


Eden

THE DWELLING PLACE OF GOD

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Acknowledgment

- ▶ This class is based on Beale, G. K.. *God Dwells Among Us: Expanding Eden to the Ends of the Earth*. InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition.



“We all long for [Eden], and we are constantly glimpsing it: our whole nature at its best and least corrupted, its gentlest and most humane, is still soaked with a sense of ‘exile.’”[J.R.R. Tolkien]

Beale, G. K.. God Dwells Among Us: Expanding Eden to the Ends of the Earth (p. 17). InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition.

Genesis 2:8–17

[8] And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. [9] And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

[10] A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers. [11] The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. [12] And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. [13] The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush. [14] And the name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

[15] The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. [16] And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, [17] but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." (ESV)

Dwelling Place of God

- ▶ Eden was a place where God dwelled. God's walking in Eden (Genesis 3:8) shows that.
- ▶ Eden is echoed throughout the Bible as God being present in His Temple and His people.
 - ▶ Leviticus 26:11–12 [11] I will make my dwelling among you, and my soul shall not abhor you. [12] And I will *walk* among you and will be your God, and you shall be my people. (ESV)
 - ▶ Deuteronomy 23:14 [14] Because the LORD your God *walks* in the midst of your camp, to deliver you and to give up your enemies before you, therefore your camp must be holy, so that he may not see anything indecent among you and turn away from you. (ESV)

Eden and the Temple Connection

- ▶ Many places in the Bible refer to Eden in various ways.
- ▶ Ezekiel 28 is one of those places.

Eden and the Temple

Reference to Adam

Ezekiel 28:11–19

[11] Moreover, the word of the LORD came to me: [12] "Son of man, raise a lamentation over the king of Tyre, and say to him, Thus says the Lord GOD: "You were the signet of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. [13] You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering, sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, emerald, and carbuncle; and crafted in gold were your settings and your engravings. On the day that you were created they were prepared. [14] You were an anointed guardian cherub. I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God; in the midst of the stones of fire you walked. [15] You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till unrighteousness was found in you. [16] In the abundance of your trade you were filled with violence in your midst, and you sinned; so I cast you as a profane thing from the mountain of God, and I destroyed you, O guardian cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. [17] Your heart was proud because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I exposed you before kings, to feast their eyes on you. [18] By the multitude of your iniquities, in the unrighteousness of your trade you profaned your sanctuaries; so I brought fire out from your midst; it consumed you, and I turned you to ashes on the earth in the sight of all who saw you. [19] All who know you among the peoples are appalled at you; you have come to a dreadful end and shall be no more forever." (ESV)

Further Echoes of Eden

- ▶ Ark in the Holy of Holies contained the Law
 - ▶ The Law leads to wisdom.
 - ▶ The Tree of the knowledge of good and evil lead to wisdom.
 - ▶ Touching the Tree lead to death.
 - ▶ Touching the Ark lead to death.
- ▶ Entrance:
 - ▶ Eden, from the east.
 - ▶ Temple, from the east.

The Tree of Life

Genesis 3:22–24

[22] Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—” [23] therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. [24] He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life. (ESV)

Tree of Life

- ▶ References to the Tree of Life is seen throughout the Bible.
- ▶ It stood in the middle of the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:9)
- ▶ Proverbs 3:13, 18 [13] Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding, Proverbs 3:18 ... [18] She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called blessed. (ESV)
- ▶ In the Temple:
 - ▶ The Lampstand outside of the Holy of Holies.
 - ▶ Patterned after the Tree of Life in the Garden.
 - ▶ It gives light and illumination.

River of Life

Genesis 2:10–14

[10] A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers. [11] The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. [12] And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. [13] The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush. [14] And the name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates. (ESV)

River of Life

- ▶ The rivers in Eden give life to the many trees and verdant vegetation in the Garden.
 - ▶ Including the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.
 - ▶ Including the Tree of Life.
- ▶ The rivers give life to the rest of the world where the nations would reside.

River of Life in Ezekiel

Ezekiel 47:1–2, 12

Water Flowing from the Temple

[1] Then he brought me back to the door of the temple, and behold, water was issuing from below the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east). The water was flowing down from below the south end of the threshold of the temple, south of the altar. [2] Then he brought me out by way of the north gate and led me around on the outside to the outer gate that faces toward the east; and behold, the water was trickling out on the south side. ... [12] And on the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither, nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing." (ESV)

River of Life in Revelation

Revelation 22:1–2

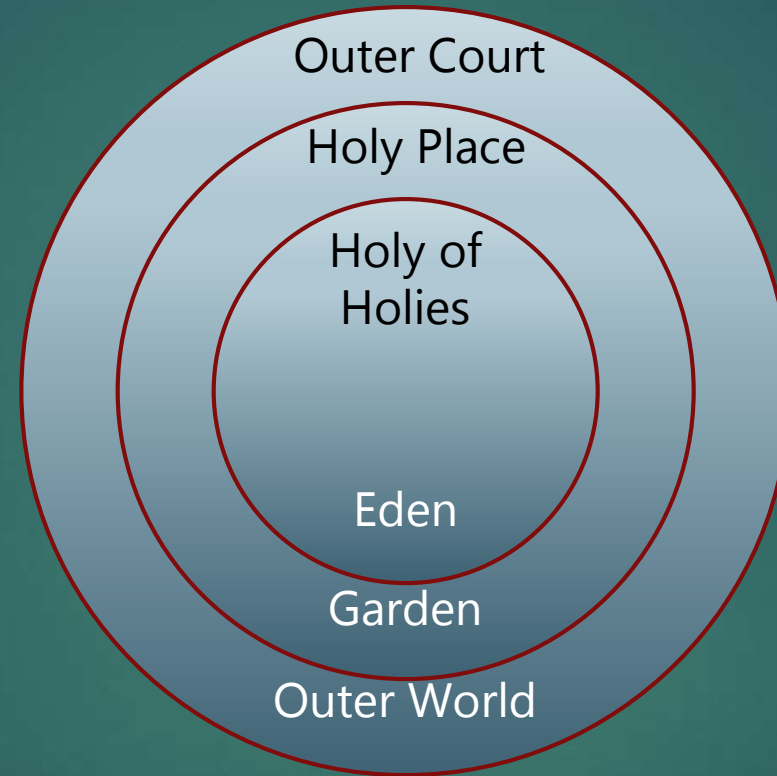
The River of Life

[1] Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb [2] through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. (ESV)

River of Life and the Temple

- ▶ The River of Life
 - ▶ It abounds with God's presence.
 - ▶ It comes from the innermost place of God.
 - ▶ It extends to the nations.
- ▶ The Temple
 - ▶ God's holiness is supremely present in the Holy of Holies.
 - ▶ God's holiness spreads out to the Holy Place, then to the outer courts where Israel would worship, and then the nations outside.

Parallels of Eden and the Temple



Beale, G. K.. God Dwells Among Us: Expanding Eden to the Ends of the Earth (p. 21).
InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition.

Thy Kingdom Come...

Our Father, which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.

Thy Kingdom come.

Thy will be done in earth,
As it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts,

As we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

The power, and the glory,

For ever and ever.

Amen.

Thy Kingdom Come...

- ▶ When we pray, "Thy Kingdom come," we are praying that God's Kingdom be extended throughout the world.
- ▶ We participate in bringing God's Kingdom throughout the world.
- ▶ We do that by drinking fully from the abundance and life found in God's presence.

Psalm 36

Psalm 36:7–9

[7] How precious is your steadfast love, O God!
The children of mankind take refuge in the
shadow of your wings.

[8] They feast on the abundance of your house,
and you give them drink from the river of your
delights [literally, “Edens”].

[9] For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light do we see light. (ESV)

Thy Kingdom Come...

- ▶ In God's presence the river of Eden flows that brings abundant life.
- ▶ Regularly drink deeply from the river of His delights.
- ▶ We often drink from other places, entertainment, ceaseless activity, empty friendships.
 - ▶ While friendships, entertainment, activity are good, they are not substitutes for drinking deeply from God.
- ▶ Sacrifice to be in the presence of God:
 - ▶ Read God's word.
 - ▶ Meditate on God's word.
 - ▶ Pray.
 - ▶ Participate regularly in the Sunday worship service.
- ▶ Share God's presence with others.
 - ▶ Locally, neighbors, work associates, friends, family.
 - ▶ Around the world.