

The Old Testament Tabernacle, Jesus Christ, and our Hearts

The Garden Of Eden
Lesson One

Who are we and why are we here?

- *We are God's chief creation

- *We were created for God's pleasure (an expression or inclination of pleasure towards that which is liked and loved, that which pleases and creates joy), and His glory.

- *God delights in us

- *God wanted and wants us

- *Of all of God's creation, we are closest to His heart.

The Garden of Eden was God's first earthly dwelling place with man.

*The Garden of Eden was the place of God's special dwelling on the earth with man.

*The Garden of Eden was a temple, a special dwelling place of God on earth among men.

*The Garden of Eden was the earth's first sanctuary.

*sanctuary: "holy place", a place set apart devoted to the sacred. (to be clean, to make clean, to pronounce clean)

*tabernacle: "dwelling place". The term is rarely used when speaking of human dwellings; it almost always signifies the place where God dwells among His people. It is a place of **residency** – it does not necessarily mean a place of splendor.

NOTE: The Hebrew word *mithallek*...used for God's walking back and forth in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:8), also describes God's presence in the tabernacle (Lev. 26:12; Deut. 23:14 {15}; 2 Sam. 7:6 -7).

The text of Genesis 2 and 3 does not use words to describe the Garden of Eden as a temple. It does tell us that God planted it, (in the east), there were all kinds of trees there, pleasing to the eye and good for food.

The tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil were in the middle of the garden,

there was a river that watered the garden and flowed from the garden.

It does use the language used elsewhere in Scripture that describes God's presence in Israel's tabernacle.

Eden was God's dwelling place, where He dwelt in close proximity to Adam and Eve. In the garden our first parents were able to talk face to face with God – an important point though is that they only had conversations with Him at certain times of the day. "In the cool of the day" and "the presence of the Lord" were a part of temple language.

“The cool of the day” was the period when the sun got lower in the sky and the cool sea breezes normally swept over the Palestinian region. This was the time of the evening sacrifice (1 Kings 18:36; Daniel 9:21 – about 3 in the afternoon, and also in the morning about 9. At these times the people were then considered as being “in the presence of God” (2 Chronicles 20:19)

Eden was created for a purpose.

Adam was commanded to cultivate and keep the garden in obedience to God. Genesis 2:15.

The words “cultivate” and “keep” are **used together** in Old Testament texts to refer to the work of priests in connection with Israel’s tabernacle and temple. The two Hebrew words for “cultivate” and “keep” are usually translated “serve” and “guard” elsewhere in the Old Testament.

The Hebrew word usually translated “cultivate” can refer to an agricultural task when **used by itself**.

Adam, the “first priest”, taking care of the “temple”. Genesis 2:15

BUT

Adam and Eve sinned (we are not forgetting her). God throws Adam and Eve out of the garden. Adam’s (and Eve’s) sin gets them kicked out of the “temple”.

Now you know who the first couple was that was thrown out of church. 😊

Now comes the need for reconciliation.

Reconciliation

God gives us the ministry of reconciliation.

- *Why was and is reconciliation important?
- *What happened to bring about the need for reconciliation between God and man?
- *Read Genesis 1:26 – 3:24.

Something to think about: “It wasn’t the apple (the Bible says fruit) in the tree that was the problem. It was the pear (pair) on the ground.”

Let’s take a closer look at Genesis 3:8-9.

- *What is God doing here?
- *What is meant by the question, “Where are you?”

Devotion from A Year In God’s Word, page 196.

God's initiation of reconciliation – Where are you?...in relationship with/to Me?

This is a rhetorical question – God knew where Adam and Eve were (physically and spiritually) but did Adam and Eve know where they were?

This is the first recorded question in the Bible and an important one – it is about relationship.

God sought fellowship with His children Adam and Eve – He seeks fellowship with you and I. Wherever we are **God** is seeking us. God acts first!

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****What is the first recorded question asked by Satan in the Bible? Did God say...?**

It was meant to sever God and man's relationship.

God sought fellowship with His children Adam and Eve – He seeks fellowship with you and I. Wherever we are **God** is seeking us. God acts first!

What is your relationship to Him? What is your relationship to His truth and His love?

God continues to act....

What did God do to cover Adam and Eve's nakedness? Genesis 3:21

He made garments of skin – the first blood sacrifice, by the bloodshed and death of the innocent (Innocent) – reconciliation is put into motion.

God created us for His pleasure and for His glory. We are the crown of His creation and the objects of His delight. **However we broke the rule, the relationship, the harmony, the immediate access to God.** Because God desire relationship with us He provides reconciliation and a place to meet with Him – The Tabernacle, the Temple, the Church. God tell Moses to “have the people make a sanctuary for me,...exactly like the pattern I will give you.” A heavenly pattern!