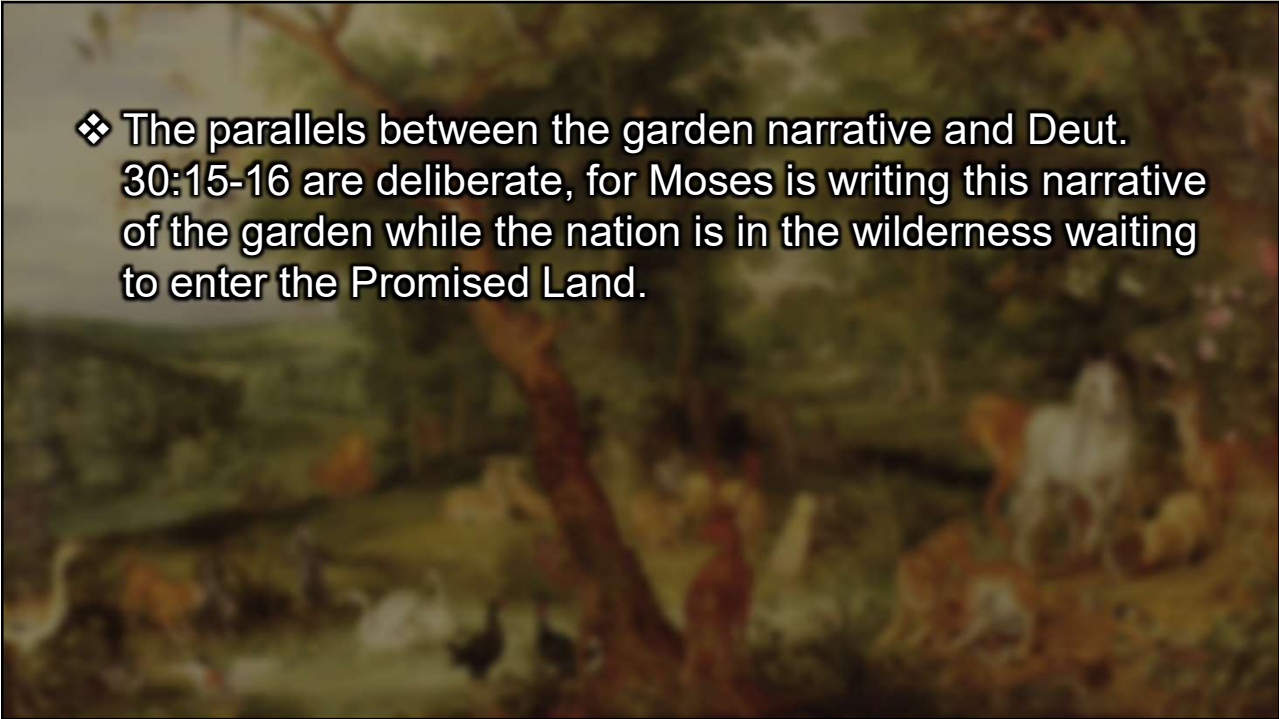
Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. {5} But to him who **does not work** but **believes** on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness."


πίστις (pistis), faith

πιστεύω (pisteuō), I believe

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- ❖ The parallels between the garden narrative and Deut. 30:15-16 are deliberate, for Moses is writing this narrative of the garden while the nation is in the wilderness waiting to enter the Promised Land.



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And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; {17} but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

☞ Deuteronomy 30:15-16 ☞

See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, {16} in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the LORD your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess.

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