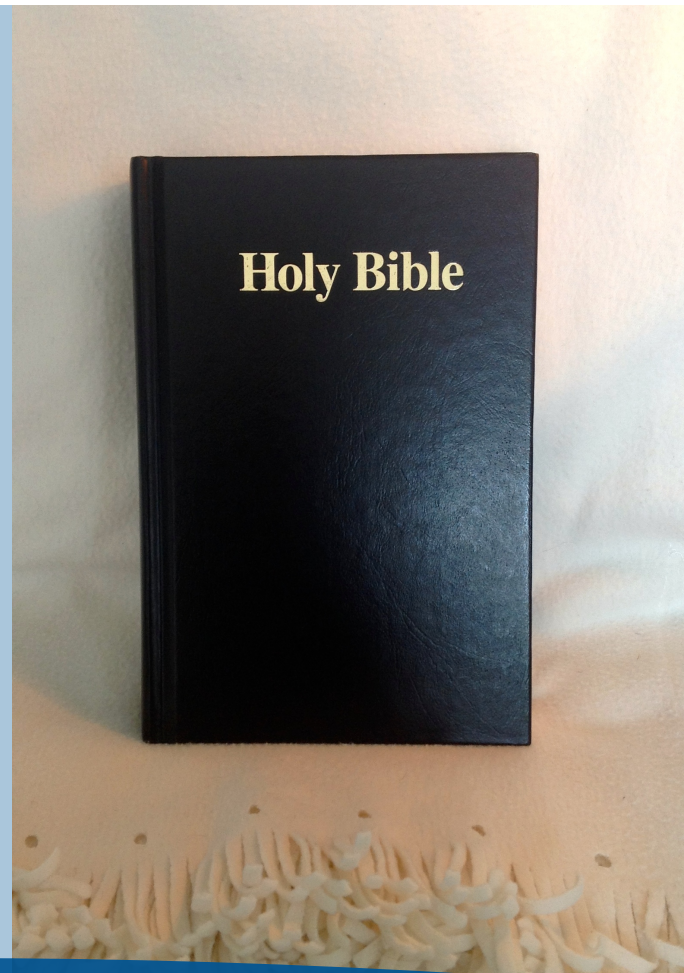


Unlock the passages of the Bible for yourself

Learn to Read the Bible More Effectively

EXPLORING
THE BIBLE
CONCEPT OF
PARADISE



Page 1

Genesis 2:8

“And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.”

The Assyrian empire is spoken of as being associated with Eden where it is referred to in figure as a great tree is

Ezekiel 31:9

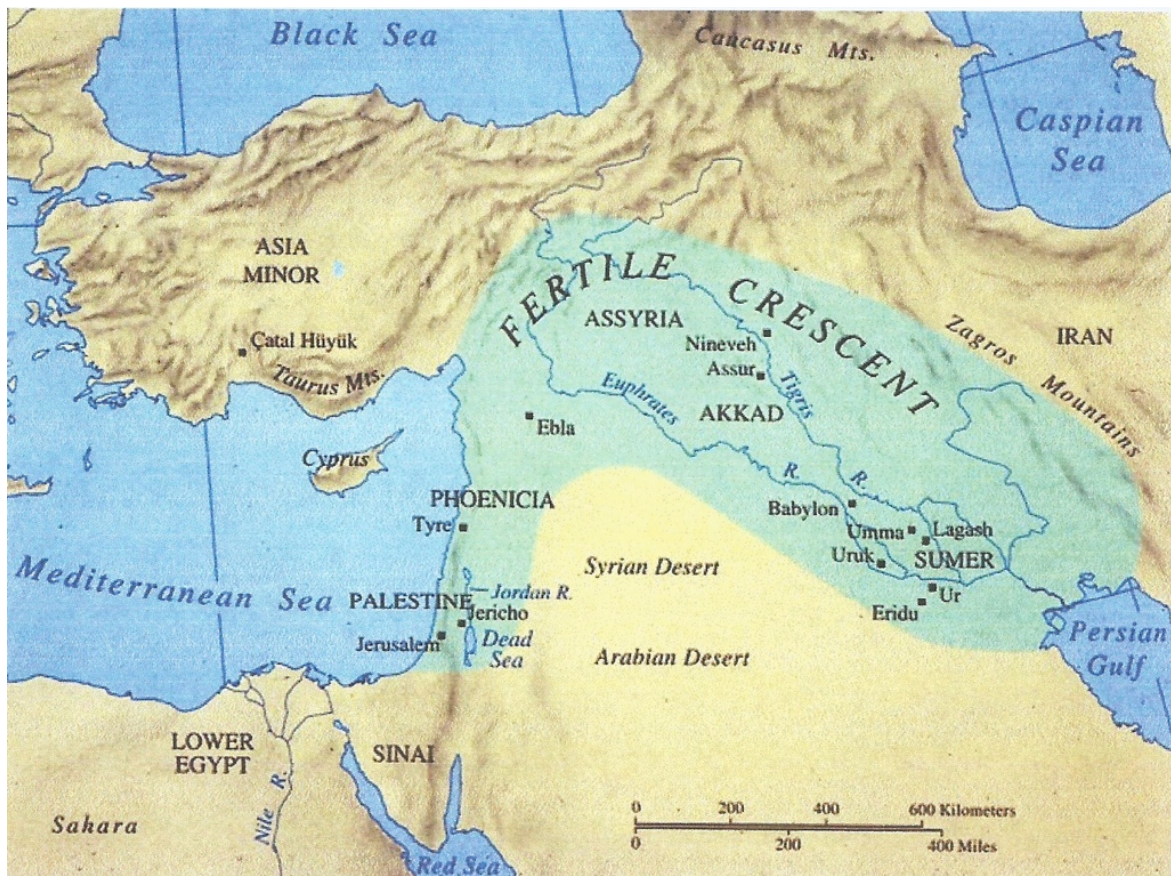
I have made him fair by the multitude of his branches: so that all the trees of Eden, that were in the garden of God, envied him.

“the trees of Eden” is a figure for all those nations between the river of Egypt and the Euphrates that fell under the Assyrian empire



Figure 1

THIS CARVING TAKEN FROM THE THRONE ROOM OF ASHURNALSPIRAL II'S PALACE AT CALAH IS OF THE ASSYRIAN'S FIGURE OF THE TREE OF LIFE.



However in Ezekiel 31 it goes on to speak of Assyria's downfall:

Ezekiel 31:16

I made the nations to shake at the sound of his fall, when I cast him down to hell with them that descend into the pit: and all the trees of Eden, the choice and best of **Lebanon**, all that drink water, shall be comforted in the nether parts of the earth.

“**Lebanon**” in the Bible usually means more than just the country of Lebanon today.

Easton's bible dictionary gives the broader definition as meaning:-

White, "the white mountain of Syria, " [it] is the loftiest and most celebrated mountain range in Syria. It is a branch running southward from the Caucasus, and at its lower end forking into two parallel ranges, the eastern or Anti-Lebanon, and the western or Lebanon proper. They enclose a long valley #Jos 11:17 of from 5 to 8 miles in width, called by Roman writers Coele-Syria, now called el-Buka'a, "the valley, " a prolongation of the valley of the Jordan.

“**Lebanon**” is also used to refer to the land of Israel a number of times in the Bible eg. Jeremiah 22:23; Ezekiel.17:3; Zechariah 10:10; Judges. 9:15; 2Kings.14:9;19:23; Isaiah10:34; 29:17; 37:24; Habakuk 2:17.

Tyre, which is in **Lebanon**, is spoken of as being in Eden:

Ezekiel 28:

12 Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.

13 Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.

Originally Adam and Eve were placed in a garden “eastward in Eden” Gen.2:8 and the Paradise is associated with that garden (as also we shall see shortly).

For the meaning of “Paradise” we quote an example:-

Nehemiah 2:8

And a letter unto Asaph the keeper of the king's forest,[paradis] that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the palace which appertained to the house, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall enter into. And the king granted me, according to the good hand of my God upon me.

The Hebrew word translated “forest” here, in the original is

‘**Par-dace**’ of foreign origin, [in] Greek :paradeisos;

In AV, translated-orchard 2, forest 1; 3

It signifies a park, preserve, enclosed garden, forest

The potential benefits of the Garden in Eden were lost to the race of Adam, because of his disobedience:

Genesis 3:22 And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and **live for ever**:

Adam and Eve disobeyed God, and so were expelled from the Garden paradise, such that to the human race it was a case of ‘Paradise lost’, & lost with it, was access to eternal life.

Genesis 3:

23 Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.

24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

Tradition wrongly associates Paradise with heaven. The main quote they rely on is:-

Luke 23:

42 And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.

43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.”

A literal rendering of the Greek is:-(verse 43)

“...Verily I say to thee today with me thou shalt be in paradise”

Jesus was not in paradise that day, but descended into hell (the grave) remaining there for the next 3 days. In English we use commas, in this case it should be placed after "today".

The thief on the cross was assured that very day, that he would inherit Paradise when it comes. And this understanding, that Paradise is yet future, and relates to God's 'promised land' on earth- the coming kingdom of Christ, is in accord with the the gospel promise.

We see how in this quote “Paradise” and Christ's “Kingdom” are spoken of as being one and the same. So where is Christ's Kingdom-Paradise to be?

Luke 1

:31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

:32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: **33** And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.”

So Christ is to be the great king promised in the prophets:

Jeremiah 23:

5 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.

6 In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

7 Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that they shall no more say, The LORD liveth, which brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt;

8 But, The LORD liveth, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of Israel out of the north country, and from all countries whither I had driven them; and they shall dwell in their own land.

And so the Kingdom of Israel is to be restored by Christ

Micah 4:

1 But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it.

2 And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

3 And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

This is one of many passages that show that as well as ruling Israel as the future Kingdom and Paradise of God, Christ will also rule over all the nations as a great empire **subject** to the Kingdom of God and of Israel:

Micah 4:8 And thou, O tower of the flock, the strong hold of the daughter of Zion, unto thee shall it come, even the **first** dominion; the kingdom shall come to the daughter of Jerusalem.

The land and people of Israel will be more blessed than any other, of which it is written

Isaiah 65

:19 And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying.

:20 There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed

:21 And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them.

:22 They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

23 They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them.

24 And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.

25 The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD.

We may ask; seeing as the Jews rejected Jesus, how can this be? The answer is:

Ezekiel 36

:23 And I will sanctify my great name, which was profaned among the heathen, which ye have profaned in the midst of them; and the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, saith the Lord GOD, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes.

:24 For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land.

Ezekiel 36

26 A **new heart** also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them. **28** And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.

The end of this chapter shows again that Israel shall then become the Paradise of God:-

Ezekiel 36:

35 And they shall say, This land that was desolate is become like the **garden of Eden**; and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are become fenced, and are inhabited.

36 Then the heathen that are left round about you shall know that I the LORD build the ruined places, and plant that that was desolate: I the LORD have spoken it, and I will do it.

When gentile nations see how Israel has become the Kingdom and Paradise of God, they will realise that they had better watch their step and make a mends for the way they have treated the JEWS

Jeremiah 33:

7 And I will cause the captivity of Judah and the captivity of Israel to return, and will build them, as at the first.

8 And I will cleanse them from all their iniquity, whereby they have sinned against me; and I will pardon all their iniquities, whereby they have sinned, and whereby they have transgressed against me.

9 And it shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and an honour before all the nations of the earth, which shall hear all the good that I do unto them: and they shall fear and tremble for all the goodness and for all the prosperity that I procure unto it.

Isaiah 51:

3 For the LORD shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like **Eden**, and her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody.

Paradise involves having many trees

Isaiah 41:

18 I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.

19 I will plant in the wilderness the cedar, the shittah tree, and the myrtle, and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the fir tree, and the pine, and the box tree together:

20 That they may see, and know, and consider, and understand together, that the hand of the LORD hath done this, and the Holy One of Israel hath created it.

And this is involved in the fulfilling of the promises to Abraham

Isaiah 41:

8 But thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of **Abraham** my friend.

9 Thou whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called thee from the chief men thereof, and said unto thee, Thou art my servant; I have chosen thee, and not cast thee away.”

Amos 9:11

In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old:

The Royal House of David, shall be raised up again and restored in the enthroning of David's greater descendant- Jesus Christ. As we read earlier in Luke 1:31-33 “**The Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.**”