

The Gardener of Eden

The time had come in Yahweh's eternal plan for a new creation. From Elohim came the command "Let Us make Man, in our image and likeness." This signified a creation that was destined to take a place in Elohim. The age of Man was the next step in the unfolding purpose of the universe. Humanity was now center stage. All that had gone before; whether Angels, Cherubim, or Seraphim watched with wonder as Yahweh formed Adam from the dust of the earth and breathed into him the breath of life. As they looked upon this new creation many questions must have been forming. What did Yahweh have in his mind for man? Where would he fit in the eternal scheme of things? How would Yahweh choose to work in and upon man? What unique capacities did he possess? Once the age of man was consummated where would his place be in Elohim?

Yahweh God planted a garden in Eden and there he put the man he had fashioned. He caused trees to spring up from the soil, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden. Man's purpose was to cultivate and take care of the garden. A river flowed from Eden to water the garden and then divided into four heads as it exited the garden. From this brief description much can be understood. Eden was a place and a reality from which flowed a river. This river flowed into a garden that Yahweh had created. Yahweh also made a gardener specifically created to tend the garden. Later in the scriptures we understand this river flows from the throne of God that is in the midst of the city called New Jerusalem. This language suggests that Eden and the New Jerusalem are names for the city of God. If this is so, we see that Man in his beginnings was placed in the Garden of Eden. He dwelled outside the city but was connected by a river to the realities in the city. Yahweh would come out in the cool of the day and fellowship with his gardener. Man was a magnificent creation but his beginnings were humble.

Yahweh gave a command to the man saying, "from all the trees in the garden you may freely eat, but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat. In the day you eat of it you shall surely die." The Man was given a choice so it is evident he was created with the capacity to choose. Not long after we see Adam (male and female) tempted by a serpent. They make the wrong choice and are expelled from the garden. Their sin had lowered their condition and no longer could they look upon the city and long

to enter its gates. Now death was diminishing their standing in the eternal fellowship of Elohim. But how much of a chance did they really have to overcome temptation. It seems they had been set up to fail. They had been given the capacity of choice, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and it was desirable to make one wise. Then the most subtle of all beasts was allowed in the garden to deceive man about this seemingly desirable tree. What was Yahweh up to in allowing his gardener to fall. Was there a plan to save him? The heavenly hosts peered over the walls of the city longing to look into what would happen now. The poor gardener and his wife moved away from the heavenly realm and could only remember how it was living in the glory of Yahweh.

The man knew his wife and she conceived and bore son in the image of man. To conceive and give birth was a unique capacity in humanity. Certainly the Angels who do not have this capacity must have looked on with awe. Man's ability to procreate surprised the heavenly host. Why would Yahweh give a gardener this glorious gift and what could it mean in the hidden plan for man? They heard the words of Yahweh when he told the gardener and his wife that their seed would crush the serpent's head. Was this the same serpent that had deceived them? If he was crushed would that some how restore man to his place as gardener of Eden?

Over the next four thousand years Yahweh worked with humanity in accordance with his determined plan. Less than two thousand years after man had been expelled from the garden, the thoughts of man had become only evil continually. Yahweh through a flood destroyed all men except Noah and his family. Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. As men began to spread abroad again on the earth Yahweh choose one man Abraham to be the father of a people chosen as a kind of first fruits of humanity through which Yahweh could maintain a witness to all the rest of mankind. He gave to the sons of Abraham his Torah. He showed them how to build a dwelling place in their midst that would enable Yahweh to tabernacle with them. He gave them a priesthood that could offer sacrifice and draw near to the glory of Yahweh. He raised up prophets that spoke of a Messiah that was to come and save his people from their sin. Not only the sons of Abraham, but all humanity was to be delivered by a sacrifice once and for all. Not the blood of bulls and goats, but the blood of God himself was the payment for the descendants of the gardener of Eden.

In the fullness of time this messiah did appear. He was given the name Yahshua and declared to be the Son of God and the Son of Man. He came through humanity that was overshadowed by deity. The seed of the woman was here. Through the capacity of humanity to procreate Yahweh wrought their deliverance by fathering a son. This son was deity and humanity dwelling in perfect oneness. Yahshua was the new creation that lifted humble sinful humanity into a new and exalted place in Elohim. The one Spirit who was and is the life of Elohim (Yahweh immanent in the midst of his creation) dwelled without measure in the divine humanity he fathered. Yahshua the Messiah lived a life without sin and died as a perfect sacrifice for all men. The night before his death on the stake he took his disciples across the Kidron valley to a garden called Gethsemane. He was to be tempted in this garden much like the original gardener was tempted. This time the result was "never the less not my will but your will be done." The second Adam won the victory.

The scriptures say "Yahshua was put to death for our sins and raised to life to justify us." The resurrection and ascension of the Messiah brings humanity to a new place in Elohim. He is now seated in the very throne of Yahweh. The old gardener has been replaced by a king. The Cherubim are positioned as throne bearers lifting up Elohim as seen Ezekiel, the Seraphim fly around the throne crying Holy, Holy, Holy is Yahweh Elohim Almighty, an innumerable company of Angels encircle the throne, the 24 ancient ones sit on lesser thrones around the throne of Yahweh. Humanity now takes the place of destiny conceived in the mind of Elohim before time began. That place is spoken of by the Messiah when he says, "he that overcomes will sit down in my throne, just as I have overcome and sat down in the throne of my father."

In the final chapters of the book of Revelation, the Age of the New Heavens and the New Earth are revealed. The heavenly city the New Jerusalem comes down from heaven to the earth. In the description of the city, a river is mentioned that flows from the throne of God. Also, the tree of life is shown to border the river along the main street of the city. Eden's boundaries have been broadened to encompass the garden. The garden is now within the walls of the city. The age of man is coming to a close. Humanity has found its consummated place in the on-going purpose of Yahweh.

