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GARDEN OF EDEN - FALLING IN LOVE WITH GOD'S DREAM AND DESIGN

The Bible is primarily about God Himself. Above all we should read the word to seek and find the Lord. Falling in love with God, His purpose and plan, His ways, His character and nature, seeing Jesus in every verse should be the goal every time we read the word. Stop now and ask the Holy Spirit for the spirit of revelation to come as you begin to read!

"PURPOSED IN PLEASURE" - READ GENESIS 2

God Himself is the creator, designer and visionary of both creation and humanity. All that we see and know God permitted. "Then He said" and "Let" are mentioned at every turn and or new day of the creation narrative.

Out of everything that God created, it is only man that God formed and breathed into (Genesis 2:7). Let this set the tone for how close, how near, how intimate God intended to be with us from the beginning. God created man with purpose for a purpose and that's what we see clearly in relation to the Garden of Eden.

Genesis 2:8 The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed.

Three things we learn in this verse. The first verse that the Garden of Eden is mentioned.

- The Garden of Eden was planted or established by God Himself. We see here that the first gardener was the Lord.
- Eden is a Hebrew word that means "pleasure". The Lord is the gardener, the planter of pleasure, wow.

- The Lord saw fit to put, to establish, to appoint, to ordain, man in the garden of Eden.

*We were not created to identify with our **purpose** separate from the **pleasure** of God. Are you pursuing your purpose disconnected from experiencing the pleasure and delight of the Lord (Psalm 16:11, Psalm 36:8, Psalm 63:3, Psalm 65:4)? It is through fellowship and intimacy with God that man was created to walk out its purpose.*

***COMMUNION "Our greatest pursuit is to BE with Jesus"**

Genesis 2:10-14 Now a river went out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it parted and became four riverheads. 11 The name of the first *is* Pishon; it *is* the one which skirts the whole land of Havilah, where *there is* gold. 12 And the gold of that land *is* good. Bdellium and the onyx stone *are* there. 13 The name of the second river *is* Gihon; it *is* the one which goes around the whole land of Cush. 14 The name of the third river *is* Hiddekel;^[a] it *is* the one which goes toward the east of ^[b]Assyria. The fourth river *is* the Euphrates.

- Four rivers proceed from the Garden of Eden that bring life and prosperity to surrounding lands.

Pison = "increase"

Gihon = "bursting forth"

Hiddekel = "rapid"

Euphrates = "fruitfulness"

*I'd like to suggest to you that the **Garden of Eden** is the **first temple** we see in the Bible. The place where God's presence, spirit and glory rests in concert with man, God and man in perfect relationship/intimacy, man as God's holy royal priesthood and from that communion/fellowship life springs forth bringing blessing to creation. From this place God's dominion and authority are meant to expand throughout earth.*

***CULTIVATION "We will Bring Jesus' Kingdom everywhere we go"**

Are the places you have been given influence, your family, your job, your neighborhood reaping the blessing of your fellowship with God? Can you identify the rivers of life touching the dead places around you that are the result of your

intimacy with God, you walking out that calling of being a royal priest (Exodus 19:6, 1 Peter 2:8-9, Revelation 5:8-10) who carries His spirit and glory everywhere you go? What has this looked like in your life?

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

- God had already communicated man's **purpose** in *Genesis 1:26-28 (Read)*.
 - 26 Then God said, (A)"Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; (B)let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over [a]all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man (C)in His own image; in the image of God He created him; (D)male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, (E)"Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and (F)subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that [b]moves on the earth."
- Carrying this purpose out would start by man stewarding a specific place, the Garden of Eden (**pleasure**).
 - Tend means to work and or to serve.
 - Keep means to guard, observe, to watch.
- Work is sacred and holy; it was always a part of God's plan. Working in the garden was a responsibility given to man that came with great fulfillment and satisfaction.

*We are skipping ahead here but I want you to know that **through Jesus Christ**, the **beauty, satisfaction and delight** of work has been **redeemed**. Are you experiencing satisfaction and delight in the work that you are doing right now? Is it being done in and through intimate fellowship with God? Do you see your work as worship to the Lord (Colossians 3:23-24)?*

Genesis 2:16 -17 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may **freely** eat; **17** but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you_[a] shall surely die."

- We learn that in God's perfect design when man was walking in perfect relationship with God, in man's innocence, before sin ever entered the picture, freedom included boundaries (John 14:15).

Freedom demanded trust in God's leadership. Freedom demanded obedience.

Disobedience was the greatest threat to that freedom and came with consequences.

Are you submitting daily to the leadership of the Lord (Romans 8:14)? Are you experiencing the joy of freedom that is the result of trusting and obeying the boundaries that Lord has given us to keep us from sin and the consequences of disobedience? When was the last time you felt the conviction of the Holy Spirit and yielded to Him (John 16:8)? When was the last time you felt the correction of the Lord (Heb. 12:6)?

Genesis 2:18-25 READ

**18 And the Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; (A)I will make him a helper comparable to him." 19 (B)Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and (C)brought them to [a]Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him. 21 And the Lord God caused a (D)deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. 22 Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He [b]made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. 23 And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones
And flesh of my flesh;
She shall be called [c]Woman,
Because she was taken out of Man."
24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. 25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.**

- *"It is not good that man should be alone (this is the first time in the creation narrative that God says something IS NOT GOOD); I will make him a helper comparable to him."*

****COMMUNITY "Where we Become more like Jesus"***

- God invites Adam to name the animals. This establishes from the beginning that God is looking to partner with humanity in the governing of creation.
- Adam himself needed a partner and God gave him a wife, they became one flesh, living naked, innocent free from shame.
- Just as Adam had his rib removed and through a wound in his side he was given a comparable bride our King and Savior too was wounded on His side unto a comparable Bride being produced (Ephesians 5:25-27)
- Jesus too is looking for a bride that will live before Him naked, innocent and free from shame (John 3:29).
- Adam is an imperfect Jesus Christ and Eve is an imperfect Bride
 - 1 Cor. 15:45 So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit.
 - Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned.
 - Romans 5:15 For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many!
 - 2 Cor. 11:1-3 Oh, that you would bear with me in a little folly—and indeed you do bear with me. **2** For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present *you* as a chaste virgin to Christ. **3** But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.
- God is relentless in His commitment to give His Son a bride. This is why you don't even get out of the Garden after the fall until the proclamation is made in Genesis 3:15 The promised SEED is announced that will bruise the head of satan! God was saying this is not the end of the story, God's desire and design for the Garden will be fully realized and it's through the life blood and resurrection that this Hope will be accomplished!

Consider, how are you **partnering** with God to **establish His government** and authority on the earth (Matthew 6:10)? Answer honestly, have you accepted this as a true part of your identity and purpose?

Lastly, today consider Adam and Eve's innocence and freedom from shame. Are you living life in the fruit of our **restored innocence**, are you living **free from shame** through a life found in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:4-6)?

Are you making yourself ready as the Bride of Christ? Are you living with the marriage supper of the lamb in mind (Revelation 19)? Do you long for the return of the Lord, your Bridegroom King (2 Tim 4:8, Revelation 22:17)?

One thing we know is we won't desire a King we haven't first let save us! We won't fall in love with a Bridegroom that we haven't first let love us.