**‘Man’s FIRST Assignment’**

***7then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. 8And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. 9And out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil….*** ***15Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.*** Genesis 2:7-9, 15

In the last blog I wrote, ***“Human beings weren’t created from gold or silver or rubies or diamonds or anything else we consider “valuable.” Man wasn’t even formed from the dust of the Garden of Eden. No. We were formed from dust that came from outside of the garden!….Nevertheless, we ARE the crown of God’s creation and made in the image and according to the likeness of God.”***[[1]](https://yourbibleblog.com/2016/09/29/mans-first-assignment/" \l "_ftn1)

What does God do? He rules and reigns over His entire creation but on earth He created man to rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over all of the animals and creatures which creep upon the earth. That sounds like a huge task – and it is! However, it becomes a much more manageable task if we only do what the Lord gives us to do at any point in time.

We read in today’s passage the first assignment God gave the man to do. He was to cultivate and “keep” the Garden of Eden. We can understand the word “cultivate.” In this regard, it means to work the soil. But whatever does the word “keep” mean here? How does one “keep” a garden? The answer is found in the Hebrew.

The Hebrew word for “keep” is ***shamar*** and it means ***“to hedge about (as with thorns), that is, guard; generally to protect, attend to.”*** [[2]](https://yourbibleblog.com/2016/09/29/mans-first-assignment/" \l "_ftn2) ***Shamar*** is used a second time in Genesis 3:24. There, after the first sin, God will drive the man and the woman at of the garden of Eden and placed ***Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way,* *to keep the way of the tree of life.*** But, why would the Garden of Eden need a thorny hedge about it? Why would it need a guard? Why would it need protection? One possible explanation could be that ***There was something outside of the garden that didn’t belong within it.*** We might recoil at that thought. This was God’s “very good” creation. What could possibly be wrong? It won’t be long before we find out. We’ll soon come to Genesis 3 and there we are going to come face-to-face with a beguiling serpent. Was the man to have kept watch over the garden and been on guard so that this serpent would not have gotten into it? This may have been the case. If this was the case, then the man failed in the first assignment God gave him. He did not “keep” the serpent out of the garden.

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[[1]](https://yourbibleblog.com/2016/09/29/mans-first-assignment/" \l "_ftnref1) http://yourbibleblog.com/2016/09/26/creation-revisited-a-different-perspective-part-two/

[[2]](https://yourbibleblog.com/2016/09/29/mans-first-assignment/" \l "_ftnref2) http://lexiconcordance.com/hebrew/8104.html