

THE GARDEN OF EDEN

Text: Genesis 2:8

INTRO: The study of what the Bible has to say about the garden of Eden, the original home of man, is very interesting. Many things about which we might be curious are not revealed but most of us are probably not aware of how much the Bible really has to say about this subject.

I. THE GARDEN WAS MADE BY GOD TO BE THE ABODE OF MAN IN HIS ORIGINAL SINLESS CONDITION. 1:31; 2:8, 16-17.

A. In the garden was everything man needed to supply all his physical & spiritual needs.

1. In Eden, man had work to do, both physical & mental, 2:15, 19-20.
2. In Eden, God made the woman, brot her to the man & instituted the marriage relationship, 2:18, 21-25.
3. The fruits of the garden supplied man's nourishment, while the beauty of the garden made life enjoyable, 2:15-17.

Thru the prophet Ezekiel God spoke to the king of Tyre,

comparing the King's blessings with those in the garden of Eden.

Ezek 28:13, You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, & diamond, beryl, onyx, & jasper, sapphire, turquoise, & emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created.

4. Still more importantly in Eden man enjoyed fellowship in the immediate presence of God, 2:19; 3:8-11.
5. When Adam & Eve sinned, they relinquished their right to Eden & all it signified, 3:22-24.

II. THE TWO MOST FAMOUS TREES OF EDEN.

A. The tree of life. Eating its fruit could have sustained physical life indefinitely, 3:22.

B. The forbidden tree, the tree of the knowledge of good & evil, 3:22.

1. Before Adam ate the forbidden fruit, he knew only good.
2. By eating the forbidden fruit, Adam also came to know evil.

PULPIT COM: "Implying an acquaintance with good & evil which did not belong to him in the state of innocence. The lang seems to hint that a one-sided acquaintance with good & evil, such as that possessed by the first pair in the garden... is not so complete a knowledge of the inherent beauty of the one & essential turpitude of the other as is acquired by beings who pass thru the experience of a fall, & that the only way in which a finite being can approximate to such a comprehensive knowledge of evil as the Deity possesses without personal contact--can see it as it lies everlastingly spread out before His infinite mind--is by going down into it & learning what it is by personal experience."

3. The forbidden fruit was the literal fruit of a literal tree which Adam & Eve ate. Marital sex was not the forbidden fruit, 1:27-28; 2:22-25; 4:1

4. There is no way we can know what fruit was involved, no evidence that it was an apple & no way of knowing whether the same fruit exists today.

III. ALL DURING HUMAN HISTORY, EDEN HAS BEEN SYMBOLIC OF ABUNDANT BLESSINGS AND OPPORTUNITIES.

A. Sodom, before its destruction was compared to Eden.

Gen 13:10, And Lot lifted his eyes & saw all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere... like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt as you go toward Zoar.

B. The city of Tyre before its downfall was compared to Eden.

Ezek 28:11-19, Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, & diamond, Beryl, onyx, & jasper, sapphire, turquoise, & emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels & pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created. "You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back & forth in the midst of fiery stones. You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you. By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within, and you sinned; Therefore I cast you as a

profane thing out of the mountain of God; & I destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the fiery stones. Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, That they might gaze at you. You defiled your sanctuaries by the multitude of your iniquities, by the iniquity of your trading; Therefore I brought fire from your midst; It devoured you, & I turned you to ashes upon the earth In the sight of all who saw you. All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you; You have become a horror, & shall be no more forever."

C. Judah, in the days of Joel, before the locust plague & the Babylonian exile, was compared to Eden.

Joel 2:3, A fire devours before them, & behind them a flame burns; the land is like the Garden of Eden before them, & behind them a desolate wilderness; surely nothing shall escape them.

D. Assyria in its hey day & Egypt in the days of Ezekiel were compared to Eden in Ezek 31.

E. Judah, restored from Babylonian exile was again to be compared to Eden.

Isa 51:3, For the Lord will comfort Zion, He will comfort all her waste places; He

will make her wilderness like Eden, &
her desert like the garden of the Lord.

Ezek 36:35, So they will say, 'This land
that was desolate has become like the
garden of Eden; & the wasted, desolate,
& ruined cities are now fortified and
inhabited.

IV. IN THE LORD'S CHURCH TODAY, WE HAVE A
FORETASTE OF THE GLORY THAT WILL FINALLY
BE REVEALED IN THE HEAVENLY REALM, VIEWED
IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION AS A RESTORA-
TION TO MAN'S ORIGINAL IDEAL ABODE.

READ REV. 21:1-4; 10 thru 22:14.

CONCLUSION: We shall never see Eden as Adam
saw it. We may never know its exact location on
the earth, but by obeying the Lord & receiving the
forgiveness of our sins, we can establish a
fellowship with God that will be consummated in
the heavenly realm of which even Eden in all its
beauty & splendor & glory were but a type and a
shadow.

La Porte, TX, September 9, 1979

Exton, PA, February 18, 1990

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, December 13, 1992

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, November 6, 2005