

GOD CALLED ADAM TO WORSHIP

⁸The **LORD God planted** a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed ... ¹⁵ Then the **LORD God** took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend (*abad*) and keep it. Genesis 2:8 & 15

Although the Scripture does not explicitly say so, worship of God began in the world's 1st garden, the Garden of Eden. Before the Fall of Man, Adam and Eve enjoyed an unbroken, unrestrained, and unmediated communion with their Creator God. They were in the "presence of God," honoring, serving, and revering the Creator, which is the foundation of true Christian worship of God and His people.

The Garden of Eden was a sacred place, God's dwelling place, a place where God walked with Adam and Eve, and His goodness and glory were clearly discernible to Adam. In this place, the revelation of God's divine attributes and existence was known to Adam. In other words, above and before all men, Adam **knew** God. God's divine attributes were revealed in the things that He had made. (Read **Romans 1:19-20**).

THE GARDEN OF EDEN WAS A PLACE OF:

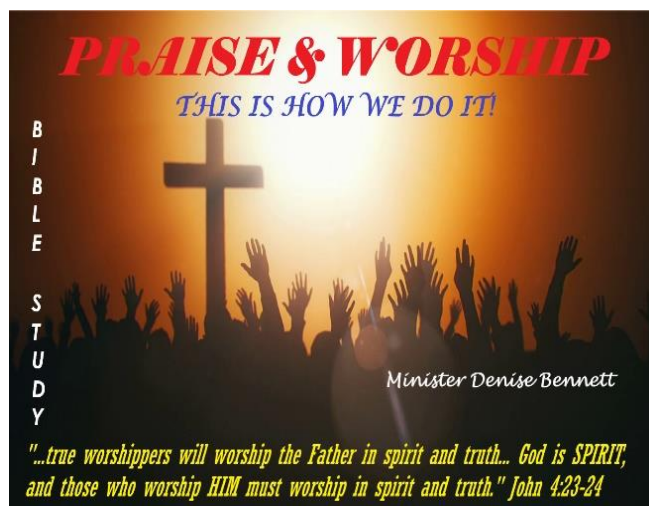
- Total provision and blessings.
- Covenant (of Life)
- Unity and fellowship with God.
- Work and fulfillment.
- Authority and dominion over God's creation.
- Unity in the institution of marriage

THE GARDEN OF EDEN WAS A PLACE OF WORSHIP

Adam's call to worship was in the context of covenantal communion with God. Dominion over the earth and life everlasting was promised to him and his descendants on the condition of his obedience to God's command.

- "Then the **LORD God** took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend (*abad*) and keep it." (Gen. 2:8). The word "**abad**" means to work, till, and cultivate the ground. Adam was to serve the Garden of Eden as a form of worship to God.
- **Worship** is often described as service in the first five books of the Bible. "When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you worship (*abad*) God on this mountain." (**Exodus 3:12 NIV**) God called Adam to a life of worship.

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Adam and Eve worshipped their Creator by faithfully serving, obeying, and following His will. By doing this, they showed their love for God, which involved their wholehearted allegiance to God's sovereignty.

- *“And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 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 shall surely die.” (Genesis 2:16-17)*

THE GARDEN OF EDEN WAS A PLACE OF TESTING

The Tree of life and the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil both sat in the middle of the Garden of Eden (Gen.2: 9). God gave the man a choice.

- To choose life over death
- To choose God's presence over alienation.
- To choose eternity with God over separation from God.
- To choose obedience over disobedience and rebellion
- To choose good over evil
- To choose God over Satan

Adam lived "in a perfect environment" in paradise but yielded to temptation and sin. Just like Lucifer, a high and exalted angel created by God (**Isaiah 14:13-14**) who abandoned the worship of God in heaven, Adam and Eve abandoned God's worship and obeyed the serpent's voice.

In **Genesis 3:4 - 5**, Satan, the serpent, undermines God's word to Adam and Eve concerning the tree of knowledge of good and evil with three counterclaims:

- "You will not die.",
- "Your eyes will be opened."
- "You will be like God."

The worship of the Creator God had been exchanged for the worship of Satan, the devil. God had been dethroned in man's heart, and the devil had been enthroned. (**Romans 6:16**)

In **Genesis 3:14-16**, a series of curses were pronounced on the man, woman, and the serpent.

- **V. #14-15:** That serpent and all of those to follow would crawl on the ground, unable to avoid eating the dust of the earth, from that point forward. God's final curse to the serpent was that the woman's offspring would crush or bruise Satan's head, and Satan would strike or bruise his heel. Christ, the Son of God, is the ultimate member of Eve's offspring (the seed of the woman). Satan would damage Christ, but He would have the ultimate victory on behalf of humanity. Those in Christ will celebrate the victory with Him for eternity.
- **V. #16:** Eve's curse involves pain. Having children may bring her great joy, but bearing and giving birth to them would require severe pain.
 - The marriage relationship would now be strained. This curse involves conflict over the God-given marriage roles. Adam and Eve both failed to uphold God's intended pattern of spiritual leadership, and it caused the greatest disaster in history.
- **V. #17:** Adam's curse is one of hardship. Even the earth did not escape the judgment of the Fall. Adam will suffer great pain in getting the ground to yield edible crops in doing his daily work. And this curse will afflict him all the days of his life.
 - When Adam died, he would return to the dust from where he was created.

- Because of their rebellion, God "drove out Adam and Eve and at the east of the Garden of Eden, he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life" (**Gen 3:24**).

THE FUTURE OF WORSHIP

God created an environment where worship was possible. Adam and Eve were tasked with offering God worship; however, they yielded to Satan's temptation and rejected God's purpose and plan of worship.

Yet, Genesis 3:15 gives us hope in the Son of God, who will lead us in pure worship of God.

- Where the **1st Adam failed**, the **2nd Adam, Jesus**, the sinless **Son of God, would succeed**. God's worship found its fulfillment in Jesus Christ. The first Adam bowed before the serpent; however, the last Adam, Jesus Christ, rebuked the serpent and refused to bow: "You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve" (**Matt. 4:8-10**).
- **The most authentic picture of worship is found in the New Heaven and New Earth** "And he showed me a **pure river of water of life**, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. **2** In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was **the tree of life**, which bore twelve fruits, **each tree yielding its fruit every month**. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. **3** And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and **His servants shall serve Him**. **4** They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. **5** There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever." **Revelation 22:1-5**
- "After this, I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages [...] they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God." **Revelation 7:9,11**