

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON 1 - SYMBOLS OF EDEN

Luke 24:26-28 (New International Version)

²⁷And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

What did Christ “explain”/“interpret” to these two disciples? Do you not understand the Messiah

was revealed in the names of the Patriarchs

was seen in the numerology of the flood

was revealed in the zodiac (heavenlies)

was symbolized in the sacrifice of Isaac

was symbolized in Issac’s choice of a bride

was Jacob’s pillow & ladder to Heaven

was seen in the Tabernacle & Temple structure

was revealed as Messiah ben Joseph

was revealed in the scepter of Judah

was the voice from the bush

was in the numerology of the 10 plagues

was symbolized in the Exodus from Israel’s sin

was seen in all the feasts from Passover - Tabern

was revealed in all the prophets

But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you”? Genesis 3.1

What is Alice in Wonderland really all about? Symbols & allegory

What does Moby Dick symbolize? Evil, chaos, something in our lives that is impossible to control.

TO THE SKEPTIC - GOD has delivered the Bible so that both a child and a PhD can understand. The Sunday school lessons are not always simple children’s stories about Adam, Eve, Noah, David and a Giant. GOD uses a mysterious mixture of truth with symbolism to explain His purpose.

The Bible is literally filled with symbols from Genesis to the Revelation. Have you ever thought to yourself, “It seems like there’s something more going on here...”?

By the time we get to Revelation (the capstone of Biblical prophecy), the symbols all come rushing over us like a giant wave. In fact, it is quite impossible to understand the Revelation of John (the last book in the Bible) without understanding the symbols of Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel (the Prophets). And, it is totally impossible to understand the *symbols* of the Prophets without understanding the symbols of Eden. (Genesis, the Beginning)

The Garden of Eden is not just about a beautiful garden. And, in Genesis 3 when the LORD God calls out to man, **“Where are you?”** He knows the answer!.

What might, **“where are you”** mean? What has happened to your spiritual walk with Me?

Why not make it simple? So that those wishing to learn might be given a glimpse of heavenly things.

Hint - Those symbols are coded messages that the Creator of the Universe has given to anyone who will listen that literally decrypt the secrets of the universe.

In John Cleary’s The Phoenix Tree (Which incidentally, is a metaphor in itself).

After referencing the Garden of Eden, the General's wife asks the American-Japanese spy if he is a Christian. **"You're not a Christian are you?"** He replies, **"No, I always found it to be too complicated."**

C.S. Lewis (atheist turned Christian) also found things heavenly to be at times less than Pablum (baby food). In fact, he said you would *expect* concepts in Christianity to require thinking about, if they are true.

"The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. (Matthew 13:11)

What does Jesus mean? For the person who wishes, the Bible reveals secrets into the cosmos.

The Bible was written to teach. At the same time giving those *willing* to learn a very special gift; the knowledge of *heavenly* things.

A deeper knowledge that even angels wish to comprehend. (The Apostle Peter, 1 Pet 1:10-12)

Wow! What does this mean? 1 Cor 2 – the Bible reveals wisdom of GOD, secrets hidden but to us.

My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power. We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. (The Apostle Paul 1 Corinthians 2:4-7)

Those *willing* to learn are rewarded with knowledge from God Himself. Those *not* interested may simply go about their business.

GOD uses symbols so that we might understand visually. We are to see the images rise before us in succession, layer upon layer, allowing them to evoke a response in our hearts and minds.

PERFECT EXAMPLE - To those who really know their Bible and have noted the literary patterns and images, even the Book of Revelation looks familiar. To those who have not, it looks very confusing. Bottom line? The Bible is trying to get us to "think" rather than vegetate.

"He who has ears, let him hear." The disciples came to him and asked, "Why do you speak to the people in parables?" He replied, "The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. Jesus, Matthew 13:9-11 (WHO ARE THEM?)

The Bible's literary style is ingenious. It allows the one who is interested, the gift of unlimited knowledge of GOD. It allows the one who is not, the option of following his or her, own path to whatever end that may be.

"Even Angels long to see into these things." - The Apostle Peter

THE PARADISE THEME

Runs from Genesis to the Revelation. And, it all points to one "He" of Genesis 3:15 back in the Garden.

To understand this theme we must understand certain symbols used in the setting of the Garden of Eden. GOD has in fact, gone to a lot of trouble to explain some very specific details about what happened. He does it in a story about a Garden so that all humans at any level of learning might understand.

The story of Eden contains three basic ideas.

1. [Creation](#)
2. [Fall](#)
3. Restoration by GOD through a certain ["He"](#).

One basic and overriding theme is that point #3 restores humans to point #1 (where we are supposed to be, even today!) In other words, [redemption through this "He" restores us to our original purpose.](#)

And, what is that purpose?

[IN THE BEGINNING GOD created man IN HIS OWN IMAGE so like GOD, man would have DOMINION.](#)

Dominion over what? [The Creation \(earth\).](#) in the same manner in which GOD has dominion over [His Creation \(the Universe\)](#). [Here we see a pattern.](#)

Genesis 1: 26-28 *Then God said, "let us make a man in our image, in our likeness, and let him rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." (DOMINION)*

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground." (DOMINION)

That task of domain began in the Garden of Eden but it was not supposed to end there, for man was ordered to have dominion over the whole earth. There were no restrictions in **THE ORIGINAL PLAN.**

Adam and Eve were to extend the blessing of Paradise throughout the entire world.

This is where I think the Catholic Church gets it all wrong. Although the original sin is connected with sex (dominion over something which requires sex), it was not sex in itself. [The fall was not sexual sin. The fall was rebellion against GOD, choice of an alternative god and, rejection of the original purpose to be in the image of GOD and have dominion over the earth in the same manner GOD has dominion over all existence.](#) Adam and Eve (and their children) were to extend the blessings of Paradise through the entire perfect world. (Sex was part of the Plan from the beginning but in the right context)

But [when man rebelled he lost the ability to have GODLY dominion because he lost fellowship with his Creator.](#) [Think about childbirth. Woman is to have pain in childbirth. Does that not mean no pain before?](#)

[While fallen man is still the image of GOD he is now a naked image \(Genesis 3:7\) for he has lost his original covering, the glory of GOD \(~~Rem-3:23~~\) typo - should be Gal 3:27 & 2 Cor 5 1-3](#)

Where do we see this symbolism? [clothed will not be naked & baptized = clothed w Christ.](#)

[The image of GOD remains to some extent in all men, but the image has become twisted, marred, disfigured and broken as a result of sin.](#)

And, the whole earth that was intended to become GOD'S Garden-Temple (We will see this theme later in the Exodus), has instead become a wilderness of thorns, thistles, sweat, scarcity, pollution and death.

Romans. 8: 18-19 *I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. The creation itself waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope.*

But that isn't the end of the story!

SOMETHING TO PONDER We see a remnant of the beauty of the original Garden all around us and marvel at how it can be sustained against parasites, disease, all things evil. What does this mean? [Without GOD's intervention \(Christ\), nothing would sustain against entropy.](#)

We do not know exactly what Adam and Eve were like in the Garden. We are, however, given a glimpse of what they were most likely like in their created state before the Fall when we see Jesus, post-resurrection. In that body He is able to transcend time and space.

THE "HE" OF GENESIS 3:15

On the very day GOD pronounces judgment upon man and the earth, he pronounces a greater judgment upon the tempter declaring that a Redeemer, a certain "He" would someday come to crush the serpent's head. **Genesis 3:15**

"The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work." 1 John 3:8

SALVATION through the "He" of Genesis 3 restores man to his original calling and purpose and guarantees that man's original mandate (to exercise dominion over the whole earth) will eventually be fulfilled. [The symbols presented in Eden help us understand this plan.](#)

In Genesis 3:15 God tells us that [the Redeemer will be a certain "He"](#). In other words, it will be a human figure. We will see later that Adam and Eve, as well as their ancestors, look anxiously for this "He" to appear and remove the curse. (This is especially true up to the time of the Great Flood)

[One of the more fascinating series of symbols of Eden relate to the coming of this "He"](#).

As Christians we understand through prophesy, as well as personal testimony, Jesus Christ is that "He" prophesied in Genesis 3:15.

Here are a few of the symbols presented by God in Genesis for us to ponder.

God breathed into Adam the breath of life. In Greek the word used here for "breath" is the same word as Spirit.

What happens in John 20:22? [What John witnessed was Christ repeating His act of Creation that had occurred between Him and Adam, in the beginning](#)

What joy it must have given Christ to have repeated the event of Genesis-Creation after "He" had finally fulfilled Genesis 3:15.

In the Garden man had an eternal lifetime to fulfill his purpose as the image of God but, through the sin of Adam (first man) that eternal life was altered.

The last Adam. The Apostle Paul explains that Christ came as the "Last Adam" [in order to undo the damage brought through the first Adam.](#)

If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam (here Paul refers to Christ as the last Adam), a lifegiving spirit. 1 Corinthians 15:45

[Man and creation are inseparably linked](#). Following the fall, man still had the same purpose but now the penalty was to toil in a creation that produced thorns. [It was man's purpose to have dominion over that creation](#).

Paul understands this when he writes. ***"The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that [the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.]"*** Romans 8:19-21

The imagery is a creation which itself, moans over the fall, and eagerly awaits a time when nature and man will be reunited as it was in Eden. That is Heaven!

As to those thorns...More symbols are given.

THE CROWN OF THORNS

Christ bore **thorns** on his head as He hung on a "tree".

What are the two trees in the Garden? (see Gen 2:9 & Rev 22:1-2) [Tree of life](#) [tree of knowledge of good AND evil](#). What might they symbolize? [Tree of life was literally a tree that sustained life by overcoming entropy or it is Christ](#). Tree of knowledge [\(gave knowledge not life\)](#), [evil was there before they sinned. This knowledge allowed them to desire evil.](#) (note: [Adam took the fruit jointly with Eve](#))
"To him who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God" (Rev. 2:7).

THE THORN BUSH

The bush that Moses saw and could not be consumed was the acacia bush, the same type of desert thorn bush used for a crown on the head of Jesus.

THROUGH THIS "HE" OF GENESIS 3:15

In Christ we are a [new creation](#) - 2 Corinthians 5:17

As this new [creation](#) we have been "**re-created in God's image**" Ephesians 4:24 & Colossians 3:10

As new [creations](#) we are **re-clothed** (remember Adam and Even were **naked images of God?**), (with what?) **with the Glory of God**" Romans 8:29 – 30

Note: The same glory that gave eternal life in Eden incidentally led the Children of Israel through the thorns and thistles of the wilderness. (symbolic of being cast out of Eden)

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the [see also Ps 37:9-11 \(Jesus quotes David\)](#). Matt 5:5

We have taken a brief look at the Paradise theme of Creation, Fall and Redemption through Christ.

SUMMARY

We have seen some of the imagery that explains our purpose and condition.

- We were created in the image of GOD but that image became a tarnished and corrupted image.
- Our purpose was to have dominion over a Paradise just as GOD has dominion over Creation.
- Creation itself moans because of the corruption and eagerly awaits a time when both earth and universe will be restored to their original state.

Our Spiritual Transition Begins On Earth

The original state of Adam and Eve were like that of Christ following His resurrection. When we accept Christ as Savior, our condition begins a transition back towards that original state (we become new creations), with the final metamorphosis occurring upon our resurrection from death.

Where in Romans does Paul describe this transformation? Romans 6:4; 3:23 (for all have sinned..)

None of this is accomplished by anything of our own doing. (How could it?)

That is why religious effort is good for personal behavior but not for the ultimate spiritual attainment we seek as Christians. The spiritual attainment we seek is to be in our original image (the way we were supposed to be).

The original purpose and plan can only be restored through GOD Himself.

Therefore, **GOD will crush the head of the one who instigated an alternative plan through the sacrifice of a certain "He" who will appear at a certain time after man has been cast out of Paradise. Genesis 3:15**

This "He" will be the "**last Adam**", the last and only One who brings about a resolution to the acts of the first Adam. 1 Cor 15:22&45

(VS 22) For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

(VS 45) So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit.

We see then that Scripture explains Salvation as a *process* back to our original state in the Garden.

Since it is a process, GOD provides some of the answers along the way much like a student learns along the way from Kindergarten to University.

Ultimately, Biblical salvation: 1) Turns back the **curse**. 2) Brings back **Edenic** conditions; 3) Repairs our personal and **spiritual** relationships; 4) Blesses the **earth** in every area.

The whole earth will be saved and remade into the Garden of GOD (a *new earth*).

IN A VERY REAL SENSE, GOD's people have always lived in the original Garden. As we will see, this theme will be replayed again and again.

EXAMPLE: When the **people of the promise** go into Egypt the lush area they inhabit is described as "**like the Garden of the Lord**" (Goshen) (Gen 45.18; 47;5-6,11,27)

In this Edenic location they are described as having been **fruitful and multiplied**. (Ex 1.7) (Hear the Edenic language?)

The Promised Land also reflected an area where it seemed as if the curse had been reversed. It was like the Garden of Eden (Joel 2.3) flowing with **milk and honey** (Ex 3.8)

Incidentally, even modern technology is a process of recovering what would/should have been.

In other words, our modern technology (our ability to create) is GOD allowing us to glimpse the technology of Heaven. (Previews of coming attractions).