

## **The forgotten Garden**

Isaiah 41.10

In Genesis 1:1 we have read the story unknown number of times.

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Then verse 2 ... 2 The earth became tohu/bohu that means chaotic, and in confusion; and darkness was on the face of the deep.

Verse 27 ....So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female

And then He made woman and gave her to Adam for wife. All of God's creation was for man.

Then He designed and made a magnificent garden for man. The Garden of Eden.

Many people have wondered what happened to the Garden of Eden because we know where it was. It was somewhere along the Euphrates River.

Adam and Eve had the garden to look at and could talk with each other. But what did they have to talk about? They did not have any body to talk too or talk about.

Genesis 2:9 And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food.

They were put there for two reasons.

One; some trees are great for food

And two some trees are beautiful to look at.

What else did Adam and Eve have to do? Adam could lay around and look at the beauty of Eve. They could eat the food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Now the little secret about Adam and Eve in the garden is they were going to have to work.

Genesis 2:15 Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to tend and keep it.

What happened here is the same thing that happened to the earth and heavens. It was not maintained properly. In a little while you could walk right by it and not tell where it had been. Also in the midst of the garden was the tree of knowledge of good and evil. A river went out of Eden to water the garden.

I expect in a few generations you could wonder by the ‘garden of Eden and not even been able to tell where the garden had been- that is the way things go in the world.

There was a book by Charles Krauthammer on foreign policy where he brought up a phrase – a state of nature .We live as countries, nations and peoples in a state of nature. And the implications are the world went into a state of nature and it’s a most undesirable and chaotic place to be. If your look at your children - unless we dress and keep the minds of our children they will return to a state of nature. Some of our children begin to kill one another. Look around and you can prove this. – Look at what is happening today.

Gen 1 vs 1 We saw in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth and the earth became chaotic and in confusion. In other words the earth was a mess – it was in something resembling a state of nature – God with staggering amount of energy brought order out of chaos and He created the world we see. Ever since that day the world has been headed back into a state of chaos – it’s the law –

Now I told you all that to get to the point –precisely the same thing is true in the area of morals – just as God imposed order on the universe, just as God imposed order on this planet and just as He imposed order in the Garden of Eden He imposed order on the mind of man – and unless the mind of man is kept and dressed it will return to a state of nature and utter chaos. I really don’t think people think about this very much.

In our country something noticeable has changed with hardly any explanations of school shooting and bombings - the problem is not with guns but with the mind of our children. By all means – I think we should have laws and efforts to keep guns out of schools – I have no problem with

that but I cannot for a minute imagine that we have solved the problem when we have done this – The problem is with the minds of children, the problem is with individuals. Something has gone dreadfully wrong in our culture.

Paul wrote in Romans one of those things which are not right where people are being filled with unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covertness, maliciousness and filled with envy, debate, murder, deceit, malignity, whisperers. We could stop right there because we have a good list of wickedness, don't we.

We've got a terrible list of sin and description of a people in our society. But he went on and said back biters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boosters, inventors of evil things, disrespectful to parents.

I could stop again because we have enough. Don't we? But there is more they are without understanding, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful, knowing the judgment of God if they commit such things are worthy of death. They not only do the same but take their joy in them.

When everything is said and done, when all of a sudden we find ourselves in that boat with Adam. We have a garden, it's the church. It is our family and we have the command to dress it and keep it.

Most of us live ourselves somewhere between Chaos and beauty. Somewhere in that no man's land and we know that it takes a significant amount of thought and planning and work – to keep chaos from overwhelming us. .Keep chaos out of our family and out of God's Church because you know and I know that our family and the church deserve better than a state of nature.