

## How could Eden be in Missouri as Joseph Smith claimed, when the Bible says the Garden of Eden bordered the Euphrates River? (Genesis 2:14)

- What is the Official Teaching of the Mormon Church on the Location of the Garden of Eden?

The Mormon Church teaches that the Garden of Eden was located in Jackson County Missouri, near Independence Missouri (D&C 116:1 specifically names the location as Springhill, Missouri), which Joseph Smith claims is called Adam-ondi-Ahman. D&C chapter 57 verses 1-3 also names this as the place where the New Jerusalem mentioned in the Book of Revelation chapter 21 will be located.

Doctrine and Covenants 116:1

*SPRING Hill is named by the Lord Adam-ondi-Ahman, because, said he, it is the place where Adam shall come to visit his people, or the Ancient of Days shall sit, as spoken of by Daniel the prophet.*

Doctrine and Covenants 117:8

*Is there not room enough on the mountains of Adam-ondi-Ahman, and on the plains of Olaha Shinehah, or the land where Adam dwelt, that you should covet that which is but the drop, and neglect the more weighty matters?*

The official website of the Mormon church has a map which shows the location of this place:

<http://scriptures.lds.org/chmaps/5>

Along with a photograph:

<http://scriptures.lds.org/chphotos/10>

- What Does the Bible Say about the Location of the Garden of Eden?

Gen 2:10-14

*10 Now a river went out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it parted and became four riverheads. 11 The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one which skirts the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. 12 And the gold of that land is good. Bdellium and the onyx stone are there. 13 The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one which goes around the whole land of Cush. 14 The name of the third river is Hiddekel; it is the one which goes toward the east of Assyria. The fourth river is the Euphrates.*

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Note that there a number of rivers which are named. We know for usre where two of these rivers are, the Tigris and the Euprates. Here is a map from the Encyclopedia of the Orient (<http://i-cias.com/e.o/tigris.htm>) which clearly shows that these rivers are located in the country now known as Iraq.

This is the first of many problems for the belief that Eden is in Missouri. This in and of itself should be enough, but there are numerous other problems with this teaching.

We can also look at the flood. Noah's Ark landed on Mount Ararat in the Middle East (Gen 8:4), not on the Rockies, which is a further indication that Eden must have been where the Bible says that it was. The fact is there is absolutely nothing in scripture which would provide any comfort for those who teach that the Garden of Eden is in Missouri.

Let's also look at the secondary claim that this is the same area where the New Jerusalem is to rest. Rev 21 tell us that the New Jerusalem will measure 12,000 furlongs square. A furlong, according to *The American Heritage*® Dictionary of the English Language is approximately 1/8 of a mile, therefore 12,000 furlongs would be about 1500 miles, meaning that the New Jerusalem will cover an are bounded by 1500 miles squared. All of Jackson County, and indeed all of Missouri could not conatin such an area. We therefore have absolutely no basis for believing that the New Jersuaem would come to Missouri, other than the words of Joseph Smith.

This is not the end of the difficulties for this theory.

Doctrines and Covenants 117:8 says:

*Is there not room enough on the mountains of Adam-ondi-Ahman, and on the plains of Olaha Shinehah, or the land where Adam dwelt, that you should covet that which is but the drop, and neglect the more weighty matters?*

Note that in D&C 117:8, it speaks of the mountains of Adam-ondi-Ahman. If we look at the picture of Adam-ondi-ahman from the Mormon church website, we see that it is very flat, not mountainous.

<http://scriptures.lds.org/chphotos/10>

Conclusion

The claims of Joseph Smith regarding the location of Eden are without evidence and are contrary to the teachings of the Bible. This teachings is therefore a false revelation and a false prophecy and thus this would make Joseph Smith s false prophet. God cannot contradict himself.

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October 26, 2003