

### The Garden Relationship

**Ge 2:8 And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.** In the beginning God made a garden and put man therein. That garden was the place that God chose to commune with man, in a pure sinless condition.

**Ge 2:9 And out of the ground made the LORD God 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 knowledge of good and evil.** We see that even in the beginning there was every provision made for the sustenance of the man in nature "*every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food*" and in the eternal perspective. "*the tree of life also in the midst of the garden*"

What was man's obligation, to God, for God's provision of the garden, his natural life, and his eternal life? **Ge 2:15 And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.** He was to dress and keep the garden, which meant (as we understand today the words defined) that mankind was designed to do the work of pruning, trimming, and weeding the garden to keep it clean and productive.

What degree of obedience did God require of man? **Ge 2:16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.** 100% Simply put; God gave one requirement to man, which if he obeyed would insure man's eternal life and communion with God.

**Ge 3:8 And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.** We notice here that it is the voice of God that is walking in the Garden, not God in the form of a person or image. Why? **Joh 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.** God is not contained in such a small finite image as we would have him be in our minds. God is bigger than all the world, the universe, and vastness of space. There is no way to measure God.

On the other hand; let's consider the voice. **Mt 3:1 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, 2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. 3 For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.** Here we see that the voice of John was used to announce the revealing of Christ; who was the voice of God on the earth and a picture of the tree of life in the midst of the garden, into the world; in a broadened perspective from the Garden of Eden scene.

However, we understand that not all men hear that voice as demonstrated in scripture in: **Joh 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:** This tells us; Not everyone is supposed to be in the garden only those whom the Father gave to the Son. Why, because the new birth has restored the ability to hear the voice of God in the Garden.

When man yielded to his own lust, trusted in satan rather than God, and disobeyed God, he lost that communion state of the sinless condition. Now fallen man hears the voice of God in judicial judgment speaking to him. The judicial judgment of God drove man from the garden.

Remember in the life of the tribes of Israel, whom God chose to bear his name upon the earth and with whom God communed, they chose to be disobedient and sinned against God and were driven out from his presence, taken into captivity and slain and destroyed many times. But even here in Ezekiel listen to God's prophetic promise:

**Eze 36:22 Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine holy name's sake, which ye have profaned among the heathen, whither ye went. 23 And I will sanctify my great name, which was profaned among the**

*heathen, which ye have profaned in the midst of them; and the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, saith the Lord GOD, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes. 24 For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land. 25 Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. 26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them. 28 And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God. 29 I will also save you from all your uncleannesses: and I will call for the corn, and will increase it, and lay no famine upon you. 30 And I will multiply the fruit of the tree, and the increase of the field, that ye shall receive no more reproach of famine among the heathen. 31 Then shall ye remember your own evil ways, and your doings that were not good, and shall lothe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and for your abominations. 32 Not for your sakes do I this, saith the Lord GOD, be it known unto you: be ashamed and confounded for your own ways, O house of Israel. 33 Thus saith the Lord GOD; In the day that I shall have cleansed you from all your iniquities I will also cause you to dwell in the cities, and the wastes shall be builded. 34 And the desolate land shall be tilled, whereas it lay desolate in the sight of all that passed by. 35 And they shall say, This land that was desolate is become like the garden of Eden; and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are become fenced, and are inhabited. 36 Then the heathen that are left round about you shall know that I the LORD build the ruined places, and plant that that was desolate: I the LORD have spoken it, and I will do it. 37 Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will yet for this be enquired of by the house of Israel, to do it for them; I will increase them with men like a flock. 38 As the holy flock, as the flock of Jerusalem in her solemn feasts; so shall the waste cities be filled with flocks of men: and they shall know that I am the LORD.*

When God says to Israel "*This land that was desolate is become like the garden of Eden; and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are become fenced, and are inhabited.*" How is it to be like the Garden of Eden? It is a prophetic picture of the church of Grace established by Jesus Christ. How can this be? God is foretelling of a time when He will:

- Do the cleansing: "*33 Thus saith the Lord GOD; In the day that I shall have cleansed you from all your iniquities*" This was accomplished in the atoning blood of Jesus on the cross.
- He will prepare them a garden of rest: "*33 I will also cause you to dwell in the cities*" This was accomplished by Jesus when he established the Church of Grace.
- That man will once again dress and keep the garden: "*and the wastes shall be builded. 34 And the desolate land shall be tilled, whereas it lay desolate in the sight of all that passed by.*" This was accomplished by Christ as he has sent all the born again people to be his ambassadors upon the earth. Let your light shine and be salt. God's word will be taught and preached, used as is fitting and proper to bring glory to the name of God.
- The desolation that God had brought upon the Promised Land because of the sins of Israel will be removed: "*and the wastes shall be builded. 34 And the desolate land shall be tilled, whereas it lay desolate in the sight of all that passed by.*" This was accomplished when the church began to grow and flourish after the Day of Pentecost and the giving of the Holy Spirit. God's word of truth put back into action and rightly divided in its use for God's glory and not for man's gain of ungodly increase.
- I will establish a garden of communion and fruitfulness with my people: "*35 And they shall say, This land that was desolate is become like the garden of Eden; and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are become fenced, and are inhabited.*" This is accomplished each time a

sinner understands that it is the work of Christ and not his own that brings us the bounty of the gospel of Jesus Christ. When we understand that the protective hand of God is upon us and we are secure because of the finished work of Christ.

- Even the world will know that I the Lord have wrought this great work by my own power: "**36 Then the heathen that are left round about you shall know that I the LORD build the ruined places, and plant that that was desolate:**" In Old Testament times; when Israel was obedient and being blessed by God, the world around them recognized that it was the hand of God upon them. The world today recognizes the true church as it sees the hand of God upon it.
- The church that I build will be as a fenced city and garden of grace for my people who are called by my name: "**I the LORD have spoken it, and I will do it. 37 Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will yet for this be enquired of by the house of Israel, to do it for them; I will increase them with men like a flock. 38 As the holy flock, as the flock of Jerusalem in her solemn feasts; so shall the waste cities be filled with flocks of men: and they shall know that I am the LORD.**" This was accomplished when Christ fulfilled the ceremonial/sacrificial law service and established the age of Salvation by Grace. When Christ established the Church of Grace there is added to it both Jew and Gentile alike, All those whom the God the Father gave to God the Son to save.

Thus we see that the Church of Grace, in the age of Salvation by Grace, is indeed a Garden in this wilderness world of sin and sorrow. How do we know this? **1Pe 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:** We see that as satan was in the garden, before he was driven out into the earth, so he still is in the world today. Satan is going about the world and tempting men, just as he tempted Eve and Adam to disbelieve and disobey God.

We understand; the Church of Grace, established by Christ on the earth, is the Garden in which we are brought back into the communal relationship with the voice of God. This communal relationship is revealed to us, through the manifested rebirth and regeneration, of our Spirit, to the newness of life in Christ. We now have eyes that see, ears that hear, and hearts that understand. Being born again, we are enabled to discern between the voice of God and the deceitful voice of the devil. Praise the Lord!

We now understand; the voice of God is Jesus, the Christ, revealed upon the earth.

We now can hear and understand the voice that has proclaimed the revealing of Christ.

We now can enter into the land of Promise in this world, the church of Grace, and commune with our God there.

So what is the garden relationship of man and God?

We see that it started out with sinless man communing with the voice of God in the Garden.

We see in the Church of Grace today the voice of God communing with man, who is made sinless by Christ, the born again sinner.

We see the prophetic picture and promise of God; when this life and time are completed, there will be an eternal rest in the place that Christ has gone to prepare for us; the prepared place that (not as the original Garden of Eden which had the temptation of sin in it) is without sin, without temptation, or any type of evil, or sinfulness, or disobedience to God.

Glory and praise, that our God, is a God who desires to commune with His own Chosen people, and that we are the kind recipients that manifold blessing. May God continue to cause His Garden of Grace to flourish and prosper upon earth in time until time shall be no more.

Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord! Thank God for the desire to commune with Him and hear His voice speaking unto us. Hallelujah! Amen!

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