

The Primeval History

Lesson Guide

LESSON
TWO

PARADISE LOST AND
FOUND



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CONTENTS

HOW TO USE THIS LESSON GUIDE	3
PREPARATION	4
NOTES.....	5
I. INTRODUCTION (0:25)	5
II. LITERARY STRUCTURE (2:23)	5
A. Overview (3:03)	5
1. In Garden (3:31)	5
2. Condition Enhanced (4:09)	5
3. Condition Cursed (4:59)	6
4. Out of Garden (5:35)	6
B. Symmetry (6:29)	7
1. Beginning and Ending (7:01)	7
2. Middle Portions (10:34)	8
III. ORIGINAL MEANING (13:47)	9
A. Garden (15:19)	9
1. Identity (16:11)	9
2. Holiness (22:14)	10
B. Loyalty (29:31)	12
1. In Eden (30:29)	12
2. In Canaan (31:43)	12
C. Consequences (35:46)	13
1. Death (36:23)	13
2. Pain (38:54)	14
3. Exclusion (40:57)	14
IV. MODERN APPLICATION (43:57)	14
A. Inauguration (45:18)	14
1. Paul (45:43)	15
2. Matthew (48:47)	15
B. Continuation (52:18)	16
1. Paul (52:48)	16
2. James (53:55)	17
C. Consummation (55:38)	17
1. Romans (56:03)	17
2. Revelation (57:02)	17
V. CONCLUSION (59:28)	18
REVIEW QUESTIONS	19
APPLICATION QUESTIONS	24
GLOSSARY.....	25

HOW TO USE THIS LESSON GUIDE

This lesson guide is designed for use in conjunction with the associated video. If you do not have access to the video, the lesson guide will also work with the audio and/or text versions of the lesson. Additionally, the video and lesson guide are intended to be used in a learning community, but they also can be used for individual study if necessary.

- **Before you watch the lesson**
 - **Prepare** — Complete any recommended readings.
 - **Schedule viewing** — The Notes section of the lesson guide has been divided into segments that correspond to the video. Using the time codes found in parentheses beside each major division, determine where to begin and end your viewing session. IIM lessons are densely packed with information, so you may also want to schedule breaks. Breaks should be scheduled at major divisions.
- **While you are watching the lesson**
 - **Take notes** — The Notes section of the lesson guide contains a basic outline of the lesson, including the time codes for the beginning of each segment and key notes to guide you through the information. Many of the main ideas are already summarized, but make sure to supplement these with your own notes. You should also add supporting details that will help you to remember, describe, and defend the main ideas.
 - **Record comments and questions** — As you watch the video, you may have comments and/or questions on what you are learning. Use the margins to record your comments and questions so that you can share these with the group following the viewing session.
 - **Pause/replay portions of the lesson** — You may find it helpful to pause or replay the video at certain points in order to write additional notes, review difficult concepts, or discuss points of interest.
- **After you watch the lesson**
 - **Complete Review Questions** — Review Questions are based on the basic content of the lesson. You should answer Review Questions in the space provided. These questions should be completed individually rather than in a group.
 - **Answer/discuss Application Questions** — Application Questions are questions relating the content of the lesson to Christian living, theology, and ministry. Application questions are appropriate for written assignments or as topics for group discussions. For written assignments, it is recommended that answers not exceed one page in length.

Preparation

- Read Genesis 2:4–3:24.

Notes

I. Introduction (0:25)

Moses wrote about Adam and Eve losing paradise to encourage the Israelites to retrace and reverse the steps of Adam and Eve.

II. Literary Structure (2:23)

Although Genesis 2:4-3:24 is a rather long passage and touches many topics, it actually forms a unified narrative.

A. Overview (3:03)

1. In Garden (3:31)

2. Condition Enhanced (4:09)

This section begins by introducing a new problem (Gen 2:18).

3. Condition Cursed (4:59)

The material begins with the introduction of a new character and topic: the tempting serpent.

4. Out of Garden (5:35)

God speaks about the problem of the tree of life.

Human beings no longer have access to Eden apart from a direct intervention by God.

B. Symmetry (6:29)**1. Beginning and Ending (7:01)**

Gen 2:4-17 and 3:22-24 contrast in at least three ways:

- Location:
 - 2:4-17: Adam lived and worked in a place full of divine blessings.
 - 3:22-24: God expelled Adam and Eve from the garden.

- Trees:
 - 2:4-17: emphasis on tree of knowledge.
 - 3:22-24: emphasis on tree of life.

- Humanity's commission:
 - 2:4-17: God commissioned Adam to blessed work in the garden with no pain or difficulty.
 - 3:22-24: God banished Adam and Eve from the garden and condemned them to difficult toil.

These sets of contrasts spoke directly to the situation of the Israelites as Moses led them to the Promised Land.

2. Middle Portions (10:34)

Three contrasting symmetries:

- Divine relationship:
 - 2:18-25: God and the human race were intimate and at peace.
 - 3:1-21: Disharmony replaced the initial harmony between God and humanity.

- Human relationships:
 - 2:18-25: Perfect bliss.
 - 3:1-21: Strife between the man and woman.

- Relationship with evil:
 - 2:18-25: Evil is absent
 - 3:1-21: Long-term struggle with evil.

Moses wrote about Adam and Eve in ways that connected directly with Israel's experience.

III. Original Meaning (13:47)

Moses wrote his primeval history to give Israel practical instruction about his current religious and social program of leaving Egypt and going to Canaan.

A. Garden (15:19)

Moses identified Eden with the Promised Land.

1. Identity (16:11)

A single river flowed from Eden and divided into four headwaters:

- Pishon
- Gihon
- Tigris
- Euphrates

The name “Eden:”

- Babylonian: “*edin*” means “a plain” or “open flatland.”
- Hebrew: “*eden*” means “a pleasant or delightful place.”

Location:

- The river of Eden fed the Tigris and Euphrates.
- Therefore, Eden was not limited to the Tigris-Euphrates region.
- Eden extended from the Tigris-Euphrates to the border of Egypt.
- It consisted of nearly the entire region we now call the “Fertile Crescent.”

God had promised Abraham and his descendants the land once known as the land of Eden.

2. **Holiness (22:14)**

The Promised Land was the place where Israel could enter into the special presence of God.

Moses described Eden in terms that also applied to the tabernacle.

Seven aspects of Eden indicate that it was a holy place of God's special presence like the tabernacle.

- God walking
- Tree of life
- Gold/Onyx
- Angels
- Entrance
- Service
- Six days

To be near Canaan was to be near the place God ordained from the beginning as his holy dwelling.

Canaan was a mere shadow of what Eden had originally been. Yet, Moses gave Israelites the vision of what their land could be one day.

B. Loyalty (29:31)

Moses wanted the Israelites to remember that the Promised Land required Israel to be loyal to God's commands.

1. In Eden (30:29)

God was testing Adam and Eve to see if they would be loyal to him.

- If Adam and Eve were obedient, they would receive even greater blessings.

- If they proved defiant, they would suffer God's judgment.

2. In Canaan (31:43)

God required Israel to be loyal to him in order that they might enter and possess the land of Canaan.

The blessings of the Promised Land were not unconditional:

- If Israel abused the privilege of living in Canaan, they would be destroyed like the nations the Lord destroyed before them.
- If Israel lived by faith as a holy people fully devoted to the commands of God, they would enter the land and stay there in peace.

C. Consequences (35:46)

1. Death (36:23)

God threatened Adam and Eve with death as a consequence of their sin.

The consequence of infidelity to the command of God in the garden:

- A sentence of death on humanity's first parents
- The same sentence still stood over the Israelites who proved to be severely unfaithful to the commands of God.

2. Pain (38:54)

The repercussion of pain was applied to both Adam and Eve.

Moses was taking Israel to a place of relief from the pain they had experienced outside Canaan.

3. Exclusion (40:57)

Adam and Eve were excluded from the garden and its tree of life.

The tree of life was not forbidden to humanity forever.

IV. Modern Application (43:57)**A. Inauguration (45:18)**

In the inauguration, Christ retraced and reversed what Adam and Eve had done in the Garden of Eden. Christ fulfilled God's commands where Adam and Eve failed.

1. Paul (45:43)

- Romans 5:14

- Romans 5:18-19

Adam's one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, but Christ's one act of righteousness resulted in justification for all mankind.

The New Testament teaches that Christ is the federal or covenant representative of everyone who has faith in him.

2. Matthew (48:47)

Matthew drew attention to the way Christ retraced and reversed Adam's sin in his account of Christ's temptation in Matthew 4:1-11.

- The location: Desert

- The length of time: 40 days/40 years
- Hunger
- Use of Scripture: Jesus recalled passages about testing

B. Continuation (52:18)

The New Testament relates Moses' account of Adam and Eve in the garden to the continuation of the kingdom, the time in which we now live.

1. Paul (52:48)

Paul appealed to Eve's negative example to warn against the worst kind of disloyalty, turning from the true gospel of Christ.

2. James (53:55)

The contrast between life and death parallels the themes of the crown of life offered and the death threatened in the story of Adam and Eve.

Paul and James encouraged us to fidelity during the trials of the continuation of the kingdom.

C. Consummation (55:38)**1. Romans (56:03)**

In Romans 16:20, Paul referred to the promise of salvation in Genesis 3:15.

2. Revelation (57:02)

John referred to the tree of life on a number of occasions in Revelation.

Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden of Eden precisely to keep them from eating of the tree of life. Yet, when Christ returns God will give his people the right to eat from the tree of life.

John saw the new world as a return to the paradise once lost by Adam and Eve.

V. Conclusion (59:28)

3. How did Moses identify the Garden of Eden, and why did he explain the holiness of the Garden?

4. Explain how Moses described the motif of loyalty in both Eden and Canaan.

9. According to the New Testament, how does the story of Adam and Eve in the Garden apply to the consummation of the kingdom?

Application Questions

1. In the primeval history Moses recounted how the evil of sin damaged relationships between God and his people, as well as relationships between people. What effects of this can we see in the modern world?
2. For the Israelites, the land of Canaan was a mere shadow of what Eden had originally been. Moses held before the Israelites the vision of what their land could be one day. What vision of the Promised Land should modern believers embrace? Why?
3. Why does God test his people? In what ways has God tested you? Have you been loyal?
4. Moses explained to the Israelites that possessing the land of Canaan would be a foretaste of the blessing of life, but it was conditioned upon their obedience. What foretastes of our future blessings do Christians enjoy in the modern world? Are these blessings also conditional?
5. What hope can modern believers draw from the fact that Christ has begun to reverse the damage caused by Adam and Eve's disobedience?
6. Read James 1:12-15. How does James give perspective regarding trials during the continuation of the kingdom? How should this encourage believers to be faithful to God?
7. Read Revelation 22:12. John looked ahead and saw the new world as a return to the paradise that was lost. How does God's redemptive plan for history give your life purpose and meaning?
8. What is the most significant insight you have learned from this study? Why?

Glossary

consummation – Third and final stage of inaugurated eschatology when Christ will return and fulfill God's ultimate purpose for all of history

continuation – Second or middle stage of inaugurated eschatology; the period of the kingdom of God after Christ's first advent but before the final victory

Eden – Hebrew term meaning "pleasant" or "delightful"; name of the garden where God initially placed Adam and Eve

edin – Term in the Babylonian language meaning "plain" or "flatland"

Euphrates – Fourth of the four headwaters flowing out of the river from the Garden of Eden; also the current name of a major river in the Middle East

Fertile Crescent – Region between Egypt and Mesopotamia, bordered by the desert on the south and the mountains on the north

Gihon – Second of the four headwaters flowing out of the river from the Garden of Eden; flowed through the entire land of Cush

inauguration – First stage in inaugurated eschatology; refers to Christ's first coming and the ministries of his apostles and prophets

Menorah – Seven-pronged lamp in the Tabernacle

Mesopotamia – Region in the eastern Mediterranean between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers

Pishon – Name of the first of the four headwaters flowing out of the river from the Garden of Eden

tabernacle – Movable tent in which the Ark of the Covenant was kept and in which God showed his special presence to Israel

Tigris – Third of the four headwaters flowing out of the river from the Garden of Eden; ran along the east side of Asshur; also the current name of a major river in the Middle East

Tree of Life – A special tree in the Garden of Eden that held the power to give eternal life to those who ate from it