

New Series

3-in-1 Publishing

Presents



FACING LIFE'S CHALLENGES — SERIES 1

'Building Eden'

By

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'Then the LORD God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man who He had formed.' Gen 2:8

In the Scripture above we are told that there was place at the beginning of this world, and in this new world that the LORD had there was a place named Eden. In this place the LORD planted a garden, He planted seeds. How do we know this? Because in verse Gen 2 verse 9 we are told that *'Out of the ground the LORD God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food...'* a plant or tree cannot grow unless it has a seed; and it was only whenever the plants had been caused to grow and that the Tree of Life and the Tree of Knowledge are mentioned, then and only then did God finally put man in the garden to cultivate and look after it (verse15). Erroneously many believers think that Adam was created in Eden, Adam was formed out of the ground but the location is not disclosed, nor is it important but what God wanted him to do once created is important and we are given a location.

We all know the rest and how the fall came about and how man was cast out of the haven of Eden never to return. However, that didn't stop man from yearning to be in the garden again? I have often thought that with our finite minds we initially look at the scriptures here and we tend to question what God did – why did God do that? Why did He cast His creation out of the garden that would offer continued protection? After all the serpent had been dealt with, our 'gut reaction' is God's punishment...Well if we can go deeper for a moment and examine the Word more and examine God's character more I would like to tease out another suggestion:

'God is not a man, so he does not lie. He is not human, so he does not change his mind. Has he ever spoken and failed to act? Has he ever

promised and not carried it through? Numbers 23:19 (New Living Translation)

So what does this tell us? God cannot lie, he is not human he does not change His mind, whatever He says He is going to do, He does it! And He always keeps His promises! Wow! So let us look at this in the context of Adam and Eve – firstly Eve had been deceived, but it was Adam who disobeyed God and as a result both were cast out of the garden – so was this punishment or did God have no choice in view of the ‘freewill’ decision man had just made?

So what had Adam and Eve lost? Both of them had known God like no other human being in the history of the world until Jesus would come to earth. If I can hold your attention for a moment and ‘speculate’ purely from the perspective of what our minds consider human nature. Spiritually we have all been created in God’s image but we received a spiritual inheritance from Adam and Eve that still is innate in our human nature or spiritual DNA to this day as we are all born in sin and into this fallen world; this is only redeemed through the Cross and Jesus’ sacrifice and resurrection and our acceptance of the Son. If you can look at the world today and compare it to what God had originally intended the door is supposed to swing the other way. Ok let me flesh this out a bit more, if you go to a door and it opens towards you, you immediately recognise this as ‘someone has hung this door the wrong way and it is awkward to try and get through – you usually have to squeeze past!’ However, what the problem with man is that he is born in sin, spiritually blind, the door is opening, and he thinks it’s the right way – it is not until he receives his spiritual sight through the light of Christ that he begins to realise he has been opening this door the wrong way all his life! Everything in this world is like ‘Wonderland’ the clock that goes backwards for instance, this was not the way it was supposed to be or how God had ordained it – once you get this and I mean really get this you begin to see what God had really intended and as you live your life through applying the Word your closeness to God

becomes more tangible than ever before and He can begin to move more easily in your life, restoring the relationship He always desired to have with man through His Son Jesus and the redeeming power that the Cross brings...

Many of us as believers and non-believers are constantly trying to get back to Eden by creating our own Eden’s – we believe that by having that bigger car or house, taking those dream holidays will enable us to re-create our own Eden somehow, these things making us better people. The things of this world will never become your Eden – they will fade away. Believe it or not Eden is right there in front of you and His name is JESUS – hang the door the right way for once He will be right there waiting for you and joy and fulfilment will enter your life in abundance...

God Bless

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