

Two Great Gardens that Determine Your Destiny

By Keon Lindsey



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Introduction

There are two important gardens in the Bible. The fate of mankind was determined in these gardens by those who faced tests in them. One was Adam in the garden of Eden. The other was Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane. What happened in these gardens? What does it have to do with you today? And how do these things impact your future? Let us explore.

Eden and You

You may be thinking that Adam ate the forbidden fruit in Eden, what else is there to the story? That was just the physical event that took place. However, the spiritual events are often overlooked and have eternal consequences that impact us today.

For a quick review remember from Genesis chapter 1 that God made everything perfect. He put man in charge of the Earth.

So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” (Genesis 1:27-28)

The Lord put Adam and Eve in charge of the planet. They were to subdue the Earth and have dominion over every living thing. They were given the perfect place to live, Eden, which was called the “garden of God” in Ezekiel 28 and 31.

There was only one rule. They were not to eat from the tree in the middle of the garden. Why was there a rule in paradise? Why are there any rules? Rules are for safety. We tell children not to play with matches so they will not get burned. God told Adam and Eve not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil because doing so would separate them from Him forever. The Lord did not want them to die.

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)

Rules also remind us there is an Authority greater than mankind and we need to keep Him in mind. For example, when God gave commandments to Israel, He often said I am the Lord who is giving you these rules.

**For I am the LORD your God. You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I am holy. (Leviticus 11:44)
You shall observe My judgments and keep My ordinances, to walk in them: I am the LORD your God. (Leviticus 18:4)**

The rule for Adam and Eve set them up for a great test, which is a major point of our study.

Though God made us for His plans and purposes, He offers us a choice. We can choose to love and obey Him or we can choose to do our own thing. This is seen many times in the Bible. (Joshua 24:15, 1 Kings 18:21, Proverbs 1:20-23, John 3:16, John 7:37) For example,

I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; (Deuteronomy 30:19) [emphasis added]

The test for Adam and Eve was the same. Would they choose God or the forbidden fruit? When Satan came to tempt them, we see the spiritual ramifications of the test. He began by asking if God really said not to eat that good looking fruit?

Then the serpent [Satan] said to the woman, “You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” (Genesis 3:4-5)

What is this test? To trust God or not to trust. Satan planted seeds of doubt, saying that death would not come. He wanted them to believe God was holding back wonderful enlightenment and the power of being just like God. Imagine, if they were like God, they could make their own rules. They wouldn't need Him and could do as they pleased.

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. (Genesis 3:6)

Eve looked at the beautiful fruit. She considered that it would give new wisdom. Notice Adam was with her. They both doubted, disobeyed and ate. Adam failed the test. What was the result?

1. Mankind was separated from God.

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. (Genesis 3:8)

After they sinned, Adam and Eve hid from God when He came to visit. Before sin they had no reason to hide and could fellowship directly with the Lord. But now, even before God said anything, they ran from Him. This separation is the worst consequence of sin, because it is not just physical and temporary, it is spiritual and eternal. They physically ran away because they had already spiritually run when they chose their way instead of God's way. We were made to be with God forever, but sin forms an impenetrable wall between us. The result is eternal disaster for humans. Man is still running from God today.

2. Pain, suffering, and death entered the world.

To the woman He said:

**“I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception;
In pain you shall bring forth children;
Your desire shall be for your husband,
And he shall rule over you.” (Genesis 3:16)**

This is the first mention of pain and sorrow. Before sin, there was peace and joy.

Then to Adam He said, “Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat of it’:

**“Cursed is the ground for your sake;
In toil you shall eat of it
All the days of your life.
Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you,
And you shall eat the herb of the field.
In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread
Till you return to the ground,
For out of it you were taken;
For dust you are,
And to dust you shall return.” (Genesis 3:17-19)**

The Earth was cursed because of sin. All creation would suffer as seen with the rise of thorns and thistles. Work became toil and labor producing sweat just to survive. And survival was now temporary. Adam and Eve’s bodies were made to last forever, but now they would decay and die, eventually returning back to the dirt from which they were made.

3. Sin was passed to their children.

**And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. (Genesis 4:5b)
Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him. (Genesis 4:8b)**

This first example of sin in Adam’s decedents, has been seen many times over since then. The Bible explains:

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned (Romans 5:12)

4. Dominion was lost.

[Jesus said,] I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me. (John 14:30)

Who was Jesus talking about when He referred to “the ruler of this world”? Isn’t God in charge? The Lord is in charge of the Universe, but remember He gave dominion over Earth to Adam. When Adam rebelled, he came under Satan’s authority and transferred dominion to him. Satan became “the ruler of this world”. This was confirmed when Satan tempted Jesus.

Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, “All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours.” (Luke 4:5-7)

How could Satan give away the kingdoms of this world if they were not his? Jesus did not dispute his claim to power, but answered that worship is for God alone. (Matthew 4:10)

Now you know why life on Earth pretty much stinks. When Adam sinned, relationship with God was broken and paradise was lost. Mankind was expelled from the Garden of Eden to live in a messed up world. Could we get a relationship with the Lord again? Could paradise be restored? Can we get back into the garden? Mankind would have to wait for the second Adam to face a test in another garden.

Gethsemane and You

Since sin separated man from God and its penalty is death, the only way man can reach God is to not sin. Since we inherit a sinful nature and are born sinners, this is impossible. Even if a human could live without sin, that would only help the individual and not mankind. However, God had a solution to the problem. He would become a man, live a perfect life without sin, and then pay the penalty for everyone else’s sin by dying in their place. This is what Jesus came to do.

But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. (Galatians 4:4-5)

Jesus humbled Himself to become a human. Being born into this world just like the rest of us, He faced all of the tests, temptations, trials, and tribulations that we do. Yet, unlike us, He did all this without sinning.

For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but [Jesus] was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. (Hebrews 4:15) [emphasis added]

With that introduction, let us look at the work Jesus did which took Him to the cross to pay for our sin. The work we are talking about took place in the garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus faced the test that Adam failed. You may remember after the Last Supper, Jesus took the disciples there to pray. We know that He prayed and that Judas the traitor came with soldiers to

arrest Him. But what really happened? Like Adam in Eden, there is more here than what first appears. The key to what happened is in the prayer. Jesus knew that crucifixion was coming the next day and His heart was heavy.

And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. Then He said to them, “My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.” He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, “O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.” (Matthew 26:37-39)

Remember Jesus was fully human and fully God. He had sorrow and distress at what awaited Him. But why? What is this cup He prayed would pass? There are several cups mentioned in the Bible, but the context of what would happen lets us know this is a cup of judgement.

**Upon the wicked He will rain coals;
Fire and brimstone and a burning wind
Shall be the portion of their cup. (Psalm 11:6)**

**Awake, awake!
Stand up, O Jerusalem,
You who have drunk at the hand of the Lord
The cup of His fury;
You have drunk the dregs of the cup of trembling,
And drained it out. (Isaiah 51:17)**

This cup of judgement was the penalty for your sin and mine. Jesus would take that penalty as described by the prophet Isaiah.

**But He was wounded for our transgressions,
He was bruised for our iniquities;
The chastisement for our peace was upon Him...
And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:5-6)**

When the Lord put our sins on innocent Jesus, He was cut off from God. The closest comparison we have is that of losing a dear loved one – and that is an inadequate example. The perfect relationship of God the Father with the Son was broken because God cannot stand sin. Jumping ahead to when Jesus was on the cross in physical agony, He cried out in spiritual agony,

My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? (Matthew 27:46b)

We can now understand that horror was worse than the terrible physical suffering of being crucified. So why would Jesus go through with it? Because His Father asked Him to.

**Then I said, “Behold, I come;
In the scroll of the book it is written of me.
I delight to do Your will, O my God” (Psalm 40:7-8a)**

This was an agonizing decision. It was more than a mental one. It was spiritual and physical, as well. Luke gave us a behind the scenes look at what happened in the garden.

Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. (Luke 22:43-44)

Jesus was fighting a spiritual battle, as evidenced by the appearance an angel to strengthen His body. As Jesus prayed more, the battle spilled into the physical as the mental agony caused blood vessels to break and send blood out as sweat.

Here was the test that Adam failed. Adam chose to do what he wanted and ate the forbidden fruit. The result for doom for mankind. When Jesus faced this test would He do what God wanted? Would He take the sin of the world on Himself? Would He lose His relationship with God? Would He take the Hell that we deserved? It was the only way. If Jesus said, No, you and I would be lost forever. The fate of mankind was in His hands. So Jesus prayed again.

**Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, “O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done.”
And He...prayed the third time, saying the same words. (Matthew 26:42-44)**

Three times Jesus prayed the same thing. Do I need to do this? Yet, He knew the answer. It was the reason Jesus came into this world. He had a choice, just like Adam. Would Jesus do the Father’s will or His own? This was a hard choice, so He prayed until He could say, “Your will be done.”

Jesus ended His prayer, submitting to God’s will. From this time in the garden of Gethsemane forward, there was no turning back. Jesus decision to obey God, passed the test and set in motion the events that would undo Adam’s failure. What were the results?

1. Mankind regained access to God. This great decision to go to the cross to pay for sin would bring salvation to you, me, and all mankind.

**For through Him [Jesus] we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.
(Ephesians 2:18)**

2. Pain, suffering, and death will come to an end. At the end of time, the Lord will restore the conditions of paradise.

And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away. (Revelation 21:4)

3. Sin does not determine everyone's fate. Though we are still born sinners, we can choose to accept God's gift of salvation and be born again spiritually. Then we inherit Jesus' righteousness which will get us into Heaven. It is

even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe (Romans 3:22)

For "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13) [Because] God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

4. Dominion was recovered. Remember, God is always sovereign over everything, but Jesus won back the rulership over Earth that Adam gave up. We don't see the manifestation of this yet, but when Jesus returns, we will, and all will say,

Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. (1 Peter 4:11b)

Then Jesus will exercise His dominion.

Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. (1 Corinthians 15:24-25)

Now we see the importance of Jesus' work in the garden of Gethsemane. His prayers and agonizing decision to go through with the suffering, brought us salvation. He passed the test that would restore paradise.

Adam vs Jesus

Let's do a quick comparison of Adam and Jesus. Paul helped us with this when he wrote,

And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. (1 Corinthians 15:45-47)

We know that God made the first person from the dust of the earth. He then breathed into him the breath of life and he became a living being. This was the first Adam. He represents the physical and natural world where we have our beginning. Jesus is called the "last Adam" because He is the beginning of a new type of man. Jesus represents the spiritual and the supernatural world where we have our ending. Adam was given life, but Jesus gives life.

Adam failed the test that spelled disaster. Jesus passed the test that brought hope.

For if by the one man's offense [Adam's] many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many.

Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous. (Romans 5: 15,18-19)

Being born into Adam's family we inherit sin, death, and condemnation. Being born again into Jesus' family we inherit justification, righteousness, and eternal life.

Adam wanted more, some new power, to "be like God". Jesus gave up Heaven to be like us, then He gave up His life to rescue us. Jesus could endure the suffering because He considered the rewards.

looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:2)

Adam was created perfect and in charge, but chose to sin and be brought low. Jesus was perfect and chose to humble Himself to take our sin and later be exalted as our Savior. Adam chose his own will. Jesus chose God's will.

Conclusion

What does this mean for you? You also have to make a choice. Will you choose like Adam and have your destiny stuck in the failure of Eden? Or will you choose like Jesus and have your destiny in Heaven? Will you choose death or life?

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)

Please choose life. Ask Jesus to be your Savior so you can join His family forever. How do you do this? Simply admit you have sinned – chosen to do your will instead of God's. Believe that Jesus is God and that He paid for your sins. Ask Him to forgive you and take you into His family. It's really pretty straightforward. After you do, start reading the Bible and ask Jesus to help you understand and apply it.

For great help in growing spiritually every day, I recommend listening to the broadcasts and investigating the resources at
<https://BBNRadio.org>
<https://TTB.org>

About the Author



Keon Lindsey is a Christian Author, former Business Consultant, Project Management Professional, and Navy Veteran with a variety of life experiences. He has earned a Black Belt in American Freestyle Karate, worked for himself, flown small airplanes and large jets, graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy and has a master's degree in Aeronautical Engineering.

Yet, what brings Keon lasting satisfaction is studying and sharing God's Word, the Bible. He is a life-long Bible student and has lead Bible studies for adults and teenagers. He lives with his family in Virginia and enjoys jogging and summer fruits. Keon hopes that his writings inspire you to seek true satisfaction as well. His books include:

Have You Heard from God Lately? 30 Messages from Heaven for You

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