

Life Group Notes

Sunday 06 January 2019

Speaker: Andy McCullough

Title: Eden - Mountain of Delight

Passage: Genesis 2

Peter Leithart, "Throughout the Bible, mountains and hills are places where God meets with man. Every time God meets with man on a mountain, it is a return to the Garden."

During this series, we will look at several of the key events in the Bible which happen on top of mountains. And the first one is Eden, in Genesis 2. Please read Genesis Chapter 2.

"Eden" means delight in Hebrew. This garden of delight is our home. It is where we come from. It was beautiful (v.9), there was food (v.9), intimacy with God (v.7), rivers of water (v.10). Our job was to guard/ keep the garden – like a priest looking after a temple (v.15). But Adam and Eve failed to do this – they let the snake in!

There were two trees in the garden representing two things that only God can do – only God can give life, and only God can decree what is right and what is wrong.

When Adam and Eve ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they were driven out of Eden.

Genesis 3:24 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 to guard the way to the tree of life.

Now humans are banished down into the valley. The way back up the mountain to Eden is guarded by cherubim.

Later, when the tabernacle was designed by Moses, and when the temple was built by King Solomon, they had any aspects that remind us of the garden of Eden. They were engraved with flowers and fruit. The tree of life was represented by a tall lampstand with many branches. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil was represented by the law, kept in a wooden box, guarded by statues of cherubim, which must not be touched. The curtains guarding the sanctuary had cherubim woven into them, guarding the Presence. All of these sanctuaries took seven days to consecrate, and faced East, just like Eden. All of these reminders of Eden throughout the Old Testament keep telling us where we came from, and everything that we lost. As we look forward, we ask, "Who will bring us home again?"

And the answer is Jesus.

Jesus Christ is the new Eden. Everything that we lost in the garden, we find in Him. We lost intimacy with God, but in Jesus Christ this is restored to us. We lost access to the tree of life, but in Jesus we have Life! We lost access to the Rivers of delight, but Jesus said, "if anyone is thirsty, let them come to me and drink." When Jesus died on the cross, the curtain in the temple (with pictures of cherubim on it) was torn in two, restoring access to the Presence. Jesus is our new Eden. He is our garden of delight. Coming to Jesus is like coming home! Make Him your delight in 2019!

Questions for personal application

1. Do you ever feel like you don't belong or don't fit in? Why do you think that is?
2. What is most appealing to you about the picture of Eden, and why?
3. What do you think it was like for people to have intimate access to God's presence?
4. Why do you think the tabernacle and the temple were designed to remind people of the garden of Eden?
5. In what ways is coming to Jesus like coming home? How does he restore everything that was lost at Eden?
6. How can you "make Jesus your delight in 2019?"