

SERMON 1

“And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden, to dress it and to keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it; for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die” Genesis 2:15-17.

If we look into this text it will be seen that it contains three points to be explained:

1. What is the garden of Eden;
2. What is the dressing and keeping of it;
3. What is the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, upon the eating of which the death of the mortal body was to take place.

First

We must remember that man is composed of spirit, soul, and body (1st Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 4:12). The Lord having created the male and female spirit, called both their names Adam in the day they were created (Genesis 5:2) and placed them in one body, calling it a garden, it then being an immortal body by being in the Immortal Spirit, which is paradise. But in this body there were two parts placed, called good and evil. *“Shall there be evil in a city, and the Lord hath not done it?”* Amos 3:6. And God commanded man to be fruitful, and multiply and replenish the earth, and subdue it (Genesis 2:15: 1:28). That is, to subdue the evil of it; but where the evil subdued them it brought the body liable to death, which is a separation of the body from the soul and spirit. But *“to him that overcometh (the evil) will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God”* Revelation 2:7. Which will then be the fulfilling of the command given at the first to dress and keep the garden of Eden, or Paradise. But the Lord, seeing that it was not good that man should be alone

(Genesis 2:18), took a rib from the side of the man and made of it another body, and then took the female spirit and placed it to work the members of that body; and the man Adam called her name Woman (Genesis 2:23) and she is the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for the proof of which we shall now draw your attention to various passages both in the Old and New Testaments.

It is well understood by those who have searched the Scriptures, that man is often set forth in figurative language as a tree. Isaiah speaks of trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord (Isaiah 60:3). Jesus says, *"I am the vine, ye are the branches"* John 15:5. And Paul, to show the Jew and the Gentile, calls them the natural olive and the wild olive, and also calls Jesus the olive tree into which they had the promise of being grafted (Romans 11:16-24).

But where, it may be said, is it written in the Scriptures that the woman is the tree of knowledge of good and evil? Upon referring to the law given by God unto Moses, it will be found that there is a time of separation for woman (Leviticus 15:19-33) and if man touched her in that state, or during the seven days after she came out of that state, (the seven days being a figure of the seven thousand years, Satan not being totally destroyed till the seven thousand years are ended), he became unclean. Now it is written in Ecclesiastes 3:14, *"That, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be forever: nothing can be put to it, nor anything taken from it"*. Thus, we shall find throughout the Scriptures that the commands given at various times are all designed to bring man back to that obedience from which he fell at the first.

Thus, at the creation, the woman being seduced by the serpent, was overcome by him whilst in that state of separation; and the woman overcame the man. *"And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression"* 1st Timothy 2:14. And Paul testifies of this lust in the body, where he says, *"For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing: so then with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin"* Romans 7:18,25. And by the same evil working in the woman she presented herself to man, and man partaking of her

in that state, which he was commanded not to do, became mixed with the evil seed, which is compared to tares in the parable of Jesus (Matthew 13:24-30) and man not having the power within him of purifying his seed, as the woman has, remains a marred vessel. *“Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden”* Genesis 3:23, which is his spirit called man, being driven to the outside of the garden or body; and the body then became under the sentence of death, *“Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it”* Ecclesiastes 12:7. And this sentence remains in force, and the soul sleeps in the earth until the resurrection, when it is raised a spiritual body for the spirit of man to dwell in (1st Corinthians 15:44; Acts 2:31) till the time the Lord shall accomplish His purpose, in bruising the serpent’s head in man, that then his Spirit may again re-enter, eat of the tree of life and live forever (Genesis 3:22). There being a set time for the fall, and a set time for the restoration of man. *“Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?”* Romans 9:12.

Man having thus become a marred vessel (Jeremiah 18:3,4), a degenerate plant (Jeremiah 2:21), a corrupted tree (Matthew 7:17,18), how could his offspring be pure? Did not the firstborn son of Adam, Cain, slay his brother Abel (Genesis 4:8). Thus proving by the fruit being corrupt that the tree was become corrupt. This then, is the third point in the text.

What are the conclusions to be derived from the foregoing points which have been touched upon? We see the way the veil of evil fell between man and his Creator: we see the spring or fountain of life closed, which Solomon speaks of in these words, *“A garden enclosed is my sister, my spouse; a spring shut up, a fountain sealed”* Songs 4:12. What is it that is sealed? The tree of life, the female Immortal Spirit, Jerusalem Above (Galatians 4:26), which withdrew from the mortal woman till the time that man and woman agree to seek for that evil, which has sealed the tree of life from them, to be taken away. For as they agreed in the fall, so must they agree to seek for the restoration; for the promise is not made to one but unto two. *“If two of you shall agree on earth as touching*

anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven” Matthew 18:19. Then shall the moral man and woman obtain the helpmate promised at the creation, which, if the mortal woman had looked unto the Immortal Woman at first, would she not have been able to have withstood the temptations of the serpent? But, *“The creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope”* Romans 5:14. Then after four thousand years had rolled away, the Lord fulfilled the promise, and showed the seed that would bruise the serpent’s head; of the good of the tree of the woman out of her separation, was produced a body of her seed, without the seed of man. *“A body hast thou prepared me”* Hebrews 10:5 (which was Jesus, the seed of the woman). Thus proving that the tree was good – capable, through God, of producing bodies that would not corrupt. Then if man had at the beginning waited till the woman’s seed was purified, *“But if she be cleansed of her issue, then she shall number to herself seven days, and after that she shall be clean”* Leviticus 15:28, would it not then have been a tree of good and life, instead of evil and death? *“To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life”* 2nd Corinthians 11:16. Mark, it is one tree in the midst of the garden that is able to produce either, being the body of the woman either in her separation or out of it.

And the Scriptures have handed down the descent of these two seeds, that man might discern of what kind he is of. It shows the witnesses of the promise, in each dispensation of two thousand years, that the head of the serpent will be bruised in man – the bruising of the serpent’s head signifying his power being totally taken away. Enoch in the first, Elijah in the second, were both produced with the marred seed of man, but that which marred them being removed – the Lord having caused that evil that was within them to wither (Ezekiel 17:10) their bodies saw not corruption, they receiving life instead of death.

And Jesus Christ, the witness of the third, though the blood of his mortal body, which was of the seed of the woman, was shed for the

sin of the world (tasting death for every man – John 1:29; Hebrews 2:9) yet his body saw not corruption (Acts 13:37)

And now in this, the third time, is given an open vision from heaven, which proclaims to all the nations of the earth that the time is come that the people of God shall no longer perish, but that the time is at hand when, *“the last enemy death, shall be destroyed”* 1st Corinthians 15:26. *“Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he”* Proverbs 29:18. And they will receive the promise of Jesus Christ, *“And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish”* John 10:28. Which is their mortal bodies that shall never perish; and that they come forth and seek that eye-salve (Revelation 3:18) by which their benighted eyes may be opened – that their covenant with death be disannulled, and their agreement with hell should not stand (Isaiah 28:18). They having agreed that their bodies should perish, being satisfied with the salvation of the soul. But the time is now come that those that believe in the Scriptures are required to go on to perfection and stand with Jesus against the evil of which the first Adam took. For though Jehovah scattered the seed of Israel into all nations (Amos 9:9) yet will they be gathered at the appointed time (Isaiah 11:11). *“One shall say I am the Lord’s; and another shall call himself by the name of Jacob; and another shall subscribe with his hand unto the Lord, and surname himself by the name of Israel”* Isaiah 45:5, Showing the three churches of the latter days:

1. the church of the Gentiles, who say they are the Lord’s’
2. the church of the Jews, who call themselves the descendants of Jacob and claim the fulfillment of the promises made to him; and
3. the church of Israel, who are to be gathered out from these two churches, they signing with their hands to have the seal – the seal of their hearts – broken open to them, that they may see the way the Lord has made known, by which their blood will be cleansed from the evil which was received in the fall by their forefather Adam (Joel 3:21, that their bodies, being thus prepared, become a temple for their own spirit, with the Spirit of God to enter

therein, it being then the temple of God (1st Corinthians 3:16); they then being immortal, death being destroyed (1st Corinthians 15:26), fulfilling Jesus' words, "*He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do*" John 14:12.

"At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you" John 14:20. *"And I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh"* Ezekiel 11:19. Man then dwelling between the root and branch, as Jesus dwelt, they being trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord (Isaiah 61:3), their branches spreading and filling the earth with fruit that shall not stand as uncircumcised (Leviticus 19:23), but a generation that shall praise the Lord (Psalm 102:18) that the knowledge of the Lord may fill the earth as the waters cover the sea (Isaiah 11:9). *"And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh (mortal flesh) shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it"* Isaiah 40:5. The Holy Jerusalem being then come down from heaven to the earth.