

MORE THAN A GARDEN

God's Earthly Abode

Ezekiel 28:13-14 (ESV)

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. 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.

PREPARATION FOR VIDEO

- ♦ Pray for wisdom and understanding of the content.
- ♦ Read Chapters: 10-11 from The Unseen Realm
- ♦ Review viewer guide and Questions for Deeper Understanding.

Viewer Guide

Understanding God's cosmic abode and the heavenly hosts that occupied it helps to explain the story in Genesis 2 and 3. By reading other passages beyond the Genesis story we can also gain a bigger picture of the narrative and how it played out ending with the expulsion of Adam and Eve from the garden and the casting down of the original rebel to the underworld.

What was the Garden of Eden?

The Garden of Eden in Genesis 2 and 3 was more than a _____.

- ♦ Ezekiel 28:11 - King of Tyre passage has the backdrop of a cosmic _____. "You were in Eden, the garden of God."
- ♦ V 14 "You were an anointed guardian cherub. I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God;"
- ♦ V 16 "I cast you as a profane thing from the mountain of God, and I destroyed you... from the midst of the stones of fire."

Eden was God's home, the _____, _____, scholars refer to as "Cosmic Garden or Mountain" idea.



POINT TO PONDER

God could have made everything perfect but chose instead to have mankind participate with Him.

There was clearly more going on in the Garden, than what we typically think of.

What are the stones of fire?

References to stones of fire or luminous fiery gems in Ezekiel 28. Biblical references to stones of fire, fiery stones falling from the sky, other celestial phenomena are not just language for stars and meteors.

- ♦ In Job 38:7 – stars and celestial objects are associated with _____ beings.
- ♦ Residents of the sky refer to God's heavenly host meaning both celestial objects and beings loyal to God.

Eden was a place where God lived and held court with his _____, his heavenly host / Divine Council.

Eden was also a concept.

In the ancient world, gods were perceived as living in the best places- nothing lacking, _____. Mountains stretched to the heavens where God is. Artificial mountains were built in some cultures: Mesopotamian _____, Egyptian _____.

Eden / cosmic mountain is where heaven and earth _____, where God comes to man, where God lives.

Eden wasn't the entire earth—Eden was a real place, described in terms of specific geography.

- ♦ Genesis 2:10 "a river flowed out of Eden... it divided and became four rivers."
_____, _____, _____, and _____.
- ♦ The latter two are in Mesopotamia "the land of the two rivers."

God tasked Adam and Eve to care for and maintain Eden, and to rule over and subdue the rest of the earth. Which is why they needed to be fruitful and multiply!

This is directly related to Adam and Eve imaging God! God created mankind to function as His proxy on earth, in a role to do certain tasks—subdue the earth, bring it into _____ and to care for it.

God could have made everything perfect but chose instead to have mankind _____ with Him in the task of making the whole earth like Eden.

But Satan ruined everything – how did he get there?

Review Ezekiel 28 and Isaiah 14. Then read Genesis 3.

Who is the villain in Genesis 3? The serpent. (Heb. "*ha nachash*") The word _____ is not used. The serpent is not called Satan anywhere in the bible until Revelation 12.

Ezekiel 28 and Isaiah 14 both use backdrop / backstory of a cosmic rebellion.

"How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn... you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high. I will sit on the

mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north. I will ascent above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.” - Isaiah 14:12-14 (ESV)

One member of God’s heavenly host (who is with God in Eden) doesn’t like the arrangement with humanity, and decides that he wants to make the decisions and be like the Most High.

- ♦ Ps 8:5 *Humanity was made a little lesser than the Elohim.*
- ♦ Heb 2:7 *A little lower than the angels.*

He either transforms himself or somehow already appears _____ - _____.
(Cherubim and Seraphim are throne guardians—supernatural beings protecting sacred space.)

He decides he wants to be in authority and make decisions about people, in opposition to God’s plan. This is where we get term “**ha satan**” = “the _____.”

Is there a contradiction between the Old and New Testament about the serpent and Satan?

Although some make that distinction because the term “_____” is not found in Genesis 3.

In Eden there was a supernatural _____ / enemy / opponent in the heavenly host. So even though the writer does not use the term “satan” we still have the opposition and hostility.

Similarly, “Lucifer” is used. This comes from the Latin translation of “shining one,” the supernatural rebel in Isaiah 14. Different vocabulary at different times are used to describe the adversary.

During the intertestamental period many terms were used in the believing community for the original rebel.

- ♦ Satan, Belial (the worthless one), Greek Diabolos (the slanderer) and all refer to the same entity. Also Beelzebul.

The theology is consistent; the words used to describe him developed over time.

Is it possible that they aren’t connected because the serpent was just a snake, an animal?

In ancient literature, when animals start to talk with people it means the _____ are up to something.

The supernatural being in Genesis 3 is known as “a bright shining star” (Is 14) and cherub (Ezekiel 28).

Ha nachash “the serpent” has different shades of meaning. Can mean “serpentine” or “one who dispenses information / divination” or “the shining one” which correlates to Isaiah 14. All these concepts are in play with this individual.

What about “Satan” in the book of Job?

While there is a supernatural being / adversary in Isiah 14, Ezekiel 28 and Genesis 3, that is not the same as Job 1 and 2. English doesn’t tolerate a _____ - _____ in front of a personal name, i.e. “The Mike.” Hebrew works the same.

Every place in Job 1 and 2 (and Zechariah 3) you see “Satan” the Hebrew text says “_____ satan.”

This actually means “**The Adversary**.”

In Job, we have a Divine Council meeting and “*the satan*” shows up.

The Lord said to Satan, “From where have you come?” Satan answered the Lord and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.”
(Job 1:7)

Up to this point, the satan is doing his job. But things go awry when he challenges what God says about Job being “blameless and upright, who fears God and turns from evil” (v 7). A line has been crossed. The satan has challenged / questioned God’s omniscience and integrity.

This “Satan” is not the same as the Genesis 3 and Ezekiel 28 rebel– he has been cast down to the earth (Heb: *eret*) which is also the word for underworld, which was conceived as being inside the earth.

Once Eden was ruined we now have death, and a realm of the _____. But there is no scriptural connection between the **nachash** and **ha satan** in Job.

The book of Job teaches us that we are supposed to learn sometimes bad things happen to really good people and they have no idea why. There could be something greater going on that they will never know.

Didn’t God know the Fall was going to happen? Was it predestined? Does God cause evil?

_____ does not necessitate predestination. God knew it would happen and prepared, but this doesn’t require it to happen.

- ♦ 1 Sam 23—God foreknows two things that _____ happen.

Then David said, “O LORD the God of Israel, your servant has surely heard that Saul seeks to come to Kailah, to destroy the city on my account. Will the men of Kailah surrender me into his hand?” Will Saul come down, as your servant has heard? O LORD, the God of Israel, please tell your servant.”

And the LORD said, “He will come down.” Then David said, “Will the men of Kailah surrender me and my men into the hand of Saul?” And the LORD said, “they will surrender you.”

David does not go to Kailah, and Saul gives up the expedition. Neither of the things God foresaw happened. So the things God foresaw were not predestined to happen. What He _____, He does not necessarily cause .

God knows what is going to happen before he creates humankind. He knows there will be failure and a cost. God has also created the heavenly beings to be his proxies there, as we are His proxies on earth.

Part of giving us that status means sharing His attributes, such as intelligence and creativity. We also share the quality of free will, the ability to _____ between good and evil.

He knows they will fail because although they are like God in some ways, they lack His _____ nature. He plans for when failure happens and evil enters either realm, and He has a means to _____ the people and reverse death and the circumstances of the Fall.

God does not cause evil. He knows that evil will be a part of His world and plans for it. Even though evil would be a part of His world, He chose to create anyway!

This doesn't minimize suffering. We all suffer because of the Fall. We also shouldn't minimize our understanding of God's grief over evil.

He wanted us to exist, and to be a part of His family.

What Stood Out to You?

Questions for Deeper Understanding

What information would you use to defend the idea that Eden was not the entire world but an actual smaller specific area on earth?

Why is the reading of Isaiah 14:12-14 a critical passage to the understanding of Genesis 3 and the serpent?

The original rebel has had many terms to describe him throughout the bible. How would you explain these various names?

Why is “*the satan*” in Job not the same entity as the original rebel in Genesis 3?

Why did God instruct “*the satan*” to travel the earth to watch and record what was going on with the humans on earth?

By stating that God knew ahead of time what would happen in the garden and the Fall, did that mean God made it happen? Defend your answer.

Prayer Request

- ◆
- ◆
- ◆
- ◆
- ◆



Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up.

James 5:13-15 (ESV)

Other Resources to Consider:

- ◆ www.nakedbiblepodcast.com
- ◆ www.drmsb.com
- ◆ www.moreunseenrealm.com
- ◆ The Divine Council Worldview Facebook Group

Lesson guides developed by Missy Chapman, Deborah Elmquist, and Duretta Anderson