

# Geology of Proposed Eden Sites

## Eden Questions

Many people have speculated where the Garden of Eden, described in Genesis 2 and 3, was located in terms of current geography. Furthermore, some people claim that the location still exists. What should we think of these claims?

The map, diagram and article below are John Mackay's answer to these claims.

## Could this have been under Adam's feet? Geology of claimed Eden sites.

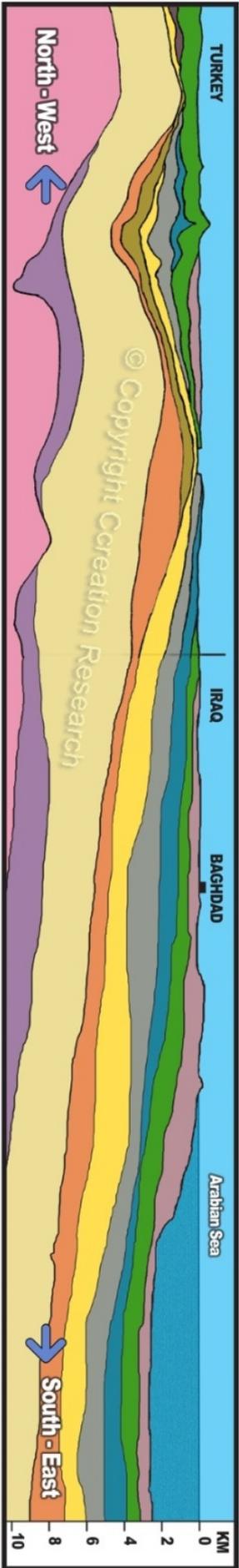
Below is a map of the three most commonly proposed sites for the Garden of Eden. The diagonal line shown from NW to SE is where drill cores have been taken to discover the rock layers beneath the all the sites and ground extending from Turkey to the Persian Gulf, approx. 1000Km (620 miles). A geological cross section diagram based on these is on the next page.

(The diagram is very wide, so it has been placed longways on the page. To view it rotate the page counterclockwise. Go to "View" menu above, choose "Rotate view counterclockwise". After viewing the diagram, remember to rotate clockwise to read the pages that follow.)



### Rock Layers under Proposed Eden Site

(Diagram not to scale)



Idealised geological cross-section with depth of sedimentary beds shown in Km at right. Based on information in references shown. Pink rocks at bottom left are Pre-Cambrian Basement Volcanic Complexes.

**References**

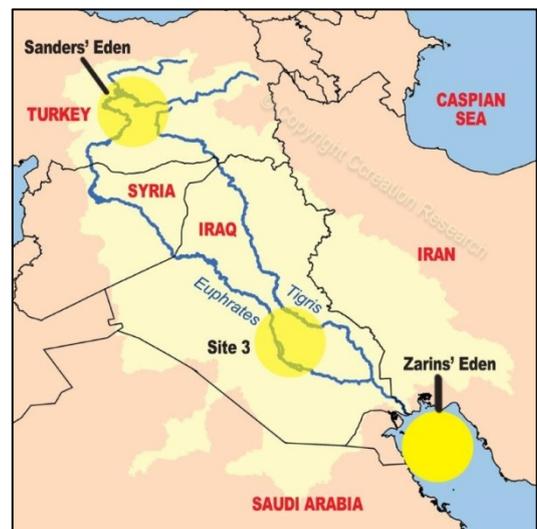
- 1: *The Geology of Iraq*, Edited by Jassim Saad Z, and Goff Jeremy C. Published by Dolin, Prague and Moravian Museum, Brno 2006
- 2: *Geology of Turkey: A Synopsis*, Okay Aral I. Anschnit, 21, 19-42
3. *Sedimentary Basins and Petroleum Geology of the Middle East*, Alsharhan A.S. and Naim A.E.M. 1997

The following article gives further details and explanation of the rock layers illustrated on the map and diagram, and what these indicate about the likelihood of the original Eden site being still in existence.

### What was under Adam's feet? Geology of claimed Eden sites.

Firstly, we will briefly consider what rock types, or geological formations, exist from the coast of Iraq to the heights of Turkey to establish if present day rock layers and formations could have been brought into existence at the same time as they allowed an ancient garden area to have survived in recognizable form from the time of the creation of man until now, approximately 6,000 years. A time period which the Biblical record shows included the fall into sin, the global devastation of Noah's Flood, and more localised catastrophes particularly since Babel.

At present three suggestions have claimed moderate consideration as present day locations for Eden which could match the descriptive features of Genesis 2:10–15, where we read about a river which flowed out of Eden and became four rivers, which were named Pishon, Gihon, Tigris, and Euphrates. The geography of the river paths includes the whole lands of Havilah, Cush, and Assyria, and the minerals mentioned are gold, bdellium and onyx.



The most popular contender for the past century has been on the southern mainland of Iraq about 240Km (150 miles) north of the Persian Gulf (site 3 on the map). The second, and more traditional site (Sanders Eden), has been in the more mountainous regions in Turkey between the sources of the Tigris and the Euphrates; and the third, a more recent contender, is just off the coast of south eastern Iraq, known as the Zarin site.

But to satisfy criteria that a region recognizable as Eden, or any part of it, still exists, such a location would have had to survive from the creation of the world down to present day via the catastrophe of Noah's Flood, and through the ravages of early post Flood geological catastrophes, such as regional flooding, volcanic activity, earthquakes, land uplift/downwarp etc. So, what can be said in general about the geology of these areas? Because the area has been extensively drilled for oil, the geology is well understood and we do know that both Southern sites (the Zarin and the 240Km site) are located on fossil-rich sedimentary strata up to 9,000m (28,000 ft) thick. Some of these fossils have been donated to our Creation Research collection by US soldiers returning from the Iraqi conflict. As these fossils are often in perfect 3D condition, they have definitely been buried alive.

The oil rich sedimentary layers of rock in both areas sit on a deeply buried vast Pre-Cambrian surface overlaid by often massive clastic erosional beds. This very large Precambrian basement surface with its vast dump features represent a huge erosional episode and the sedimentary beds beneath the southern sites that sit upon that basement represent further rapid catastrophic deposition. A Biblical world view puts these fossil-rich beds as definitely post-Creation in age, since there were no creatures to be fossilised until after God had finished His creating. We can further narrow their age as mechanisms for widespread fossilisation did not come into existence until:

- a) after Adam was expelled from the Garden of Eden; and
- b) commencing during the global cataclysm of Noah's Flood; and
- c) continued more locally in regional post Flood catastrophism, which continues on a much reduced scale down to the present.

Therefore, with the known rock strata across Iraq and Turkey representing thousands of metres of catastrophically buried fossil rich sediments, representing Flood and post-Noahic history, the two southern sites do not provide any location where the Garden of Eden could have survived since Adam's day. (See diagram of rock layers on page 2.)

The traditional northern site lies between the source of today's Tigris and the Euphrates, and has enjoyed a sometimes undeserved popularity due to the virtually irrelevant fact that it is nearer the Mountains of Ararat where Noah landed. But to put it in context, we must consider the whole geological picture moving from southern Iraq northward to areas in Turkey. Such a transverse shows the rock formations move from deep sedimentary formations in the south to increasingly uplifted areas in the north, often associated with the volcanic activity seen in places such as Mount Ararat (5,165 m/16,946 ft above sea level) where volcanic rock overlies thick fossil bearing sediments. Therefore, in this northern locality the combination of regional tectonism, earthquake and volcanic activity along with simple uplift and erosion, are sufficient to have covered and/or destroyed, any original "Eden" site.

## Conclusion

Whilst each of the interpreted claimed present day locations for Eden may be seemingly justified by referencing modern names for current topographic features, the evidence in the region's rock record of large scale earth movement since creation, of widespread and very deep flood deposited sediments, along with volcanism that is Flood and post-Flood etc., would have obliterated any recognisable near surface evidence of the original Eden location.

For the serious reader we recommend:

- 1: *The Geology of Iraq*, Edited by Jassim Saad Z, and Goff Jeremy C. Published by Dolin, Prague and Moravian Museum, Brno 2006
- 2: *Geology of Turkey: A Synopsis*, Okay Aral I. Anschnitt, 21, 19–42
3. *Sedimentary Basins and Petroleum Geology of the Middle East*, Alsharhan A.S. and Nairn A.E.M. 1997

For more information and resources on creation, evolution, and Biblical history see the following websites:

Creation Research: <http://www.creationresearch.net>

Ask John Mackay: <http://askjohnmackay.com>