GARDENS CONTRASTED IN THE BIBLE: A STUDY OF JESUS AS THE GARDNER

A BEAUTIFUL WRITING OF PASTOR ESHER SHOSHANNAH, BELOVED OF
CHRIST

JOHN 19:41: Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid.

SO JESUS PRAYED IN A GARDEN, DIED IN A GARDEN AND THEN ROSE IN A GARDEN. MAY YOU BE BLESSED BY WHAT FOLLOWS:

JESUS IS CALLED THE LAST ADAM IN CONTRAST TO THE FIRST ADAM: 1 CORINTHIANS 15:45: And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

JESUS IS THE BEGINNING OF A NEW CREATION—IF ANY MAN BE IN CHRIST HE IS A NEW CREATION: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17; JESUS WAS FIRSTBORN FROM THE DEAD: COLOSSIANS 1:18, OF THIS NEW CREATION AND IT STARTED IN THE GARDEN WHERE HIS TOMB WAS LOCATED. SO LET'S CONTRAST AND COMPARE ADAM IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN AND JESUS IN THE GARDEN'S OF GETHSEMANE, CALVARY AND THE TOMB:

GARDEN OF EDEN: EVE WAS DECEIVED BY THE FALLEN ANGEL LUCIFER AND SHE WAS THE FIRST TO BRING THE MESSAGE OF DEATH TO MANKIND.

GARDEN OF THE TOMB: IT WAS A WOMAN, MARY MAGDALENE WHO HAD SEVEN OF SATAN'S DEMONS AND CAST OUT OF HER IN LUKE 8:3 WHO WAS CHOSEN TO BE THE FIRST TO BRING THE MESSAGE OF LIFE TO MANKIND.

JESUS SAID TO HER,: JOHN 20:17: Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and *to* my God, and your God.

JESUS WAS SHOWING SATAN THAT HE DEFEATED HIM AND THE MESSAGE OF LIFE WOULD BE GIVEN BY ANOTHER WOMAN WHO HAD BEEN DELIVERED MIGHTILY FROM HIS POWER.

WHAT A LESSON FOR US! COLOSSIANS 1:13: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son:

DO WE OBEY AS MARY MAGDALENE DID—GO AND TELL THOSE WHO ARE BROUGHT INTO OUR LIVES, JESUS HAS RISEN ESPECIALLY AS THEY SEE IN OUR WALK HIS IMAGE (ROMANS 8:28, 29; MATTHEW 5:16) I AM SURE THE DISCIPLES SAW A DIFFERENT MARY MAGDALENE IN HER DEMEANOR INSTEAD OF DEATH AND DARKNESS IN HER GAZE, THEY SAW THE LIGHT OF HIS LIFE SHINING IN AND THROUGH HER.

GARDEN OF EDEN: ADAM DISOBEYED: GENESIS 2:17: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

GETHESEMANE'S GARDEN: JESUS OBEYED: PHILIPPIANS 2:8: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

LUKE 22:42: Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

GARDEN OF EDEN: ADAM SPIRITUALLY FELL BEFORE LUCIFER, ROMANS 5:12: Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

GETHSEMANE'S GARDEN: THE SOLDIERS WHO REPRESENTED SATAN FELL BEFORE JESUS: JOHN 18:6: As soon then as he had said unto them, I am *he*, they went backward, and fell to the ground.

THE CUP JESUS DRANK WAS THE CUP OF WRATH THAT ABIDES ON EVERY UNBELIEVER: JOHN 3:36: He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

GARDEN OF EDEN: ADAM TOOK THE FRUIT FROM THE HAND OF EVE, GENESIS 3:11: And he said, Who told thee that thou *wast* naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?

GETHSEMANE'S GARDEN: JESUS DRANK THE DEADLY POISON FRUIT OF OUR SOULS FROM THE CUP OF THE FATHER'S WRATH: LUKE 22:42: Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

GARDEN OF EDEN: ADAM HID HIMSELF FROM HIS CREATOR: GENESIS 3:8: And they heard the voice 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 amongst the trees of the garden.

GETHSEMANE'S GARDEN: JESUS BOLDLY EXPOSED HIMSELF COMPLETELY TO THE ENEMY, JOHN 18:7-8: 7Therefore He again asked them, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus the Nazarene." 8Jesus answered, "I told you that I am He; so if you seek Me, let these go their way,"

GARDEN OF EDEN: ADAM WAS DRIVEN OUT OF THE GARDEN, GENESIS 3:24: 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.

GETHSEMANE'S GARDEN: JESUS ALLOWED HIMSELF TO BE LED TO THE GARDEN WHERE HE WOULD BE CRUCIFIED. JOHN 18:13: And led him away to Annas first; for he was father in law to Caiaphas, which was the high priest that same year.

GARDEN OF EDEN: A FLAMING SWORD WAS DRAWN TO KEEP THEM OUT, GENESIS 3:24: 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.

GETHSEMANE'S GARDEN: THE SWORD WAS SHEATHED, JOHN 18:11: Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?

SYMBOLICALLY IN EDEN MAN SINNED AND IF ADAM AND EVE ATE OF THE TREE OF LIFE THEY WOULD LIVE FOREVER IN THAT SINFUL STATE. THUS THEY WERE KEPT OUT SO THEY COULD BE SAVED.

SYMBOLICALLY IN GETHSEMANE THE SWORD WAS SHEATHED SO EVERYONE COULD COME TO THE TREE OF LIFE WHERE JESUS DIED FOR US TO BE SAVED FOREVER.

HE USED GOD'S POWERFUL SWORD COMING OUT OF HIS MOUTH TO OPEN WIDE THE DOOR FOR HIS SALVATION TO BE OFFERED FREELY TO HIM WHO WOULD RECEIVE IT. WHEN HE SAID IT IS FINISHED.

GARDEN OF EDEN: ADAM WOULD NOW SWEAT FOR HIS GOOD GENESIS 3:19: In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; ADAM'S WICKEDNESS BROUGHT US MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL SWEAT THROUGH ALL THE TRIALS OF LIFE FEEDING OUR SOULS ON WORTHLESS TEMPORAL THINGS ALWAYS LEAVING US EMPTY, STARVING, AND UNSATISFIED.

GETHSEMANE'S GARDEN: JESUS SWEAT GREAT DROPS OF BLOOD FALLING TO THE GROUND, LUKE 22:44: And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

JESUS SWEAT FOR OUR SPIRITUAL FOOD: HIS BLOOD BECAME TRUE SPIRITUAL DRINK AND HIS BODY BECAME TRUE SPIRITUAL MANNA TO OUR SOULS. JOHN 6:55: For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. HIS FOOD CAN BE CONTINUALLY SATISFYING MEAL THROUGH OUR LOVING

OBEDIENCE TO HIS LAWS, PRECEPTS, STATUTES, TESTIMONIES, COMMANDMENTS. HIS SPIRITUAL FOOD IS SWEETER THAN HONEY AND THE HONEY COMB.

WHAT SPIRITUAL FOOD DID JESUS SWEATING BRING US?

IS IT POSSIBLE THAT BLOOD SHED IN THE GARDEN WAS DEALING WITH THE DEADNESS OF OUR MINDS: THE BLOOD POURED OUT FROM HIS MUTILATED BODY AT THE WHIPPING POST FOR OUR HEALING: THE BLOOD DROPPED ON THE WAY TO CALVARY WOULD BE FOR THE PATHWAY OF OUR LIFE TO FOLLOW—THE BLOOD-STAINED WAY?

BUT MOST OF ALL THE PRECIOUS, PRECIOUS BLOOD SHED AT CALVARY FOR:

- 1. UNITY OF FELLOWSHIP AND SHARING WITH EACH OTHER: 1 COR. 10:6
- 2. OUR JUSTIFICATION AND SAVED FROM WRATH: ROMANS 5:9
- 3. OUR REDEMPTION, FORGIVENESS, EPHESIANS 1:7
- 4. INTIMACY WITH OUR GOD, EPHESIANS 2:13
- 5. RECONCILIATION AND PEACE, COLOSSIANS 1:20
- 6. ENTERING WITH BOLDNESS INTO THE HOLIEST THROUGH HIM WHO IS OUR HIGH PRIEST, HEBREWS 10:19
- 7. LIVING A SEPARATED LIFE OF HOLINESS (SANCTIFICATION) HEB. 13:12
- 8. OVERCOMING THE ENEMY, REVELATION 12:11
- 9. WALKING IN THE LIGHT, FELLOWSHIP WITH ONE ANOTHER, CLEANSING US FROM ALL SIN

OH, THE SWEAT FROM THE PLOWED BODY OF JESUS BY THE ENEMY OF OUR SOULS. THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

MAY THIS BE OUR DAILY PROCLAMATION IN SAYING THANKS FOR THE DROPS OF BLOOD HE SWEAT TO BRING US TRUE, ETERNAL FOOD FOR DAILY LIVING.

JOHN 4:34: Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

GARDEN OF EDEN: ADAM WAS THROWN OUT AND THE GATE WAS CLOSED TO EDEN.

CALVARY'S GARDEN: JESUS WAS TAKEN TO THE GARDEN OF CALVARY TO BE CRUCIFIED AND OPEN THE GATE TO HEAVEN FOR US TO GO THROUGH FOR ETERNAL JOY, JESUS DECLARED IN JOHN 10:9: I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

PSALM 118:20: This gate of the LORD, into which the righteous shall enter.

GARDEN OF EDEN: GENESIS 2:9: THE TREE OF LIFE WAS ALSO IN THE MIDST OF THE GARDEN.

CALVARY'S GARDEN: IN THE MIDST OF THE GARDEN AT CALVARY WAS THE TREE OF LIFE BETWEEN TWO THIEVES. MATTHEW 27:38: Then were there two thieves crucified with him, one on the right hand, and another on the left.

GARDEN OF EDEN: ADAM AND EVEN BECAME NAKED, THEY HAD LOST THE GLORY COVERING THEN THEY RECEIVED A FILTHY GARMENT FROM LUCIFER, ISAIAH 64:6: But we are all as an unclean *thing*, and all our righteousnesses *are* as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

CALVARY'S GARDEN: JESUS BECAME TOTALLY NAKED, MATTHEW 27:35: And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots.

ISAIAH 61:10: I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh *himself* with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth *herself* with her jewels.

GARDEN OF EDEN: ADAM AND EVE WERE KICKED OUT OF THAT PARADISE GARDEN

CALVARY'S GARDEN: THE THIEF ON THE CROSS WOULD ENTER THE NEW PARADISE WITH KING JESUS

GARDEN OF EDEN: ADAM AND EVE WERE TO TAKE CARE OF THE GARDEN GIVEN TO THEM.

AT THE GARDEN TOMB: MARY WAS MISTAKEN THINKING THAT JESUS WAS THE GARDNER THERE: JOHN 20:15: Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away. HOWEVER, IN ONE SENSE SHE WAS SPIRITUALLY CORRECT.

WHAT A LESSON: IS JESUS YOUR GARDNER?

YOUR HEART BECAME HIS GARDEN WHEN HE CAME IN TO RESIDE IN YOUR SPIRIT.

YOUR HEART GARDEN SHOULD BE SURRENDERED TO THE FATHER WHO IS THE HUSBANDMAN AND TO JESUS WHO IS THE LIVING VINE SO THAT YOUR GARDEN MAY PRODUCE THE GLORIOUS FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT SO THAT SPIRIT

MAY SHARE WITH OTHERS THE NEEDED FRUIT FROM YOUR BRANCH TO HELP THEM. IN THE SONG OF SOLOMON THE LORD LOOKS AT HIS BRIDE'S HEART AS A GARDEN AND IS PLEASED.

IN SONG OF SOLOMON 4:12-16: SHE IS SEEN AS JESUS' PERSONAL GARDEN. IN IT ARE ALL KINDS OF FRUITS, SPICES, AND LIVING WATERS. SHE INVITES HER BRIDEGROOM TO HAVE THE BLESSING OF HER FIRST FRUITS THEN IN SONG OF SOLOMON 5:1 HE THEN INVITES OTHERS TO COME AND ENJOY THE GARDEN OF HER HEART.

DO PEOPLE SEE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE WHEN TROUBLES COME? DO THEY SAY: "THERE IS SOMETHING DIFFERENT ABOUT YOU. I ESPECIALLY SEE IT WHEN YOU ARE GOING THROUGH TROUBLES. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE? "YOU WILL RESPOND LOVINGLY: IT IS MY GARDNER: JOHN 15:1-6

OR HAVE YOU ALLOWED THE GARDEN OF YOUR HEART TO BECOME FILLED WITH WEEDS OF SELFISHNESS, PRIDE, WORLDLINESS, LIVING OFF THE LEAVEN OF SELF-CENTEREDNESS? WILL THE LORD HAVE TO SAY OF ME FROM JEREMIAH 2:21: Yet I had planted thee a noble vine, wholly a right seed: how then art thou turned into the degenerate plant of a strange vine unto me?

ARE YOU THE GARDNER OF YOUR LIFE OR IS HE THE LIVING TORAH WHO INDWELLS YOU CHANGING YOU FROM GLORY TO GLORY THAT OTHERS MAY SEE HIM WHO IS BEING GLORIFIED IN YOU CLEARLY?

GALATIANS 2:20: I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless, I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

EPHESIANS 5:2: And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour.

TITUS 2:14: Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

## JOHN 15:1-5: Jesus Is the Vine—Followers Are Branches

1"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2"Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. 3"You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 4"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither *can* you unless you abide in Me. 5"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.