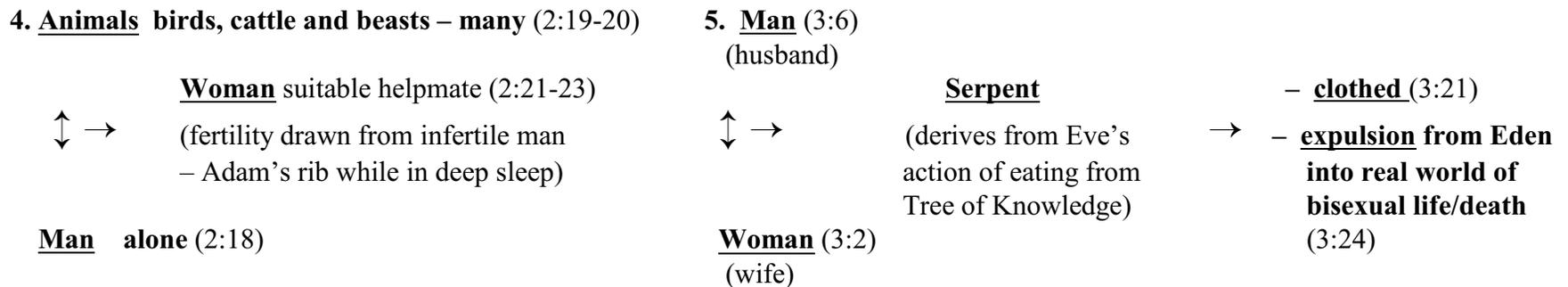
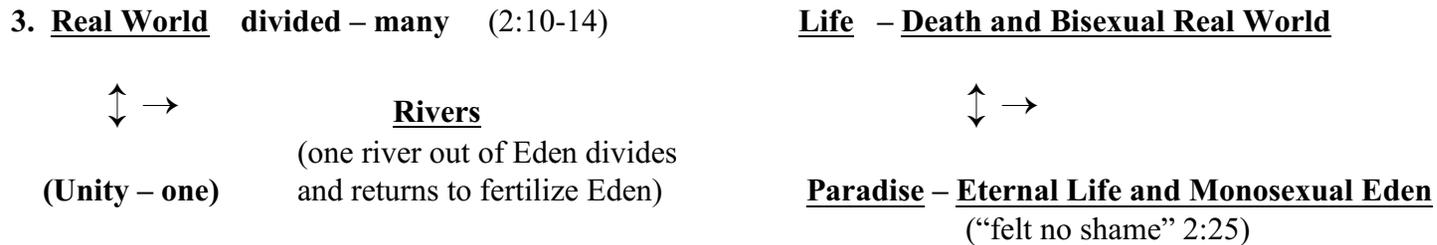
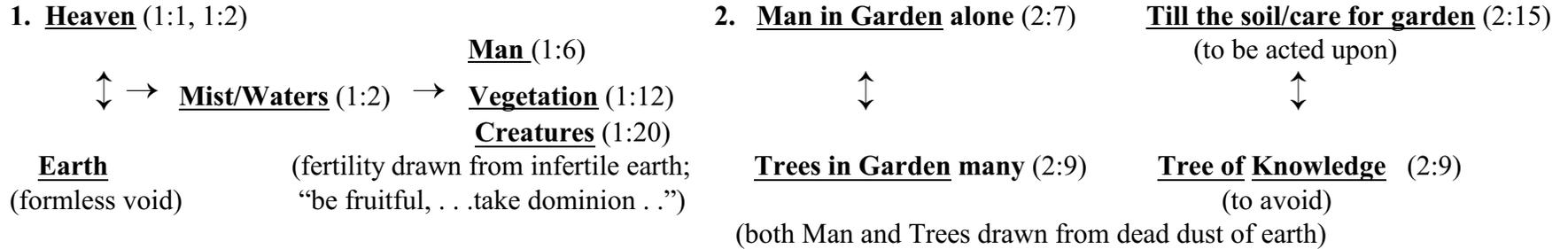


Garden of Eden – Genesis chapters 1 - 4

“Eye Juggling” for the embedded Symbols and Values within the text
 Modified from Edmund Leach’s “Levi-Strauss in the Garden of Eden,” *Discovery* May 1962



6. Eve (4:1)

(mother of all those who live 3:20)

↕ → **copulation** → **incest** → **Cain** (4:1) – **reproduction is now possible**
– **as is death now inevitable**

Adam (4:1)

An Eye Juggling Interpretation of the Garden of Eden text

1. While not the only mechanism, *key symbols* are often reflected/identified in binary and dialectical structures embedded within a text, i.e., meaningful symbols are often derived in the juxtaposition of opposites and/or the results of a mediated conflict. In the Garden of Eden text, there are examples of at least 5 sets of binary and/or dialectical structures.

2. In turn, key symbols often reveal the primary *messages* of a text to an intended audience. In the Garden of Eden text, there are two primary message sets.

a. A “Theme of Reproduction” is expressed in all mediational transformations, e.g., mist, water, creatures, seeds, vegetation, man, women, serpent (carnal knowledge), and intercourse – all to help order and given meaning to the world

b. As expressed in chapters/verses 2:21, 3:1, 4, there is an attempt to mediate and lessen the psychological conflict of “Original Sin” (given a Christian worldview context, not applicable for a Judaic or Islamic context given lack of “original sin”)

Given the incest rule, i.e., one is not to marry women/men of one’s own group Eve is from Adam = own group

Alternatives: 1. confirm incest rule don’t populate the world

2. break the incest rule populate world

But given theme of reproduction and need to explain a populated world, only the second alternative works

Thus in the telling the story of Genesis the trauma/conflict of original incest rendered less traumatic