

The Garden of Responsibility

Genesis 2:8-17

Garden: enclosure, Heb: *gan*, from 01598 *gan-naw*: to defend, cover, surround)

Easton: Gardens were surrounded by hedges of thorns Isa 5:5 or by walls of stone Pr 24:31 "Watch-towers" or "lodges" were also built in them Isa 1:8; Mark 12:1 in which their keepers sat. They were frequently used as places for secret prayer and communion with God Gen 24:63; Mt 26:30-36; John 1:48; 18:1,2 The dead were sometimes buried in gardens Gen 23:19,20; 2Ki 21:18,26; 1Sa 25:1; Mark 15:46; John 19:41

Eden: Translated Paradise in the Septuagint. It is generally accepted that it was situated in modern Iraq because of the rivers mentioned in the scripture. These are a few thoughts on the Garden itself:

1. A PREPARED PLACE (Gen 2:8, John 14:2)

2. A PROTECTED PLACE (Gen 3:24) see Easton's (Garden: enclosure, Heb: *gan*, from 01598 *gan-naw*: to defend, cover, surround)

Job 31:4 Doth not he see my ways, and count all my steps?

Job 34:21 For his eyes are upon the ways of man, and he seeth all his goings.

Ps 56:8 Thou tellest my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle: are they not in thy book?

Ps 139:1-3 O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways.

3. A PURPOSED PLACE (Gen. 2:15)

Ecc 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

Mt 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

4. A PRINCIPLED PLACE (Gen 2:16; Ex 20:1-17), (a place of principles or morals)

The beginning of morality is choice (Jos. 24:15, choose you this day, **De. 30:15-20**)

5. A PROVING PLACE (Gen 2:17; Jos 24:15).

THOU SHALT SURELY DIE:

Death: the basic meaning of death is separation. Death does not mean what some people think: ceasing to exist. Death never means extinction, annihilation, non-existence, or inactivity.

The Bible speaks of three deaths.

1. Physical death: the separation of a man's spirit or life from the body. This is what men commonly call death. It is when a person ceases to exist on this earth and is buried (1 Cor. 15:21-22; Hebrews 9:27).

2. Spiritual death: the separation of man's spirit from God while he is still living and walking upon earth. This death is the natural state of a man on earth without Christ. Man is seen as still in his sins and dead to God (Eph. 2:1; Eph. 4:18; 1 John 5:12). Spiritual death speaks of a person who is dead while he still lives (1 Tim. 5:6). He is a natural man living in this present world, but he is said to be dead to the Lord Jesus Christ and to God and to spiritual matters.

3. Eternal death: the separation of man from God's presence forever. This is the second death, an eternal state of being dead to God (1 Cor. 6:9-10; 2 Thes. 1:9). It is spiritual death, separation from God, that is prolonged beyond the death of the body. It is called the "second death" or eternal death. (Romans 6:23, Romans 8:6, 2, Thes. 1:7-9, Rev. 20:14-15).