East Of Eden

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday March 8th, 2020

Text: Gen. 3:22-24

# Intro

1. **Genesis 2:8-15: The Garden of Eden**
	1. Eden *(H5731, from H5730)* means delight, bliss, pleasure, paradise!
	2. **Gen. 2:8-9: Man blessed by 3 kinds of trees: delicious food, tree of life *(immortality – Gen. 3:22-23),* and the tree of knowledge of good and evil (Choice to obey or not)**
	3. **Gen. 2:10-14:** River divided into 4 rivers & land filled with precious metals & minerals
	4. Gen. 2:15: Man placed in the Garden of Eden to live there and to cultivate it and keep it!
2. **In Genesis and elsewhere, when people go “east,” they leave the land of blessing (Eden and the Promised Land) for a land where their greatest hopes turn to ruin (IE: Sodom & Babylon – *Is. 2:6; 39:6).***
3. **Living East of Eden is Paradise Lost and efforts to regain it**
	1. **Adam and Eve were cast out of the Garden to the east – Gen. 3:22-24 (Lost their right to the tree of life)**
	2. **Cain was expelled from the presence of the Lord and went east – Gen. 4:16**
	3. **People moved east and built the tower of Babel – Gen. 11:2**
	4. **Lot separated from Abram and took the best lands toward the east – Gen. 13:10-11**
	5. **Sodom and Gomorrah were in the east, where Lot pitched his tent – Gen. 13:11-13**
4. Living “East of Eden” is a metaphor for life, for damage caused by sinful choices, and for seeking redemption!

# East of Eden = Sin & Death

1. It Was East of Eden...
	1. Where the consequence for sin was death brought into the world – Gen. 3:19, 22; 5:5
		1. Physical death became possible – Gen. 5:5 (Death of Adam)
		2. Spiritual death (separation from God) is the 2nd Death – Rom. 5:12-14; I Cor. 15:21-22; Rev. 20:11-15
	2. Where men began to trust their own wisdom and will instead of God's – Gen. 4:16, 19-24
		1. Away from the presence of the Lord – Gen. 4:16 *(Jn. 14:23: Obedience = fellowship with God) – Cain went to Nod, “east of Eden”*
		2. Marriage and the home corrupted and defiled – Gen. 4:19 *(2:21-22, 24; Mk. 10:6-8)*
		3. Oppression and injustice increased – Gen. 4:23-24
	3. Where men “began to call on the name of the Lord” – Gen. 4:25-26
		1. God did not forget His promise (seed of woman) – *Gen. 3:15*
		2. God gives us children to comfort us – Ps. 127:3
		3. The blessing of free will is confirmed there *(Ezek. 18:10-18)*
		4. Our culture does not define our faith! We must live above the culture – Rom. 13:11-14; Phil. 2:15
	4. Where people thoroughly corrupted themselves – Gen. 6:1-5
		1. Spiritual indifference (no love for God) – 6:5, 12 (Mt. 22:37)
		2. Violence (no love for others) – 6:11, 13 (Mt. 22:39)
	5. Where God's judgment against sin was announced and applied – *Gen. 6:6-7; 7:11-12, 19*
		1. Water judgment foreshadows fire judgment – II Pet. 3:5-7, 10 (The “Global Warming” all men ought to be truly concerned about!)
		2. How we live now determines our judgment – Jn. 5:28-29
	6. Where Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord (Despite the world around him – Phil. 2:15) – Gen. 6:8
		1. Grace is found “East of Eden”: Announced by God's command and received by Noah's obedient faith – Gen. 6:13-14, 22-7:1 (Heb. 11:7)
2. Living “East of Eden” is to dwell away from the presence of God!

### We Have All Lived East of Eden, But Christ Can Take Us to the “Paradise of God”

* 1. Christ, the Good Shepherd *(Jn. 10:11, 14),* left the 99 righteous sheep to go “East of Eden” to bring back the one who had gone astray *(Mt. 18:12-13; Lk. 15:1-7)*
		1. **Christ offers the cure to the death sin brought into the world – Rom. 5:17-21; 6:23; I Cor. 15:21-22; Eph. 2:13-16 (Eternal life is found in Christ!)**
	2. Hope and salvation are found “East of Eden”: Messiah – Mt. 2:1-2; Gal. 4:4; Rev. 22:16: The Bright Morning Star (in the east); Lk. 1:76-79 (go towards the Sunrise of the Son)
		1. **It was the star in the east that led the wise men from the east to Bethlehem where young Jesus was, and they worshiped Him! (Mt. 2:1-2, 9-11) – Jesus can bring men home from “East of Eden!”**
		2. **John the Baptist** prepared the way for the Messiah *(Lk. 1:76-79)*
		3. It was Jesus Who would bring people back to the Lord because of His sacrifice for sins – Mt. 1:21; Jn. 1:29; 12:32; Eph. 2:13-16 (Reconciled man to man and man to God!)
	3. It is Christ Who can bring us from “East of Eden” back to the Garden of God (Paradise)
		1. **Rev. 2:7: To Ephesus: “To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.”**
		2. **Rev. 22:1-4, 14, 17: The water of life & the tree of life – Saints have the right to both!**
	4. Those who obey Him (saints) will be given the right to the Tree of Life and enjoy the Garden of Paradise (new Eden) God has waiting for the faithful!

# Conclusion

1. **Living “East of Eden” is a metaphor for life after sin came into the world and into our lives; of life lived away from God and away from His blessings!**
2. **God's judgment of sin and eternal death lie “East of Eden!” *(Rev. 20:11-15: Anyone whose names are not recorded in the Book of Life will suffer the 2nd Death in eternal torment!)***
3. **Those disobedient to the gospel and remain “East of Eden” will suffer eternal punishment *(II Thess. 1:7-9;* Rev. 22:18-19)**
4. **God's grace, salvation and living hope are also found “East of Eden,” compelling us to live by faith and obey Jesus Christ, to be given entrance into the eternal “Paradise of God” *(Rev. 2:7; 22:1-5)!***
5. Are you living “East of Eden,” awaiting punishment, or have you obeyed the gospel to gain entrance to the eternal “Paradise of God?”
6. If you are not a Christian, you need to be to have the right to enter the “Paradise of God” – Believe, repent, be baptized, and live!
7. If a Christian struggling with sin in your life, repent and be renewed! You can be forgiven!
8. Whatever your requests, let them be made known NOW while we stand & sing!