

## “THE TYPOLOGY OF THE BIBLE” SERIES

### #4: “Eden and the New Jerusalem”

SCRIPTURE: 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 3:13

The apostle Peter, after explaining that when the Lord returns, the heavens and the earth will be destroyed, then says, *“But God has promised us a new heaven and a new earth, where justice will rule. We are really looking forward to that!”* (CEV).

INTRO:

Are you looking forward to that?

John recorded that Jesus told his disciples, *“Don’t be worried! Have faith in God and have faith in me. There are many rooms in my Father’s house. I wouldn’t tell you this unless it was true. I am going there to prepare a place for each of you. After I have done this, I will come back and take you with me. There we will be together”* (14:1-3, CEV).

John wrote in Revelation 21:1-2, *“I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The first heaven and the first earth had disappeared, and so had the sea. Then I saw New Jerusalem, that holy city, coming down from God in heaven. It was like a bride dressed in her wedding gown and ready to meet her husband.”*

There is a “type” or “shadow” of the coming “new heaven” and “new earth” and “New Jerusalem” in the Old Testament. It’s the Garden of Eden.

This morning I would like to give you the four reasons I believe this...

Reason number one:

***BOTH THE GARDEN OF EDEN AND THE COMING NEW EARTH AND NEW JERUSALEM ARE PREPARED PLACES FOR PREPARED PEOPLE.***

The Genesis record of creation confirms that the garden, located between what is now the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, in what is now Iraq, was created especially for Adam and Eve. God made sure that everything was just right before He created Adam.

He made provision for both the flora and fauna. The flora emitted oxygen that Adam and the living creatures needed to survive, and the fauna emitted carbon dioxide that the flora needed for photosynthesis.

He created the living creatures and mankind as vegetarians and provided plenty of flora for food. Adam and Eve didn't need to fear the animals, and the animals had no need to fear them.

The Garden of Eden was truly prepared for Adam and Eve, and Adam and Eve were truly prepared for the Garden.

When Jesus told His disciples that He was going away to prepare a place for them in His Father's house, He was speaking of the "new heavens," the "new earth," and the "New Jerusalem." And just as God created Adam and Eve to be perfect residents of the Garden, through the sinless life, sacrifice, and resurrection of Christ, God has created us to be perfect residents of the "new earth" and the "new Jerusalem."

Reason number two:

#### ***THE GARDEN WAS WATERED BY A RIVER.***

In Genesis 2:10, Moses says, "*From Eden a river flowed out to water the garden, then it divided into four rivers.*"

How beautiful it must have been! How clear and pure the water must have been! How lush the flora must have been!

What an efficient irrigation system! Rain was not needed. There was only the morning dew and the rivers. Life was good! It was perfect! The river was truly a "river of life."

The Psalmist in Psalm 46:4-5 wrote, perhaps prophetically: "*A river and its streams bring joy to the city, which is the sacred home of God Most High. God is in that city and it won't be shaken...*"

John wrote about the "new earth" and "New Jerusalem" in Revelation 22:1, "*The angel showed me a river that was crystal clear, and its waters gave life. The river came from the throne where God and the Lamb were seated.*" Sounds a lot like Eden, doesn't it?

Reason number three:

#### ***BOTH THE GARDEN OF EDEN AND THE "NEW EARTH" HAVE A "TREE OF LIFE."***

In Genesis 2:9, Moses wrote: "*The Lord God placed all kinds of beautiful trees and fruit trees in the garden. Two other trees were in the middle of the garden. One of the trees gave life – the other gave the power to know the difference between right and wrong.*"

Then, in 3:22, he wrote that after Adam and Eve had eaten from the forbidden tree, *"...God said, 'These people now know the difference between right and wrong, just as we do. But they must not be allowed to eat fruit from the tree that lets them live forever.'"*

In the New Testament, in John's Revelation, we read this about the "new earth" and the "New Jerusalem":

- Chapter 21, verse 4: *"He (God) will wipe all tears from their eyes, and there will be no more death, suffering, crying, or pain. These things of the past are gone forever."*
- Chapter 22, verse 2: *"Then it (the river) flowed down the middle of the city's main street. On each side of the river are trees that grow a different kind of fruit each month of the year. The fruit gives life..."*

Reason number four:

***IN BOTH EDEN AND THE "NEW EARTH" GOD LIVES WITH HIS PEOPLE.***

From the Genesis record, we clearly understand that the presence of God was with Adam and Eve in the Garden. For example, Genesis 2:19 says, *"...the Lord took some soil and made animals and birds. He brought them to the man to see what names he would give each of them..."* God and Adam were communicating on a personal, face to face basis.

In John's description of the "new earth" and "New Jerusalem," in Revelation 21:3, the voice from the throne says: *"God's home is now with his people. He will live with them, and they will be his own. Yes, God will make his home among his people."* In the life to come, we will enjoy the same relationship with God as Adam and Eve enjoyed.

Finally, reason number four that Eden was a "type" or "shadow" of the heaven to come is that

***ADAM AND EVE DID THE SAME THINGS IN THE GARDEN THAT WE'LL BE DOING IN HEAVEN.***

Genesis 2:15 tells us: *"The Lord God put the man in the Garden of Eden to take care of it and to look after it."* In other words, Adam and Eve honored or worshiped the Lord by serving Him in caring for the Garden.

In Revelation 21:3, John tells us about the "New Jerusalem": *"No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him."* Some translators have chosen to translate that last phrase as *"(the people) will worship God,"* but the Greek translates literally: *"his bond-servants will serve him."* A good translation is *The Simple English Bible*, which renders it *"God's servants will worship him with service."*

## **CONCLUSION:**

In closing, this morning, I would like to call your attention to a comparison of the world after sin and the *“new earth.”*

- Sin brought a curse to the world and its inhabitants; in the *“new earth”* there is no more curse.
- Sin brought death; in life in the *“new earth”* there is no more death.
- Sin brought pain and suffering; on the *“new earth”* there is no pain or suffering.
- Sin brought sorrow; on the *“new earth”* there is no sorrow.
- Sin brought a living only by the sweat of man’s brow; life on the *“new earth”* will be pleasurable in every way.
- Sin brought thorns; there are no thorns on the *“new earth.”*
- Sin brought a sentence of death to Satan; when the *“new earth”* appears, he will have been executed.
- Sin brought the slaying of the Lamb; on the *“new earth”* the Lamb is victorious.
- Sin put angels at the entry to keep mankind out; when the *“new earth”* comes, angels will invite us and welcome us in.

The Bible is a wonderful book. No human being could have produced it. Only an omnipotent and omniscient God could have given us such a treasure.