

The School of Biblical Law

Introduction to Law and Grace

Lesson Thirty Three: "The Garden and The Gate – Part 1"

God created Adam and Eve and placed them inside of the Garden. Although Adam was mandated for worldwide dominion (Gen. 1:26-28), he was not yet ready for full activation as he yet lacked full maturity. Even the naming of the animals was tutorial because he learned his need for a helper through fulfilling the task. The Garden training ground and Adam's fellowship with his Father would have provided an environment in which Adam would have learned the ways of God and understood the heart of God.

1. The Garden was man's preliminary training ground.

Dominion (Strong's #7287 – *radah* – rule, reign, subjugate, have dominion) Gen. 1:28

Dress (Strong's #5627 – *abad* – work, serve, till, labor) Gen. 2:15

Keep (Strong's #8104 – *shamar* – hedge about, guard, watch, protect) Gen. 2:15

Subdue (Strong's #3533 – *kabash* – tread down, bring into subjection, conquer, subjugate) Gen. 1:28

2. Life in the Garden was right standing, ethically, legally, and relationally with God."

All standings changed as a result of a broken commandment.

- a) Ethically – Adam chose another word and demonstrated another value.
- b) Legally – Adam was condemned as a transgressor and sentenced to death.
- c) Relationally – Adam was disconnected with God, with himself, with his neighbor, and with his environment.

After the fall, life in the garden could not continue.

- a) The Garden was walled and enclosed (Strong's #1588 *gan*, from #1598 *ganan* – to hedge about, protect, defend).
- b) After man's expulsion, angels were set on the east to guard the way, which indicates only one gate of admittance (Gen. 3:23-24).
- c) The Bible uses a wilderness theme to describe this state of man (as opposed to a garden theme, which is used to depict salvation, home, rest).

3. Admittance into the Garden and the Tree of Life is the quest for mankind.

The gate represents a barrier to rebellious man preventing illegal entrance (examples: the flaming sword, the glory cloud to the Egyptians, the veil in the Holy of Holies).

Legally broken barriers become doors of entrance.

- a) The Jordan River, Esau, and an angel were barriers to Jacob leaving his wilderness with Laban and returning to his home land and promised inheritance.
- b) Moses departed the wilderness to return to Egypt (his assignment) and faced a guarding because Gershom (meaning driven out) was not circumcised.
- c) Before entering Canaan, the Israelites face the barrier of the Jordan River and had to be circumcised and celebrate Passover).
- d) Jesus broke the barrier of the veil, the tomb and paradise.

In John 10:9, Jesus stated: "I am the door; by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out and find pasture." Adam closed the door for humanity by his disobedience. From his garden, Adam did not watch and guard (*shamar*); and when the serpent entered, Adam did not subjugate him (*kabash*). In a replay of Adam's scenario, Jesus watched from a garden. Satan entered. Jesus was expelled. He died the death that Adam was due. However, Jesus reversed the curse, rose from the grave, opened the door, and became the door by which all who believe are legally readmitted to paradise.