

PICTURES OF HEAVEN - Five Biblical Descriptions

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Date: 1-31-16 **3. The New Garden of Eden - Paradise**

THE BIBLICAL DESCRIPTIONS

1. The New Jerusalem
2. The Wedding Banquet
- 3. The New Garden of Eden - Paradise**
4. The Peaceable Kingdom
5. The Whole Company of Saints and Angels

A. THE BIBLICAL TEXTS:

(Genesis 2:8-25) And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. (9) And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. (10) A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers. (11) The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. (12) And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. (13) The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush. (14) And the name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates. (15) The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. (16) And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, (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 shall surely die." (18) Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." (19) So out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. (20) The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. (21) So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. (22) And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. (23) Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." (24) Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. (25) And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

(Genesis 3:1-24) Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" (2) And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, (3) but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" (4) But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. (5) For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." (6) So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. (7) Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. (8) And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. (9) But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" (10) And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." (11) He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" (12) The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." (13) Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." (14) The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. (15) I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." (16) To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you." (17) And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; (18) thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. (19) By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return." (20) The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. (21) And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them. (22) Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever--" (23) therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. (24) He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way

(Genesis 13:10) And Lot lifted up his eyes and saw that the Jordan Valley was well watered everywhere like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt, in the direction of Zoar. (This was before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) to guard the way to the tree of life.

(Ezekiel 28:12-13) "Son of man, raise a lamentation over the king of Tyre, and say to him, Thus says the Lord GOD: "You were the signet of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. (13) You were in Eden, the garden of God;

(Ezekiel 31:5-9) So it towered high above all the trees of the field; its boughs grew large and its branches long from abundant water in its shoots. (6) All the birds of the heavens made their nests in its boughs; under its branches all the beasts of the field gave birth to their young, and under its shadow lived all great nations. (7) It was beautiful in its greatness, in the length of its branches; for its roots went down to abundant waters. (8) The cedars in the garden of God could not rival it, nor the fir trees equal its

boughs; neither were the plane trees like its branches; **no tree in the garden of God** was its equal in beauty. (9) I made it beautiful in the mass of its branches, **and all the trees of Eden envied it, that were in the garden of God.**

(Ezekiel 36:35-36) And they will say, 'This land that was desolate has become **like the garden of Eden**, and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are now fortified and inhabited.' (36) Then the nations that are left all around you shall know that I am the Lord; I have rebuilt the ruined places and replanted that which was desolate. I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it.

(Joel 2:3) Fire devours before them, and behind them a flame burns. The land is **like the garden of Eden** before them, but behind them a desolate wilderness, and nothing escapes them.

(Luke 23:40-43) But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? (41) And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." (42) And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." (43) **And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."**

(John 19:41-42) Now in the place where he was crucified **there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid.** (42) So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

(John 20:11-18) But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. (12) And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. (13) They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." (14) Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. **(15) Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away."** (16) **Jesus said to her, "Mary."** She turned and said to him in Aramaic, **"Rabboni!" (which means Teacher).** (17) Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" (18) Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"--and that he had said these things to her.

(2 Corinthians 12:1-4) I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, **I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord.** (2) **I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven--**whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. (3) **And I know that this man was caught up into paradise--**whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows-- (4) **and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter.**

(Revelation 2:7) He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. **To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.'**

(Revelation 22:1-21) **Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb (2) through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. (3) No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him.** (4) They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. (5) And night will be no more. **They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.** (6) And he said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place." (7) "And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book." (8) I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me, (9) but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God." (10) And he said to me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near. (11) Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy." (12) "Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay everyone for what he has done. (13) I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." **(14) Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates.** (15) Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. (16) "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. **I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."** **(17) The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.** (18) I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, (19) and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, **God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.** (20) He who testifies to these things says, **"Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! (21) The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.**

B. THE DIVINE SERVICE

"Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, **who ate the forbidden fruit**, and You justly barred them and all their children from **the tree of life**. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made **His cross a life-giving tree** for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that **we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross** and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood."

c. THE MEANING FOR YOU:

What does this picture of heaven mean to you?