

Paradise Lost & Found

Genesis 2:4-3:24

Outline

I. Literary Structure

A. Overview

1. In Garden (2:4-17)
 - a. splendor
 - b. work
2. Condition Enhanced (2:17-25)
 - a. alone
 - b. Eve
3. Condition Cursed (3:1-21)
 - a. temptation
 - b. fall
4. Out of Garden (3:22-24)
 - a. death
 - b. driven

B. Symmetry

1. Beginning (2:4-17) and Ending (3:22-24)
 - a. Location:
 - 1) within paradise (2:8)
 - 2) outside paradise (3:24)
 - b. Trees:
 - 1) tree of knowledge (2:17)
 - 2) tree of life (3:22-24)
 - c. Commission:
 - 1) blessed work (2:15)
 - 2) difficult toil (3:23)

2. Middle Portions: (2:18-25) and (3:1-21).

a. Human-Divine relationship:

- 1) harmony (2:18)
- 2) disharmony (3:8)

b. Human-Human relationship:

- 1) bliss (2:23)
- 2) strife (3:16)

c. Human-Evil relationship:

- 1) absence (2:10-25)
- 2) struggle (3:15)

II. Original Meaning

A. Garden of Eden and the Land of Canaan

1. Identity (2:10-14): Fertile Crescent.

a. Boundary of Eastern Rivers: Tigris and Euphrates

b. Boundary of Western Rivers: Cush and Havilah

2. Holiness: special presence of God

a. Tabernacle as Eden

1) God Walking: Gen 3:8 and Lev 26:12

2) Tree of Life: Gen 2:9 and Menorah

3) Gold and Onyx: 2:12 and Ex 25-40

4) Cherubim: 3:24 and Ex 25:28; 37:9

5) East Entrance: 3:24 and Ex 27:13

6) Service for God: 2:15 and Num 3:7-8; 8:26

7) Six Days: 2:1-3 and Ex 24:16ff.

b. Canaan as Eden (Deut 12:10-11)

B. Loyalty

1. In Eden (2:16-17)
2. In Canaan (Deut 8:1-2; 10-20)

C. Consequences in Eden and in Canaan

1. death
 - a. Gen 2:17
 - b. Numbers 26:65
2. pain
 - a. Gen 3:16, 17
 - b. Deut 11:10-12
3. exclusion
 - a. Gen 3:22 (Rev 2:7)
 - b. Deut 30:19,20

III. Modern Application

A. Inauguration

1. Paul: Adam and Christ
 - a. Romans 5:12
 - b. Rom 5:18-19
2. Matthew 4:1-11: Israel and Christ
 - a. Location: wilderness
 - b. Time: 40 years for Israel and 40 days for Christ
 - c. Hunger: no bread for Israel and no water/food for Christ
 - d. Scriptures: Deut 8:3; 6:13,16 and Matt 4:4,7,10

B. Continuation

1. Paul: 2 Corinthians 11:3
2. James: James 1:12-15

C. Consummation

1. Romans 16:20
2. Revelation 2:7 and 22:1-2

Teacher's Guide

Suggested Lesson Plan:

1. Display (on a board or overhead) and explain the main ideas of the lesson.
2. Play the video tape *Paradise Lost & Found* as participants take notes on outlines.
3. Discuss the main ideas of the video.
4. Discuss discussion questions

Main Points:

1. Moses wrote Genesis for two purposes. He wanted to inform his readers of primeval events in order to influence their perspective on current religious and social programs.
2. Eden is a prototype of the Promise Land. In Genesis 2:4-3:24, Moses describes Eden in order to teach the Israelites what the promised land would be like and to encourage them to move into it.
3. There are many parallels between Eden and the Tabernacle. Those parallels serve to justify Moses' religious programs for Israel by demonstrating that the Tabernacle and the social-religious order which surrounds it are in continuity with God's original designs for His people.
4. Just as Adam and Eve had to be loyal to God's commands in order to remain in the Garden, the Israelites also had to be loyal to God's commands in order to enter and retain the Promised Land. If they were not loyal, there were to be repercussions, just as there were for Adam and Eve.

Discussion Questions:

1. What aspects of the Garden's description sound good to you? How would this description of the Garden have motivated people wandering in the desert (Israelites) to continue moving toward Canaan?
2. Identify the parallels between Eden and the Tabernacle. How would these parallels have influenced the Israelites' perspective on the Tabernacle? How would these parallels have influenced the Israelites' perspective on Moses' leadership?
3. What are the parallels between Israel's experiences in the desert and Jesus' experiences in the desert? What are the differences?
4. How can we maintain a view of the Promised Land? In what ways do we find Satan and the world challenging us to give up as we pursue the Promised Land? What can we learn from Israel's failures and Jesus' success in the desert about holding to God's promises as we persevere in pursuit of the Promised Land?